



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



PARISH MAGAZINE

Donation or 40p

August 2016

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Tuesday 16 August

Copy: email to:-
ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk
Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

Inside this Month

Page 1	The Altar at Sherbourne
Page 3	Mothers' Union
Page 4	CAP launches
Page 6	Festival flower appeal
Page 7	Photo call
Page 8	Christ Church Memorial
Page 10	Christ Church BBQ
Page 13	Can you help?
Page 15	Teddy Bears Picnic
Page 16	Tea @ 3
Page 18	Battle of the Somme
Page 27	Calendar August

Christ Church Hall is available for hire

Contact Rachel Pace

01474 249508 or 07960 024917

Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and children's parties

Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Assistant Curate	Karen Seggie	362654
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden	Andy Nailor	564581
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	249106
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

CHRIST CHURCH MOTHERS' UNION

12 July 2016 A visit to Rochester

For the July meeting, twelve members visited Rochester Cathedral. We had a very good humorous lady guide who gave us an insight into the history of the Cathedral since its' foundation in 604AD.

She also told us about some of the less well known aspects of the Cathedral. At one point she lifted up a carpet to show us part of the 14th century tiled floor, then she helped us to find the tiles which had been wrongly laid in the choir transept. We were shown the outline of the original Saxon Cathedral which is outside the west door. We admired the baptismal fresco which was painted and dedicated in 2004 to mark the 1400th anniversary of Christian worship on the site and we learnt how a fresco is painted. She also pointed out a wooden door dating from the 11th century, the chapter room doorway and a memorial in the nave, constructed from "Coadestone".



Our guide gave us an account of the lady called Mrs Coade, who in the 18th century perfected a process for making an artificial stone which is called after her. It was used at Buckingham Palace, St Georges Chapel Windsor and many more important sites. A great lady of her time. At the end of the tour we enjoyed a cream tea in the Cathedral tea room.

Mothers' Union meetings are open to all and everyone is welcome, pick up a 2016 programme from the back of the church, and come and help us celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union. Do join us for our fundraising "tea at three" event on Wednesday 17 August.

COFFEE ROTA 2016

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 31 July | Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Annie |
| 7 Aug | Colin Parsonson, Linda Parsonson, Jill |
| 14 Aug | Sarah Bush, Kay Page, Susan Wilkins |
| 21 Aug | Sally Higgins, Jerry Higgins, Annie Southwick |
| 28 Aug | Vena Croydon, Sandy Barden, Angela Kirby |



**Come in and enjoy a cup of tea or
coffee after the 10.00 o'clock**



Christians



Against

Poverty

On Monday 25th July Gravesend Deanery open a Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre.

Christians Against Poverty is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of centres based in local churches. CAP offers hope and a solution to anyone in debt through its unique, in-depth Debt Help service.

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime.

The charity operates through a growing network of UK debt centres, all opened in partnership with a local church. CAP began in 1996 when John Kirkby, armed with a £10 donation, started to help people in his local community who were trapped in debt.

The charity is now a fast-paced, growing organisation whose vision is to answer the national

problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP Debt Centre operating in every major town and city to enable anyone to access its life-changing service.

Carey Laughland is our Debt Centre Manager and this is her account of her first visit.

"It was to a normal street, neat gardens busily being mowed by various neighbours. A had been referred by another debt organisation who were no longer able to help. Having become unemployed and suffered ill health A was now on benefit and was seriously in debt.

The enormity of the task hit me is, in a very short space of time, in this case 2 hours. You learn a lot about a person both directly and indirectly debt related. They have to open to strangers their whole financial situation, this may including admitting they just don't know who is owed what as various debt companies are now involved and they have added their fees etc. Most people are in debt for at least 5 years before reaching out, often they have lived with the "shame" of the situation living a double life of reality and illusion.

Personal details not normally discussed are, letters and statements collected. I very much felt the grace of God during the visit, opening the way, easing conversations. No opinions are given, no judgements, it's a fine line of impartiality and love.

Volunteers needed.....

'We always need volunteers... the church runs because of the generous service of volunteers.

If you have time and enthusiasm to spare but you are not sure where your talents can be used, Sue would be glad to meet you for a cup of coffee and to talk through possibilities.

Continued from previous page

Support to people like A is needed for our Debt Centre in the form of a prayer team and befrienders. Each time I visit a client I need to take a befriender, this is someone who will walk the journeys out of debt with a client, being a friend and showing the love of God. Maybe sharing a skill, taking them out for a pint and a coffee. A befriender will make three visits with me or about 2 hours each across a 6 week period, after that the contact is very much up to the client and befriender.

The need is very real in Gravesend and our centre covers DA11, DA12, DA3, DA4 and DA10. can't put it better than John Kirkby Founder of CAP and so I'll end with some words from him.

"I am overwhelmed by what God has done. To see thousands of lives changed every year is truly wonderful. I do believe that God has given us a 21st Century answer to one of the most pressing social needs within society today. Jesus met people's needs with love, compassion and practical help. Our desire is to simply do the same and watch the miracles unfold. Please get involved in this amazing, God inspired ministry."

If you would like to be a befriender, part of the prayer team, think you could give occasional time to help with events or if you would like to make a donation to either the local or national CAP service please contact Carey on careylaughland@capuk.org

If you would like debt help or know of someone who might please ring 0800 328 0006

The Ruckland Banqueting Suites

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Enjoy hosting your event at a warm and inviting venue with full catering and bar facilities. Please contact us for further information, pricing and to discuss your requirements.

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Flower Festival

Would you like to sponsor an arrangement or donate an amount towards the flowers for the Flower Festival?

The Gravesend Floral Arrangement Society is going to arrange the flowers to depict the various titles at the Flower Festival on the 17th and 18th September. The overall title is Peace and Reconciliation and some of the individual titles are Peace, Remembrance, The Cross of Nails, Land, Sea, Air, Football, Farming, Nursing, Let the Bells Ring Out and others to be confirmed.

If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope and write Flower Festival on the outside together with your number if you can gift aid the amount. You can give the envelope to me or to any of the sides people at



the door each Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your contributions, to help make this a special Flower Festival.

Sheila Knight

PEACE CANDLE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE THAT WENT BEFORE

You may well have seen the 'Peace Candle' that was used at the WW1 commemoration service on 4th August, now in the sanctuary. The candle will remain in place throughout the 4 years of commemoration and will be lit at each Sunday and Wednesday service, as a reminder to us all to pray for peace in the many areas of conflict throughout the world. When you see the



candle, please remember to pray for those caught up in conflict.

The sign near to the candle records the areas of conflict most in our prayers at any given time (though there are other 'hidden' conflicts that rarely appear on our televisions). If you would like an area of the world added to the list, please speak to Revs Sue or Jacqueline.



Above left: **Ann and Ray Green celebrated their Golden Wedding on 2nd July**

Above: **Members of Christ Church MU during their visit to Rochester Cathedral**



Left: **While also on 2nd July several members of Christ Church PCC went on an Away Day to St John's Church Hall, Meopham**

WORKING PARTY

'In order to save on expensive cleaning and maintenance, we hold a monthly working party on a Saturday morning starting at 09.30.

Together we clean and tidy the church, do a bit of necessary DIY or gardening, have a coffee and often some home-made goodies – and finish by about 11.30.

We are enormously grateful to the few loyal helpers who turn up month after month – but we desperately need a few more.

Please consider putting the dates into your diary and coming along. All are welcome – if you can do basic DIY please let us know in advance so that the churchwardens can plan jobs in advance.

**Working party is almost always on the second Saturday of each month...
NOTE the next one will be on 13 August at 9.30.**

See you there, Sue

Christ Church's lost memorial

This is the second of three tranches of the dead commemorated on the Christ Church World War One Memorial, with further details of the history of the stone in this magazine and in the previous, July, edition. Of the 60 casualties listed, one in every six died at or from wounds received in the Battle of the Somme, underlining the fierce war of attrition waged there.

Those commemorated were:

Elford, Charles W,

Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery (Kent Heavy Battery)
Died 20th March 1915 of injuries after a fall off Cliffe Fort, where he was stationed and on sentry duty. Aged 27, was buried in Gravesend cemetery.

Son of Thomas (late) & Emily Elford, of Peppercroft Street.

Ford, Harold,

Able Seaman, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Died 31 October 1917 at Passchendaele, Aged 23. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial. Enlisted 3 June 1915, drafted to France 27 February 1917.

Son of Isabella Green, a remarried widow, of 72 Peppercroft Street. Born Faversham 1894. Pastry cook.

Fox, Charles,

Private, 2/7 Bn. London Regiment.
Died 20 September 1917, Ypres, aged 20 Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ypres.

Son of Charles & Elizabeth Fox, of 6 Trafalgar Road. Two siblings. Coach painter.

Garbutt, John M

Private, 7th Reserve Cavalry Regiment (9th and 21st Lancers). Died 5 Jan 1915 of pneumonia in London. Buried Woodgrange Park Cemetery, East Ham.

Son of the late John and Elizabeth Garbutt. In 1911, the family were living at 5 Wellington Street, including four siblings. Solicitor's clerk. Born Madras, India.

Gardiner, William,

Lance Corporal, 1st Dragoons, Royal Regiment of Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line.

Died of wounds, 28 March, 1918. Buried Grand-Seracourt Cemetery, Somme.

Career soldier, Son of Mrs M Gardiner, 42 Peppercroft Street, born 1888, one of eleven children.

Garland, George J

Private, 6th Bn. Royal West Kent Regiment
Died in Netley Hospital of Gas Poisoning, 8 August 1916. Wounded in Somme offensive, admitted to hospital 5 July,

aged 19. Buried in Gravesend cemetery, with full military honours. Enlisted 1 March 1915.

Son of Alfred and Annie Garland of 24 John Street, one of five siblings. Painter and decorator.

Gibson, Arthur W Donald, (known as Donald),
Lance-Corporal, 4th Bn, Seaforth Highlanders.

Killed in Action, Battle of Aubers Ridge, 9 May 1915 aged 20, Commemorated at Le Touret Memorial.

Son of Arthur & Susan Gibson, of Rosebank, Parrock Road. Employed by Mercantile Bank of India.

Goatham, Reginald.

Private, 7th Bn. East Kent Regiment.
Killed in Action 3 October 1916 aged 23, Battle of Somme. Commemorated on Thiepval Monument. Son of Horace & Frances Goatham, of 14 Ferndale Road. House painter apprentice.

Gray, Francis W

Private, 4th Bn Middlesex Regiment
Killed in Action 31 July 1917 aged 34. Commemorated on Menin Gate, Ypres.

Born 23 March 1883. Son of Frank & Elizabeth Gray. Two siblings. Married Mabel Gray, lived 31 Alfred Road. Two children: Francis & Leslie. House Painter and paper hanger.

Greener, William E

Able Seaman. Joined RN as boy sailor 25 September 1905 on HMS Impregnable, signed for 12 years as an Ordinary Seaman, on his 18th birthday.

Drowned along with 527 other men, when HMS Aboukir was sunk by German U-Boat 22 September 1914 aged 25. His body was washed ashore and buried at s'Gravenzande general cemetery, Holland. (see Ernest Henniker below, also at Impregnable).

Son of William and Sarah Greener of 15 Christ Church Crescent, born 10 September 1889, one sibling.

Henniker, Ernest E

Leading Seaman, RN. Joined Navy as a Boy Sailor, 30 April 1905 at HMS Impregnable, a Shore Establishment (see William Greener, above).

Died in Zeebrugge Raid, 25 April 1918, when his ship HMS North Star was sunk by a coastal battery. His body was washed up and is buried in Flushing Northern Cemetery (allied Military Section). Had previously been one of just 14 survivors out of a complement of 750 when an accidental internal explosion sank HMS Bulwark on 26 November 1914.

Son of Henry & Caroline Henniker, Of Strood, one of ten siblings, born 7 Dec 1879. His sister Florence married Robert Gurr living at 40 Clarence Street, the probable Christ Church connection.

[Continued on next page](#)

Christ Church Memorial continued from previous page

Holden, Albert J

Private 7 Bn Royal West Kent Regiment. Volunteered and signed up for Duration of War on 2 January 1915. Killed in Action, Battle of Somme, 30 September 1916, aged 35. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. Son of Edward and Ruth Holden of 6 Bentley Street, one of seven siblings. Previously Engineers Mate, working as a Brewery Coppersidesman. Husband to Clara Goldston, lived at 21 Wellington Street at time of enlistment. Two children, Stanley and Vera.

Ives, Albert E

Private, 5 Bn Royal Sussex Regiment. Died of Wounds 8 November 1916 aged 34, Battle of Somme. Buried at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension. Conscripted August 1916. Son of Thomas & Elizabeth Ives, of 6 Brunswick Road, previously worked for Frost's Ironmongers in High Street. The eldest of seven children, including five brothers all having fought in WW1. Lived at 2 Waterloo Street in 1911, with wife Eleanor and daughter Dora.

Joel, Duncan Mcl

Private, 3rd South African Regiment. Nephew of Edgar Joel (below). Died (accidentally killed) 10 January 1917 aged 18. Buried at Faubourg d'Amiens cemetery, Arras. Son of Henry & Annie Joel, of Johannesburg who emigrated to South Africa in 1903. Other members of the family served in the Navy. Grandson of Henry Seath and Sarah Joel (see below).

Joel, Edgar C,

Acting Lieutenant, Royal Naval Reserve, HMS Clan McNaughton. Died 3 February 1915 aged 28, when ship went down in a gale, all crew lost. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial. See also Frederick Benson and Fred Cosgrove. Pre-war, Merchant Navy gained Second Mate 10 January 1908, Master's Ticket 23 October 1914, shortly before joining RNR, having become engaged to be married. Temporary Commission as Sub-Lieutenant awarded 5 December 1914, Seniority to Acting Lieutenant Awarded 10 January 1915. Son of Henry & Sarah Joel, of 'Leyland Croft', Old Road East. Henry had been a church warden at Christ Church and there is a memorial window to Edgar on the North wall of the church.

King, Vernon,

Lieutenant RAF, Observer 16th Squadron. Previously Driver Royal Naval Division, promoted Sub-Lieutenant Royal Marines 2 March 1915. October 1917 transferred to Royal Flying Corps as an observer. 11 March 1918, became Lieutenant RAF 16th Squadron. Shot down 11 April 1918 in an RE8 whilst on Artillery Observation Patrol. Buried Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension. Born 28 August 1886. Went to Canada 1901 to farm. At outbreak of war, was working as an entomological expert in agriculture, in Kansas USA. Egyptian Expeditionary Force from May 1915 (Gallipoli), Egypt and Lemnos, then to France 23 May 1916. Son of William and Emily King, of 36 Whitehill Road. His father and elder brothers Arthur and Henry were Chartered Accountants in Gravesend.

Lambert Wilfred F

Gunner, Acting Bombardier, Independent Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery. Died of wounds in France 5 March 1919. Aged 28. Buried Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Lambert, of Thetford, Norfolk. Born Thetford, in 1911 was a pupil teacher. Address was 86 Wrotham Road at the time of his death.

Lintott, George T

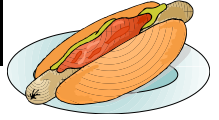
Private, 3 Bn Grenadier Guards. Killed in Action on The Somme, 15 September 1916, aged 27. According to Newspaper Report, a body was found and on it were a family photo and letter from George dated 14 September recording that they were going into action on the morrow and it would be death or glory for them. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, so mystery as to what happened to body! Son of George and Susannah Lintott of 67 Parrock Street, one of six siblings. Joined up 14 September 1914, previously a clerk at Holborn Union, where he may have met his wife to be, Agnes Anderson, a Nursing Sister at Holborn Union Infirmary. Daughter of Thomas and Katherine Anderson of 33 Clarence Place.

Muirhead, Malcolm C

Private, Grenade Company, 5 Bn. Canadian Expeditionary Force, Killed in Action, 27 September 1916, Battle of the Somme. No known grave. Commemorated on Canadian Vimy Memorial. Emigrated to Canada, in 1906, at the age of 22, a draper's apprentice. A consulting engineer, like his father, when he joined the CEF 21 December 1914. Born 6 October 1884, son of Richard & Phoebe Muirhead, of 66 Parrock Street. Eight siblings.



Family Barbecue



Christ Church family barbecue

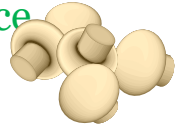
**Come and join us for food,
fun, games and chill out**

When? After the 10 am Sunday service on the
14th August 2016

(come even if you haven't been to the service –
we aim to eat about 12.30pm)

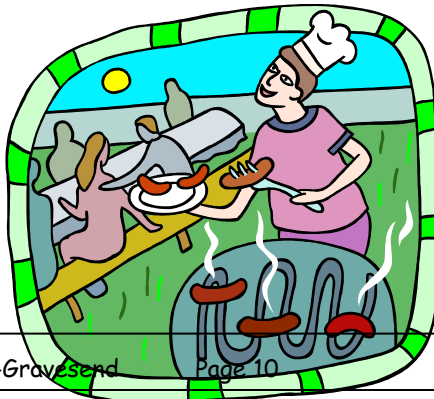
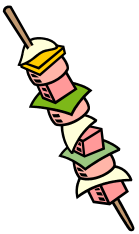


Where? Christchurch Pleasance
(garden behind the church)



How much? Free – contributions of salad or
dessert are welcome.

What do I do? Please sign list at the back of
church



Do you or members of your family have any interesting stories from World War 1

As part of the national commemorations of WW1 we are looking to reproduce stories that congregation members might like to submit of their relatives, or local men, who engaged in the conflict!

If you have a family story, perhaps with a photograph of the person you are writing about that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an edition of Christ Church magazine over the next three years please let Sue Brewer or Mike Cubitt know.

We are hoping to get enough copy to enable a different story to be produced in the magazine during the four year anniversary period.

All photographs will be returned, but please mark on the back your name and address.



Swans have been supplying top-quality kitchens and bathrooms at best-value prices to customers throughout the south of England for 30 years. We specialise in top-of-the-range German kitchen units and work tops, plus appliances. We will create the kitchen of your dreams, tailored to your personal needs but at superstore prices.

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Once you have found the kitchen units for you, why not browse our extensive selection of work tops, sinks and top-brand appliances.

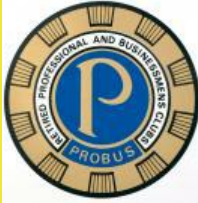
Once you have chosen the elements for your dream kitchen click here to contact Swans Kitchens for one of our designers to prepare a personal quotation.

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80 Parrock Road,
Gravesend, Kent
DA12 1QF

01474 569070



An Invitation from Gravesend Probud Club

If you are a retired Professional or Business person this club will interest you. We meet every four weeks at St Georges Church Hall Gravesend on a Wednesday at 10:00am. We are a friendly club that welcomes both Ladies and Gentlemen as members.

Apart from the Annual General Meeting to decide club business, we always have a guest speaker with featured talks on a wide variety of interesting and thought provoking subjects, most of these include a visual presentation.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided at the meeting and there is also a free bottle raffle. There is some car parking outside the Church hall, and ample parking next door at The St. Georges Centre multistorey car park.

We also meet three times a year for a luncheon at which you are welcome to bring guests. The Club has the usual Officers you would expect, for further details contact :

The Secretary Mr Bob Bennett on 01474 568585

The Treasurer Mr Geoff Beer on 01474 823533

The next two meetings of the Club will be on August 17th, October 12th and thereafter at four weekly intervals.

Give us a call or just pop in!



THE MUSTARD SEED

THE Mustard Seed aims to provide an informal and friendly tea at 3.00 pm on the third Thursday of every month in Christ Church hall.

It is a venture that offers the opportunity to meet new friends and reminisce about old times.

The Mustard Seed, as the parable says (Mark4; 3-32) is very small - like dust - but has the potential to develop into one of the largest plants.

Please join us as we plant the Mustard Seed and assist to make it flourish. Who knows what may happen!

The Mustard Seed is in its third year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 18 August**. You are so welcome.

For further details please contact any member of the pastoral care team. Pastoral assistants Pam Kilby, Colin Parsonson, Jasmine Humphries.

CAN YOU HELP?



There is still a long way to go if we are to raise the £3000 plus that is needed to pay for the replacement memorial stone to be laid in memory of those members of Christ Church that gave their lives while fighting for their country during the first world war. If you can help then speak to our vicar, Sue or one of our church wardens

COPY FOR THE MAGAZINE

This is your magazine, and every effort is made to include items supplied by you, our readers. The one thing that would be most helpful, when submitting copy, is that you e-mail this rather than put a typed sheet on the hook in church.

As I am not a touch typist, it takes considerable time to re-type any copy and is open to me making errors. **Send copy to the address on page 2 by 20th of the month, or speak to Mike Cubitt - 07840343831**

A decorative border with a repeating floral motif of leaves and berries surrounds the text.

Christ Church 200 Club

The 200 Club is a means of raising money for the Christ Church General Fund, which supports the Ministry and Mission of the church and Good Causes as agreed by the PCC, whilst at the same time giving members the opportunity of a small 'flutter' and the chance to win some money.

Membership costs £30 per year. Fifty percent of all monthly donations are given over to the Christ Church General Fund with the remainder being returned to the membership in prize money. The draw is made on the fourth Sunday of every month in the hall after the morning service.

Payment can be made by an annual sum of £30, a quarterly payment of £7.50 or a monthly payment of £2.50, the latter two by bankers order. Cheques should be made payable to Christ Church PCC No 3 account.

Join by contacting John Thrush, in church, and completing an application form. If you are not sure who John is, ask one of the sides people and they will point you in the right direction.

Winning chances are only limited by the amount of numbers you purchase, the more you have the better your chance of winning.

Worthwhile it certainly is, since its inception the 200 Club has donated over £40,000 to Christ Church to support its Ministry and Good Causes.

Are you a member?

Why not think seriously about joining and helping your church

Contact

**JOHN THRUSH
200 Club Secretary
Christ Church**



Come and join us for

THE TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

in the Church
on Wednesday 10th
August at 2.00pm

We start in the church with the First Steps service and then go to the hall and gardens for the picnic.

There will be food and drink, toys, music and lots of fun.

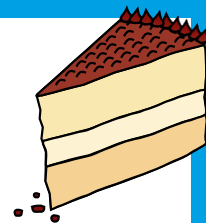
There will be a raffle to raise money for the oranges, sweets etc to make the Chirstingles for our service later in the year.



Don't forget to bring your Teddy with you



TEA @ 3

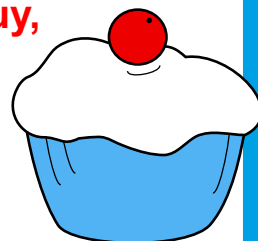


Members of the Mothers' Union invite
you to "Tea @ 3"

on Tuesday 16 August in Christ
Church Pleasance from 3 pm



Tea, cakes, raffle, bring and buy,
sit and watch or join in the
activities, all ages welcome, all
proceeds in aid of Mothers' Union
overseas projects



*ellenor.**

COFFEE MORNING

Friday 30 September 10.00 a.m.

The Hospice Coldharbour Road, Northfleet

Please support your local Hospice



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

**Have you had a look on the
Traidcraft table recently?**

**We have some new items for sale. You might see
something that takes your fancy.**

**If there is something you would like to try but is not
on the table have a word with David Williams**



Concert

17th September 2016

7.00 p.m.

**Christ Church,
Old Road East Gravesend
DA12 1NR**



**Featuring:
Leanne Jones
Semiquavers
Salvation Army Band**

**Admission by Ticket £5.00
(Accompanied Children Free)**

For tickets contact 01474 534517

Proceeds to
**The Community of the Cross of Nails at Coventry Cathedral
and Christ Church**

The 100th Anniversary of the First Day of the Battle of the Somme

1st July 1916, remains an important day in the history of this country and Veronica and I were very fortunate to be awarded two tickets in the lottery to join the official commemoration at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Battle.

I have previously attended commemorations at Thiepval including the 90th, and others in different parts of France and Belgium, but this was the most moving by far.

We were on the Somme for five days and in that time visited some of the 150 cemeteries and memorials maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). These ranged from the imposing Thiepval Memorial itself, commemorating 72,194 soldiers whose bodies simply went missing or were unidentified in the carnage of the six month long Somme battle, including six soldiers commemorated on Christ Church's own Memorial. to small roadside cemeteries often containing fewer than 100 graves. Two lasting impressions will stay with us: firstly the enormous and devoted care of the CWGC itself towards the sites, with staff at every cemetery and memorial engaged in preparing them to be at their best for July 1st. Secondly and most memorably the number of visitors or 'pilgrims' we met at every site, most of whom had no tickets for any of the Commemoration events, but who just wanted to be there for the Anniversary, each with their own story to tell.

Of course the focus was the Thiepval Ceremony, which many of you will have watched on television. This took place at a time of high security, combined with a venue in very rural France approached only by narrow roads down which



10,000 visitors had to travel. The solution was very French, with the whole area for miles around closed to road traffic, all visitors making their way to a single marshalling point at Albert Airport, where security checks were carried out, then by coach to Thiepval, theoretically a half hour journey. Here we were all supplied with breakfast before and a substantial lunch afterwards.

We were fortunate to be shown to seats near the front, where we were witness to an event both deeply moving and dramatic, projected on giant screens for everyone to have a good view of all events. We were delighted to come across Harry and Evelyn Green also seated in the auditorium. The scene was set with original film recorded during the Battle accompanied by the BBC Symphony Orchestra. French and British Military bands played, Guards Regiments marched, a ceremonial gun salute by the Royal Horse Artillery greeting the arrival of the Royal Party and other dignitaries.



Continued over the page

100th Anniversary continued from previous page

The ceremony itself will last long in the memory, with an inspirational programme unfolding before us. Narrated by Charles Dance, Joely Richardson and Jason Isaacs, it comprised poignantly chosen music and readings, linking back to the battle. As well as war poetry, many of the readings were personal reminiscences, some delivered by descendants of the fallen, with footballer Sol Campbell reading an eye witness account of the death of a member of the Footballer's Battalion. All will remain in the memory, especially a haunting rendition of *'Keep the Home Fires Burning'* by the Morriston Orpheus Choir, accompanied by the Band of the Welsh Guards. The formal Commemoration concluded with Charles Dance's moving rendition of *'Aftermath'* by Siegfried Sassoon, *'Abide With Me'*, prayer by the Archbishop of Canterbury, *'For the Fallen'* and the two Minutes Silence, which brought a lump to the throats of all present.

Proceedings continued with the wreath laying, and Veronica and I took the opportunity to place a Memorial Cross at the Thiepval Cross of Sacrifice, commemorating those remembered on the Christ Church Memorial. These included Percy Dodd whose name is one of those inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial, and his brother Frank, both family connections of Harry Kingsbury of our congregation.

This battle, part of the war to end all wars with its millions of victims: the dead, and the wounded - many of who suffered for decades afterwards including both my grandfathers who survived the Somme, but paid a heavy price; and the vast numbers back home, who lost loved ones, spent a lifetime nursing them, or simply had to cope in different ways from the shortage of men from that generation.....

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Thiepval Cross of Sacrifice - Christ Church



Thiepval - Stone of Remembrance



Massed congregation at the Thiepval Memorial

Closer...

is a one year experiential course in Christian Spirituality. The course will offer both exploration and experience of the depth of Christian Spirituality.

The participants will:

- Explore and develop their own relationship with God.
- Try new ways of praying.
- Learn about different Christian Spiritualities.
- Explore discernment and decision making

Exploring Christian Spirituality

7 Saturdays in 2016 - 2017

Where?

65 Maidstone Road
Chatham
ME4 6DP

To book and for more info contact:

Rev Canon Susanne Carlsson
(Adviser for Spirituality in Rochester Diocese)
susannecarlsson s@hotmail.co.uk
07795167603

Cost? £15 per session



Closer...

Who is this who calls me close?
Love calls Love!

22 October 2016	What is Prayer?
29 October 2016	Images of God and Self
21 January 2017	Different Ways of Praying
29 April 2017	Different Ways of Praying
24 June 2017 Making	Discernment and Decision
9 September 2017	Different Spiritualities
2 December 2017	Deepening and Review

Circular walk from Meopham Green to New Street

Sunday 7th August 2016:

Meet: 2.30pm Meopham Green (War Memorial)

Leader: Jenny Ellert 01474 361977

Gravesend Historical Society event – free – sensible footwear needed

Pocahontas walk –

celebrating 400 years since Pocahontas was buried in Gravesend

On: Saturday 13th August 2016

Guide: Christoph Bull

Meet: 2.30pm at Towncentric (opposite St George's Church)

No need to book – £4

Dock to Clock guided tour –

County Court to Clock Tower

discovering two Victorian gems and all those in between.

On: Saturday 10th September 2016

Guide: Christoph Bull

Meet: 11am at County Court (now The Grand Healthy Living Centre), King Street

Free – no need to book

Circular walk from Cliffe to Cooling

Sunday 11th September 2016:

Meet 2.30pm outside St Helen's Church, Cliffe

Guide and Leader: Christoph Bull 07702 287147 – Donations welcome

Gravesend Historical Society event – free – sensible footwear needed

Gravesham –Round & About –

illustrated talk about our ancient parishes

On: Monday 12th September 2016

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street

Meet: 6pm for meal and then talk

Cost: £14 includes fish and chip supper and talk

Booking essential – Reliance on 01474 533593

Christ Church
Old Road East, Gravesend DA12 1NR



**Peace
and Reconciliation**

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition
Free Admission

Saturday 17th September 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 18th September 12 noon to 5.00 p.m.

Concert Saturday 7.00 p.m.
Admission £5.00

For Tickets please contact 01474 534517

**Semiquavers, Leanne Jones, Salvation Army
Band**

Sunday 18th September 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion Service
Dedication by
the Bishop of Rochester of
First World War Memorial



Proceeds to
**The Community of the Cross of
Nails at Coventry Cathedral
and Christ Church**



Exciting Youth Choir in Gravesend

If you are aged between 7 and 17 and enjoy singing then come along!

- Join a friendly group of singers
- Learn great music of different styles and
- Perform at concerts and services

For further information visit
www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

- Or call 01474 534517

Join the
semiquavers

**Youth
choir in Gravesend
We meet weekly for
Rehearsals
at Christ Church
Tuesday evenings
6.15 pm to 7.30 pm**

Bathrooms, wet rooms, cloakrooms,
bathrooms to meet special needs.
Swans have been supplying top-quality bathrooms at best-value
prices to customers throughout the south of England for 30 years.

Swans

Kitchens, Bathrooms & Bedrooms

Why not visit our showrooms or telephone to arrange a personal
visit, to discuss your requirements, in your own home.

Email: swans@xln.co.uk



80 Parrock Road, Gravesend
Kent DA12 1QF
01474 569070

BIBLE NOTES

Some people find it useful to have a set portion of the Bible to read each day.

The Bible Reading Fellowship have a booklet called "New Daylight" which sets out a short Bible reading and explanatory notes. These booklets are priced at £4.30 (they do go up each year) for a four month period.

If you would like to try one of these booklets please let Julie Hill know.

GRAVESHAM FOOD BANK

Many thanks to those who support the food bank.

Below is a list of items required at the moment

Milk (UHT) - Custard

Toothpaste - Hot chocolate

Shampoo - Sweets/treats

Breakfast cereal (not porridge) - Marmite

Fruit juice/squash - Toilet roll

Sponge pudding - Deodorant

Tinned potatoes - Laundry liquid/tablets

This list is only a few of the items that can help those less fortunate than ourselves, any tinned or non-perishable items are most welcome

FIRST STEPS

Is a service especially designed for families with pre-school children, although all children in the family are welcome to come.

We meet in the church at 1.45 pm on the second Wednesday in each month for a short service and then to enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

We are finished in plenty of time for parents to meet their other children from school.

Why not come along with your children, you will be very welcome.

Next date is Wednesday 10 August.

Funding announced for projects to promote growth and change

Nine dioceses will receive a significant cash injection to support major growth and change projects under Renewal and Reform. The Spending Plans Task Group of the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council has awarded £7.8m to projects from nine dioceses from the stream of Strategic Development Funding, which is to be expanded from 2017 as part of Renewal and Reform. This is the third tranche of Strategic Development Funding to be awarded in the 2014-16 triennium and now brings the total allocated through to just under of £15m. The aim of the funding is to complement the formula-based funding distributed to dioceses each year, so they can benefit from additional resources to make a significant difference to their long-term mission and financial strength, by supporting major growth and change activity which fits with dioceses' strategic plans. Proposals will be evaluated throughout to ensure that learning for the wider Church can be captured and disseminated, complementing the new process of diocesan Peer Review, which is also a key part of Renewal and Reform. The funding was awarded after a competitive process, in which dioceses were invited to put forward initial applications to the Task Group. Those proposals which were judged to meet the criteria most strongly were invited to submit detailed project plans. Thirteen applications were received in the first stage, of which eight were invited forward to the second stage, together with one which had undertaken further work on its project plan. All nine projects

have subsequently been awarded funding, complementing the dioceses' own investment in the work being supported. John Spence, chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, said: "I'm delighted that the Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners have been able to support some exciting proposals, and help these dioceses turn their strategic plans into reality"

Government support for vulnerable church buildings welcomed

Nearly 300 Church of England parishes are to receive grants for urgent repairs to their church roofs in the second round of awards from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund.

Awards between £10,000 and £100,000 have been offered towards the urgent repair of roofs, gutters and drains, failure of which is the principal cause of decay in historic churches. In total, 401 listed places of worship will benefit from awards from the £25 million funding package given by the Treasury. This follows the 501 awards announced in the first round in Spring 2015..

Visiting St Philip & St James, Hallow, construction of which was partly funded originally by Lea & Perrins, makers of Worcestershire sauce, the Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings said: "These grants will be an enormous help to church communities who take care of some of this country's most precious built heritage. It is very good that the Government has recognised that help is needed."

The Fund, administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, was announced by George Osborne in the 2014 Autumn Statement and subsequently extended for a second round due to heavy oversubscription. Overall, the Treasury has allocated £55 million to the scheme.

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00 am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday All-Age service

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

**For further information
Contact
The Church Wardens**

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)
Monday	Music Group; Brownies
Tuesday	Mothers Union (2 nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers
Wednesday	Guides
Thursday	Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice: 3.00 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third)
Friday	Scouts; Parent and Toddler
Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)

 Mothers UNION
Christian care for families



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead.

 First Steps



CALENDAR AUGUST 2016

Sunday 		7 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	14 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	21 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	28 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday 	1 08.00 Service	8 08.00 Service	15 08.00 Service	22 08.00 Service	29 09.00 Service
Tuesday 	2 07.00 Service	9 07.00 Service	16 07.00 Service 12.00 Mothers' Union "Tea @ 3"	23 07.00 Service	30 07.00 Service
Wednesday 	3 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	10 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps Teddy Bears Picnic 17.15 Evening Prayer	13 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	20 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	31 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer
Thursday 	4 07.00 Service	11 07.00 Service	18 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed	25 07.00 Service	
Friday 	5 18.30 Office hours	12 18.30 Office hours	19 18.30 Office hours	26 18.30 Office hours	
Saturday 	6 08.00 Service	9 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party	16 08.00 Service	23 08.00 Service	

Gravesend Floral Arrangement Society
with Christ Church Gravesend



**Peace and
Reconciliation**

Flower Festival

**Saturday 17th September
10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

**Sunday 18th September
12 noon to 5.00 p.m.**



***Christ Church,
Old Road East,
Gravesend DA12 1NR***



**Proceeds to
The Community of the Cross of Nails
at Coventry Cathedral
and Christ Church**