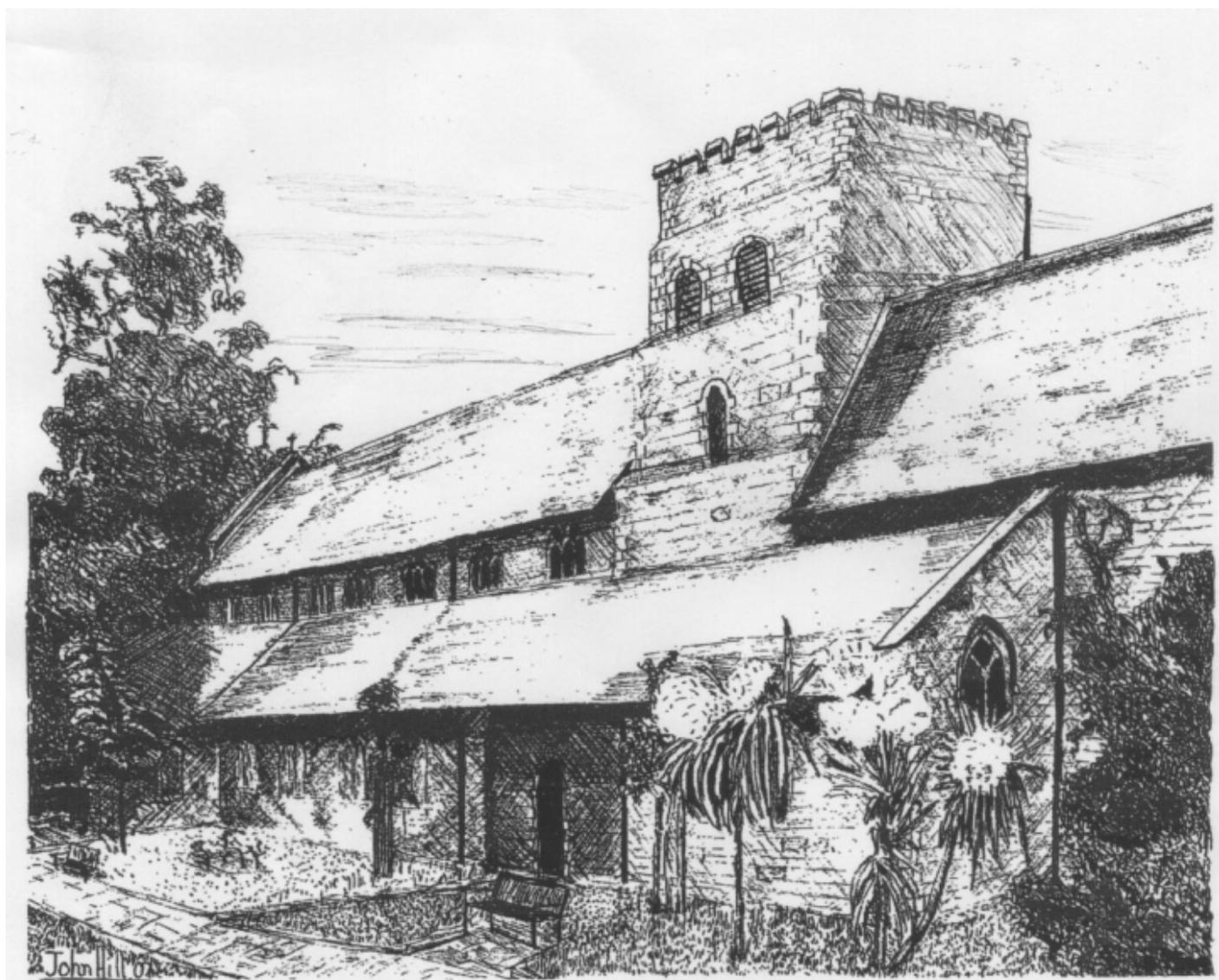


CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007


First Steps

CHRIST CHURCH
**YOUTH
CLUB**

January 11th

**January
2009**



Week of Prayer for Church Unity.

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Stanley Bond	534510
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for February magazine: Sunday 25th January .
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,
or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

Inside this month's magazine

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Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett
01474 568585

Well equipped. Very
suitable for meetings
and children's parties.

Welcome

Happy New Year to All.

As we move into a uncertain financial new year, remember to think of others, particularly those in The Middle East and Africa. It is difficult to know how we can help though if we

"Think Globally and Act Locally"

we can all make a difference. On page 4 are details of how Christmas trees and cards can be recycled. Sheila tells us about a local business who work in and around Echo Square on page ???. Try and make one visit to Hospice Coffee Mornings - details on page ???

The opening of the church during Advent was a success and this will continue throughout 2009.

Editor



Naughty little sheep at the Christingle service



Sunday Evening Services

January 11th 4pm. Evensong - for the Epiphany season

January 18th 4.30pm Churches Together in Gravesham United Service at St Peter and Paul, Milton (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity).

Confirmation

Christ Church candidates will be confirmed at a service at Holy Family Church on Sunday 26th April. In the New Year we will begin to prepare candidates for confirmation. If you know someone who might be interested, please have a word with the Vicar, or one of the people on duty. Last year, a number of people also took the opportunity to renew their baptismal vows in front of the Bishop. If you feel you would like to make a fresh commitment to Christ, whether you are already confirmed or not, please let us know.

CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club starts it new term on Sunday 11th January, 6 - 8 pm with a general activity night. Young people from Y6 to Y10+ are welcome.

For more details speak to Sue, Ian, John or Steve .

Christmas tree recycling



To recycle your Christmas tree simply take it to one of the eleven sites listed below on any day from **Monday 29 December 2008 to Friday 9 January 2009**. Gravesham Borough Council will collect the trees from these sites and take them away to be recycled.

The Waste Management Unit has organised a Christmas tree recycling scheme for real Christmas trees this year.

Christmas tree recycling sites will be located at:

- Shears Green Community Centre, Westcott Avenue
- Osney Way Recycling Point, Lower Higham Road
- Cascades Leisure Centre Recycling Point, Thong Lane
- Istead Rise Recreation Ground, Worcester Close
- Shorne Country Park, Brewers Road
- Ordnance Road Car Park (next to recycling site)
- Woodlands Park, Wrotham Road
- Cygnet Leisure Centre, Hall Road
- Camer Park, Camer Road
- Culverstone Community Centre, Whitepost Lane
- Vigo Car Park, Erskine Road

Christmas Card Recycling Scheme

WOODLAND TRUST

2-31 January

Put them in the box at the back of the church!

Recycle your cards at: *



*At participating stores throughout the UK



If you require any further information on recycling please contact the Waste Management Unit on 01474 33 75 33.



First Steps

10th December 2008

Our naughty little sheep has been very busy since our last First Steps service. If you came to our Christingle service you may have seen him put in an appearance. He had a walk about so that he could have a good look at the families arriving for the service and then he asked me to put him up onto the pulpit so that he could see all of the children, when their candles were lit. He promised me faithfully that he wouldn't jiggle about but I was a bit nervous and asked the children to keep an eye on him and to let me know if he looked wobbly. But he was very well behaved which was quite a relief. I didn't want him to get his wool singed!

He's also been into Church twice to see our Pre-school children sing their special songs and say their 'Thank you' prayers and he really looks forward to joining them now. He keeps an eye on them to make sure that they behave and they keep an eye on him, so everybody wins! He told me that he's been a little disappointed because Betty Martin hasn't given him a cuddle lately and wondered if his wool needs a wash! And the children haven't done their Marching song either, which is a particular favourite of his, so he thinks that next time he'll have to remind them! When the children came into the Church this morning Peter Shearan was wearing a special Christmas hat and our naughty little sheep whispered to Colin Parsonson that he would rather like one too, just for the festive season! We'll have to ask Lesley Harries, who has made some lovely Nativity costumes for the Pre-school, if she can make a special hat for him, though time is getting on now, so he may have to wait until Christmas 2009.

We've got another cold sunny day for our First Steps service and once again we have some new faces as well as our well-loved and much appreciated regulars. Susannah and her Mum, Mary Kate, are joining us for the first time, as is Lily's Godmother, Helen and her two little boys, Connor and Calum. They've come all the way from Paddock Wood, isn't that great! I hope that they'll all want to join us again. In our service today we are thinking about the Christmas Story and we've borrowed some lovely knitted Nativity figures from our Pre-school. They have been knitted by Susan Sacre and Linda Parsonson, two member of our congregation and we're going to use them to tell that special story. First of course, when every one is settled, we begin by singing Candle time. Daniel and Martha are both fast asleep in their buggies though we're not too sure how long that will last once the jingle bells get going! We light some special candles today, thinking of Gill's Mum and my Mum, both of whom are not too well at the moment. Freya asks if we can light a candle for her friend Eleanor's new baby sister and we also light a candle for Lily who is going to big school in January. We are certainly going to miss her!

Then it's time for us to tell that oh so important story and I hand the figures round so that the children can help me by bringing them up to put on our little altar as our story unfolds. Firstly Mary and Joseph take their place followed by baby Jesus in his little manger with its tiny knitted cover. Then three shepherds appear with four little knitted sheep. It is only then that we realise that another significant sheep is missing. Oh no! What has happened to our naughty little sheep? We all know that it's his favourite bit of the story and we can't let him miss it! So the children and I look around the Church to see if we can find him. We all look this way and that and then Lily tracks him down. Well done that girl! He's standing in the cowshed, which is sitting on a table towards the back of the church. It is the very same cowshed that we will be using at our Crib service and later that naughty sheep tells me that he was trying it out, getting a feel for the place! Would you believe it?

When normality has finally been resumed, three kings with their gifts are carefully placed on our little altar. Our tableau is complete and so is our story. As Joan Bennett plays the piano for us we sing some of our favourite Christmas carols like. Away in a manger and Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep. Then there is much enthusiastic bell jingling as we sing Jingle Bells twice, with gusto! Could this be when Daniel and Martha wake up? I wouldn't be at all surprised! And then most important of all, we thank God for sending Jesus to us; that Gift that keeps on giving!

We finish with Candletime and some of the children help to blow the candles out. Then we make our way into the Hall. Tilly is looking after our naughty little sheep and making sure that he gets there safely and doesn't wander off again. Now it's time for refreshments, play and chat. Our naughty little sheep is content to sit on the hatchway to the kitchen watching the children play and make Christmas decorations to hang on the Christmas tree by the Church door. He tells me that he's feeling very tired after all the excitement of the last few days and he doesn't really feel much like playing. He thinks he'll save himself for his starring role in the Crib Service. And he's very sad that Lily is going to school and he won't be able to play with her any more. But he hopes she has a lovely time at school and makes lots of new friends.

Very soon it's time to go home and there are pictures for the children to take with them to colour. We hope that they will be a reminder of that very special story about a tiny baby born in a cowshed and laid in a manger, God coming to earth in Jesus Christ! And we hope that they will join us at the Crib service at 4pm on Christmas Eve to hear the story once again. When we meet together for our next First Steps service it will be the 14th January and we will be thinking about Looking after God's world, very appropriate for a New Year! In the meantime we wish you all a very Happy New Year. God Bless.

Rosemary Austin.



Soroptimist International of
Gravesend & District

Quiz Evening

A Fun Evening on Saturday 10th January 2009

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

At Christ Church Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend.

Proceeds

to support our Link Club

Freetown, Sierra Leone

£5.00 entry per person

Teams -
Maximum
6 in each

Bring your
own Snacks
and Drinks

Raffle

Admission by Ticket only

**Check availability
with Sheila Knight
Tel: 01474 564234**

**Admission by
ticket only**

S
M
GARDENS
R
T

SMARTGARDENS

As I continue my series on the lives of those who live and work in and around Echo Square, I have interviewed Kevin Lock and Stuart who together make up Smart Gardens.

How long has Smartgardens been working in Gravesend?

We have worked together since 2003, so for 6 years although we have 10 years experience in gardening.

Why did you choose to set up in Gravesend?

We live locally and plan to become THE local, reliable garden maintenance company for Gravesend and Northfleet.

Keeping our work local helps us to trim costs such as petrol and to establish a regular client base.

How many staff do you have?

Two main staff: Kevin and Stuart, plus Richard who helps out when necessary and when he can and Kevin's father who is a retired carpenter who can be called on for help with decking and other related skills.

We have 2 vans to take us around with our extensive and good quality equipment.

We each have £5 million public liability insurance.

Do you have gardening skills training?

Yes, we have both taken RHS single courses in skills such as fruit pruning, hedging etc..

Kevin is the plantsman and Stuart works more on hedging and lawns so we complement each other.

What do you offer to customers?

75-80% of our work is maintenance; 20-25% is landscaping. We offer free visits and competitive quotes for small and large jobs and we expect to treat all our customers the same. Among our regular customers are many elderly people whom we know trust us.

We undertake grass cutting and strimming (from as little as £5); shrub pruning, hedge cutting, small tree work, weeding and managing of borders, jet washing of driveways and patios.

In landscaping we can offer garden design, turfing and lawncare, planting schemes, garden tidying and clearance work.

What is it like running a local business?

People of Gravesend expect a fair job for a fair price and that is what we aim to give. They are friendly, honest folk and we are gradually limiting our business to Gravesend and Northfleet as work permits. We are proud to be recognised as the local garden maintenance firm!

A typical week would be: Monday:one off jobs; Tues., Weds., Thurs.:regular customers; Fri.: mainly grass cutting so people have tidy lawns for the weekend, and we also work Saturdays.

Do you feel Christchurch is a part of this community?

Yes, very definitely. Old Road East and Echo Square are an important and long established part of Gravesend and Christchurch is like part of the furniture! We know and have gardened for several members of Christchurch before we started working on the church and vicarage grounds, and value our connections with it. Kevin was married at Christchurch and his children were christened there and he is delighted to be able to be working for what he considers his church even though time does not allow him to become more involved at present.

How do we contact you?

Phone Kevin or Stuart on:

01474 320286 or 01474 326434

or mobile:

07961 924824 or 07962 431007

Sheila Brown



COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday	February	27th
Friday	March	27th
Friday	April	24th
Friday	May	29th
Friday	June	26th
Friday	September	25th
Friday	October	30th
Friday	November	27th
Friday	December	11th

Please make a note of these dates in your diary
and tell your friends and family too!

Many thanks for your continued support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices.
Registered Charity No. 1121561

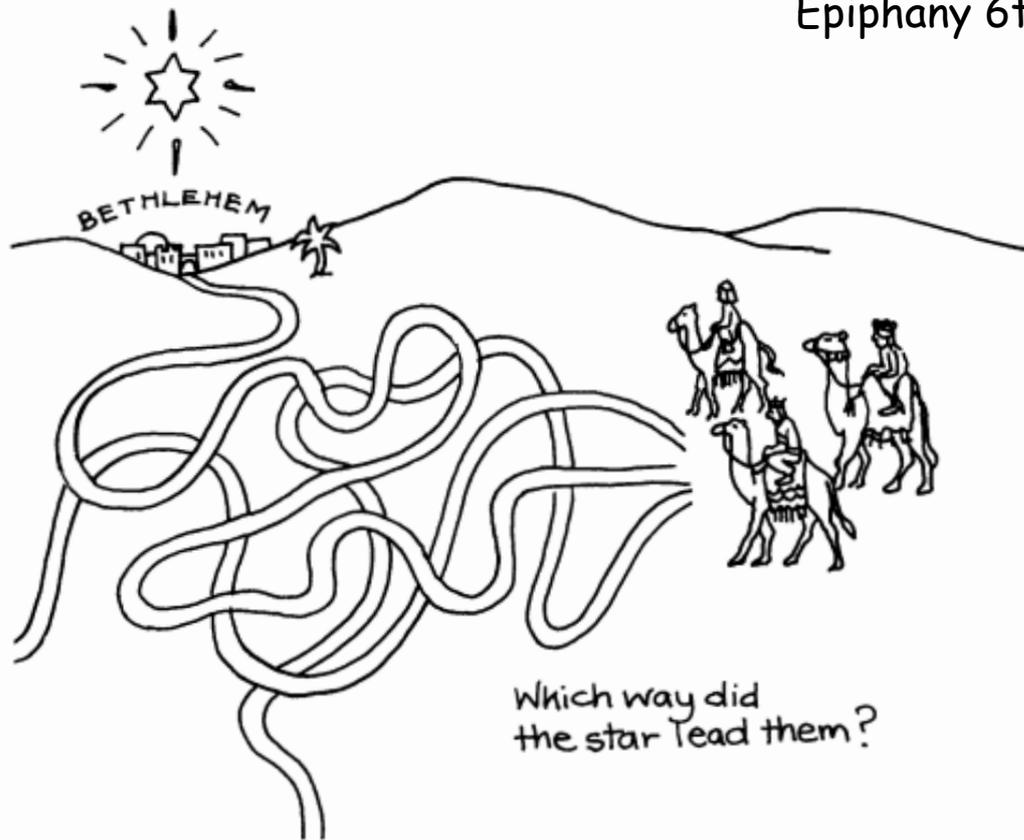
Lewy Body Dementia

This is not uncommon but it is little known! It took doctors and consultants a long time to diagnose it with Mike. It is caused by protein deposits which disrupt the brains normal functioning. Trembling of the limbs and a tendency to shuffle when walking and experience of detailed and convincing hallucinations are typical. He would be drowsy during the day but unable to sleep at night. He experience vertigo, which caused a fall. He found swallowing difficult and in the end impossible. His voice gradually went. Although it says dementia in his case he was quite sensible and aware of what was going on. I will be grateful to Dr Jill Kent who was determined to get to the root of his problems. She gave all the family confidence to cope with a difficult situation.

Jill Sampson.

God's Gang

Epiphany 6th January



A	G	D	E	D	O	R	E	H	F	L	B
W	O	R	L	O	F	I	R	X	Q	F	
O	B	R	C	P	A	S	D	R	E	A	M
L	W	C	P	A	G	K	H	Y	C	O	E
L	M	V	J	Y	T	T	E	M	E	N	H
O	Z	F	I	H	S	R	O	W	N	L	
F	R	A	N	K	I	C	E	N	S	E	
D	A	U	B	W	D	G	I	K	S	Y	J

GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
WISE
MEN

FOLLOW
STAR
HEROD
DREAM
WORSHIP

CARING FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Christmas plants are lovely to receive as gifts. Keep them in good condition with good care.

POINSETTIA

Keep in good natural light and keep at normal room temperature between 12C and 21C. Water twice a week from the top of the plant adding liquid food every 14 days.

Never let the plant dry out. Spray daily with water to keep the leaves fresh.



CYCLAMEN

They like plenty of light but must be protected from full sun. Keep at 7-15C during the day and 10C at night. Keep the compost moist and stand on a saucer of pebbles and protect from smoke and draughts. When growing and flowering, water twice a week from below adding liquid fertiliser every 14 days.

AZALEA

Keep in a good light position but not in direct sunlight, ideally at 13C. Never allow to dry out or be waterlogged. Water every second day with lime free water and liquid feed fortnightly. Stand on a saucer with pebbles and spray daily with lime free water.

CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Enjoys a light position on a window sill. Do not let the temperature fall below 5-7 C.

Water once a month, spray overhead once a month.

ADAM

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

January 7th Meeting at 4 St Mary's Close

February 4th - AGM. Details to follow.

The Choir have had a very busy year, practising for all our Festival Services and singing special Anthems.

We said a very sad goodbye to Arthur Pickering in September. Arthur was very well known at Christ Church having sung in the choir since his days as a choirboy. He is sadly missed.

We attended many singing events during the year. The Deanery Choirs festival at St Nicholas Southfleet. The Diocesan Choirs festival at the Cathedral and a three day singing event also at the Cathedral.



A good number of us sang Compline at West Malling Abbey just before Christmas, it was a very moving and uplifting experience in such a quiet spiritual place.

The events that some of us attend really help us to enlarge our Repertoire and meet other like minded singers. It allows us to develop our singing skills and thereby enhance our singing in the Choir on Sundays.

We are now recovering from all the practising and singing of Carols for Christmas.

Gwyneth and the Choir wish you all a Very Happy New Year

Pam Kilby

January

Highlights this month !

Week of Prayer for Church Unity

Together at Bognor

Sunday		4 8 am Service 10 am Service Louise Braille 200th Anniv of birth	11 8 am Service 10 am Service 4pm Service Youth Club	18 8 am Service 10 am Service 4.30 pm Service at St Peter & Paul Milton Youth Club	25 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club
Monday		5 Cubs Brownies	12 Cubs Brownies	19 Cubs Brownies	26 Cubs Brownies
Tuesday		6 Staff meeting	13	20	27
Wednesday		7 Web Training Guides MU Meeting	14 First Steps Guides	21 Guides	28 Guides
Thursday	1 New Year's Day 10 am Service	8 Beavers Brownies	15 Beavers Brownies	22 Beavers Brownies	29 Beavers Brownies
Friday	2 Day After New Year (Scot.)	9 Scouts CCADS Office	16 Scouts CCADS Office	23 Scouts CCADS Office	30 Scouts CCADS Office
Saturday	3	10 Soroptimists Quiz	17	24	31 Working Party

Diocesan conference - Together at Bognor

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 Uniformed Organisations parade

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

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)

First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club