



CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2019

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50p

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next magazine **FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER 2019**
 Copy: email to:-
 ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

**Christ Church Hall is available for hire
 Contact Maxine Springett, contact numbers are 01474 746428 or 07511962277.
 Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and children's parties**

Front cover: A portion of The Nativity Facade-Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

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Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Rev. Sally Womersley	352643
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Assistant Curate	Karen Nelson	362654
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden	Lucy Hornby	07545444760
PCC Secretary	John Hougham	352138
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	249106
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443
Webmaster	Tim McArthur	
Magazine editor	Mike Cubitt	07840343831

IMPORTANT STATEMENT from the Vicar

There is much about Christ Church, it's community and its people, which filled me with enthusiasm as I embarked on a new chapter of ministry here. I could see real potential for developing what is already going on, as well as exploring how we might serve the Lord and our community in many new and exciting ways.

Sadly, I have not been able to exercise the effective ministry of leadership amongst you, which I had hoped for.

I wanted to enable us to thrive together, supporting and encouraging each other as we shared in being church here.....as a God centred collaborative team.

But the constant, ongoing, disabling criticism made to me personally, and taken to others, has become a block to my continuing to serve here and, after much reflection and prayer about a way forward, I feel it only right for me to resign as your vicar and move on, and I have been appointed to a post in the diocese of Winchester.

This is not a decision I have taken lightly... and I want you to know that I am grateful for the affirmation and appreciation of my ministry that I have received from so many of you. I thank you for this.

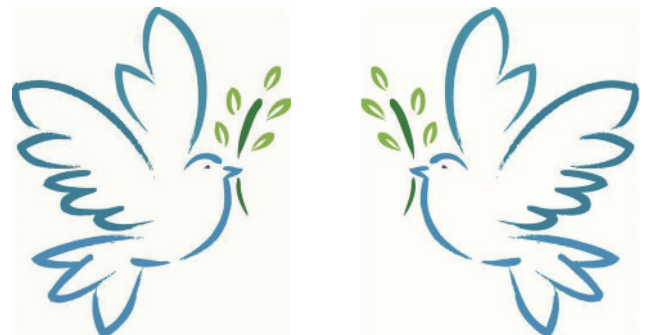
I would ask you that, when you look for my successor, you will **all** be ready to work with him or her. I would hope for a truly collegial ministry working with and around each other's gifts and flaws to

make things happen together sharing your visions but also listening to theirs and by being prepared to let go of some things, to take risks and do new things TOGETHER.

But **most importantly** I hope that you will find ways to encourage and look after the person who God might be calling to serve you and this parish in the future.

Thank you.

Sally Womersley, Vicar.



CHIROPODIST

Shelley Lane
MSSCh MBCIA

HCPC REGISTERED
Your local qualified Chiroprapist

Home visits
Telephone 01474 745898

AUTUMN MEMBERS MEETING - LISTEN, OBSERVE, ACT

As this was my first attendance at one of these meetings I was a little apprehensive but thankfully Priest Jacqueline steered me through the programme and I must say I found it a very useful and enjoyable day. It was really good to meet and talk with members from around the Diocese and also Agnes from Malawi. Jacqueline led the opening prayers with a focus on The Clewer Initiative on modern slavery and Hidden Voices. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed and Mark Jamieson, our MU Diocese Treasurer, gave his report (copies available on our MU pinboard). The annual subscription for members will rise to £26 and we were encouraged to gift aid contributions (forms are available, please ask me) We currently have 639 members in the Diocese. It was requested that if anyone had any questions regarding Families First, they should contact Mary Sumner House, not the Diocese. There are plans for members to receive their copies by post. The morning continued with an in-depth presentation by David Ewaku, IT Manager at Mary Sumner House about the members database and website. An enormous amount of work has been carried out to develop a new and more comprehensive system of recording data and increasing efficiency in an effort to raise the MU global profile, improve service and increase income for our worldwide projects. Clergy are encouraged to use the resources page on the website. Each

Diocese now has its own profile page and there is a central members directory. We were encouraged to submit a story so hopefully in 2020 our branch can publish our monthly events and activities such as T@3, Coffee Mornings etc. Midday prayers preceded our lunch break when we were able to purchase items from the very colourful Rainbow Sale. Julia Jamieson, Rochester Diocese President then gave her address to the meeting. Julia reviewed the years' events and focused on our journey of **Faith**, our support for **Families**, the **Friendship** and **Fundraising** opportunities, and our **Focus For the Future**. Notes will be provided for all branch contacts to ensure we are all walking together "In step with God". This was followed by an update on the Constitution, news from the Archdeaonries and craft ideas which included making activity blankets and Red Boxes for sanitary items. The meeting ended at 2.30 with closing worship led by Jacqueline. The Spring Members meeting will be on Saturday 25th April 2020 at Christ Church Centre, Orpington. All members are welcome to attend. Jenny Shoemith Christ Church Milton - Next - Gravesend
Mother's Union - Secretary www.mothersunion.org

Fitness League

Movement for Life In Christ Church Hall
Every Tuesday From 2-3.15 pm
Light remedial exercises Fully qualified teacher

Ladies why not join us!
For more information please
Phone 01634 255759

COFFEE ROTA 2019

1 Dec	Annie - Jill - Vena
8 Dec	Sue Wilkins - Kay - Jill
15 Dec	Annie - Jill -
22 Dec	Annie - Jill - Anne Thrush
29 Dec	Annie - Jill - Sheila Knight

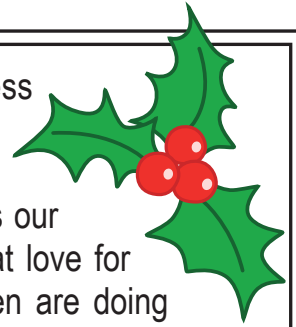


Come in and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after the 10.00 o'clock Sunday service





FIRST STEPS
13TH NOVEMBER 2019
ADVENT IS COMING
TIME TO GET READY



A bright cold autumn morning and our naughty little sheep is so pleased to see the sunshine. We've had quite a lot of rain lately, though not as much as those poor people in South Yorkshire. Our naughty little sheep agrees that is hardly bears thinking about. As our naughty little sheep, his friends and I walk up to church, we agree that we are really very lucky to live where we do. Sometimes it's good to count your blessings. Into church we go and it's the usual routine. They find somewhere to sit comfortably while I begin to get things ready for our First Steps service. I am very soon joined by Linda and Jan. It doesn't take too long to get everything sorted out and then Ann arrives to play our piano for us. Time to open our big church doors and first in today is Mum Emma with little girl Abigail wearing her pretty pink rabbit shoes, and little brother Rupert snug in his buggy with Auntie Lisa close behind. Granddad Stephen with granddaughter Aurelia come in for a second visit. Aren't they brave? Then Mum Mia comes in with little girl Aubree, visiting us for the first time. How lovely is that? We are so very pleased to see everyone, in fact our naughty little sheep and the glittery dragon who are both sitting on our little altar, are positively jumping up and down with excitement.

When everyone is ready with their jingle bells and they are sitting comfortably, I light our candles and our service begins. Today we're looking forward to Advent when our church hangings will be purple and every week we will light candles on our Advent Ring. It is such a special time in our Church year, in fact it is the very beginning of our Church year when we are getting ourselves ready for Jesus to come among

us in the form of a helpless baby. It gives us all just a little tingle when we think about it. We sing about Jesus who is our friend and about God's great love for each one of us. The children are doing some lovely jingling with their bells and little Rupert is having a wonderful time, laughing and trying to sing along with us. We sing about Jesus' wonderful love for us and about the beautiful, wonderful world that God has created for us. How wonderful and amazing it is. Our naughty little sheep and his friends all agree. It's just wonderful and amazing! Aren't we blessed?

Everyone is very quiet and good when we say our prayers, including the special prayer that Jesus taught us. Soon our service is over and it's time to blow out our candles and go into the Hall. In spite of all our singing our naughty little sheep and his friends are still full of energy and rush into the Hall to get a drink and a biscuit or two! Then they find themselves a seat so that they can sit and watch the children play. As always it has been lovely to be together and we hope that everyone and maybe even a few more, will join us for our next First Steps service on 11th December. I wonder what we will be thinking about then. Have a guess!

Our naughty little sheep, his friends and the whole First Steps gang wish everyone a very joyful Christmas.

God Bless
Rosemary Austin



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 normally on the second Saturday of each month...

NOTE the next ones will be on Saturday 14 DECEMBER at 9.30.

See you there, JAN



WHAT IS COUNSELLING?

Counselling is a process that gives you the opportunity to explore feelings, thoughts and experiences that are causing distress or that you are finding difficult to understand or make sense of. Counselling can also give you the space to develop new, healthier ways of coping with some of the tough times that life brings along.

I CAN HELP YOU WITH:

Depression, Anxiety, Relationships, Low Self Esteem, Bereavement, Anger Issues, Dealing with Change, Work Related Issues and Spirituality

I am a member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists and the Association of Christian Counsellors.

I offer flexible appointments, home visits within the Gravesend area and concessionary rates



HOW I APPROACH COUNSELLING

I am an Integrative Counsellor which means that I use a variety of counselling approaches dependant on your needs and what you want to achieve in the counselling process, Throughout the process you decide what you want to talk about and the pace you want to go. I will listen to you and help you express and understand your emotions. Sometimes I use writing, drawing and toys to help you express difficult emotions

Please call Tracy on 07784 318104 or email info@tj-counselling.com

Central Avenue, Gravesend Kent DA12 5AW

www.tj-counselling.com.

End of an era

Those four words are frequently tinged with regret: certainly so in my own case for last Wednesday (13 November) I assisted for the final time at the altar. It had been a long haul, as I shall describe.

It all began in Reading, to which town we (my family and I) had been evacuated from my place of birth – Hastings – in 1941. The retreat from Dunkirk had just occurred, meaning that south coast resorts were now virtually places of danger. My grandmother, a teacher in a London school, had gone to Reading with her pupils, and we joined her 'for the duration' as the saying was.

I was brought up as a Catholic (we never called ourselves ROMAN Catholic: that was strictly for others!). That being so, we attended St Anne's Junior School, where many of the teachers were nuns. Those nuns also played a big part in the nearby church, keeping it neat and tidy, but, crucially for me, they also controlled the 'altar boys'. Every Saturday we attended the church for training: and that was itself a very tough regime. Woe betide if you didn't do everything just right! Among other things you learned how to handle a biretta, the hat worn by the priest upon entered and leaving the sanctuary. Much of the service: at the time when Billy Crouch was serving, was in Latin.

War over and we returned to Hastings. Here I became altar boy again, at the same church where my father had served when he was young, until at sixteen I left school to work in London. Many years



Peter and his wife Marian pictured at a Mustard Seed Christmas celebration at christ Church

were to pass, including becoming a regular soldier, marriage and the birth of our children, until, in 1963 we found ourselves in Singapore, in a suburb called Serangoon Garden City. Here there was a Catholic church with a priest by the name of Father Huc, and here I became a sidesman in a predominately local congregation. During a second posting to Singapore, we attended an Army church: here our two sons also became choir boys. Marian and one daughter played the organ.

But the 'altar boy' experience never left me, as I was to discover when we began attending Christ Church, since I saw the same actions being played out at the altar I had so painstakingly learnt at the hands of the Reading nuns so long ago.

Upon retirement we became part of the regular Wednesday morning 10 o'clock service, when Billy Crouch assisted Joe King. Then Billy died in 1986; and I saw Joe attempting to administer alone; so what was more natural than I volunteered to assist him. And doing so ever since and have been happily doing it ever since for 33 years – until that Wednesday when I formally 'retired' As I said – the end of an era.

Christmas

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

JACK FROST
ANGEL
CHRISTMAS
SNOWFLAKE
GIFTS
PRESENTS
FAMILY
SCROOGE
MERRY
NATIVITY
MANGER
CRACKERS
GRINCH
JOLLY
FRIENDS
TREE
CANDY CANES

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/124/>

Pre-Prep Places Available 2019/20

St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School

An independent school for boys and girls aged 3 to 11



"Fully committed to the pursuit of excellence in a nurturing, safe and happy environment where children are encouraged to achieve their personal optimum in all areas."

Head Teacher

Contact us to find out more

46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR

T: 01474 533012 E: secretary@sjcps.org

www.sjcps.org www.facebook.com/sjcps

GRAVESHAM 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 Liquids/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



Wombwell Hall

Wombwell Hall is a friendly care home nestled in a peaceful area of Northfleet offering nursing care for elderly ladies and gentleman.

At HC-One kindness is at the heart of everything we do and our care and services are tailored to individual preferences.

We're pioneering a simple approach to care, where kindness is our guiding ethos.

To find more information on the care we can offer you or your loved one, please visit our website, or contact our Home Manager, Catherine Veerigadu.



Offering:

- Nursing care
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Comfortable day rooms
- Landscaped gardens
- Regular outings
- 9.3 carehome.co.uk user rating

W hc-one.co.uk

T 0333 321 4757

E careline@hc-one.co.uk

A Wombwell Gardens, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 8BL



semi quavers

Christmas Concert

2019

Let the festivities begin! Come and hear the children singing Christmas Carols and Songs and start to get in the mood for Christmas

Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 6.30pm

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

Tickets available from
Gill Campbell or on the
door £4 adults and
children are free



Also singing under the Christmas Tree
Trafalgar Square, London
Saturday 21 December 2pm to 3pm



Higham Choral Group
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Lots of lovely Christmas music including
Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams
plus

CAROLS FOR ALL

Saturday 14th December
7.30pm

St John's Church,
Hermitage Road, Higham

admission £8.00 includes light refreshments

pay at the door or get tickets in advance from choir members
or contact 01634 718285/kateiw@tiscali.co.uk

www.highamchoral.org.uk





Congratulations Christ Church you are record breakers! 71 shoeboxes – our highest number ever delivered to Blythwood Care last month. On arrival stacks of brightly covered shoeboxes in three large lock up storage facilities were being scrutinised by volunteers to pass customs checks. Excess packaging eg. toothpaste boxes removed, extra small items added and Christian calendars ,story and colouring books included. Sorted boxes are then packed into large travel cartons for shipment to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas delivery where they are always gratefully received. Very many thanks to Christ Church congregation, families and friends, work colleagues, Singlewell Stationers and Gravesend Flower Arranging Society for joining in this years appeal and helping to achieve such a

great result. As you will know empty shoe boxes are always in demand especially around appeal time so please collect from now ready for another record in 2020. Thank you for all your hard work. Veronica”



We need **VOLUNTEERS**

for the ADSS café at Safeharbour in Coldharbour Road.

The café is open during the week between 10am and 2pm for the public and is also used by our day centre. The days we need volunteers for are

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

Anyone interested should contact **Katie Antill** on **01474 533990** or speak to

Alzheimer's & Dementia
SUPPORT SERVICES

ANGELA KIRBY
for further information.

Alzheimer's & Dementia
SUPPORT SERVICES

Do you run a local business?

Have you thought of advertising in this monthly magazine?

If you would like details of costs and how you could contribute to Christ Church through advertising please contact **07840343831** or email ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

Mothers' Union News

On 3 November we welcomed Julia Jamieson, our Diocesan President, to the 10am service to enrol two new members. She also shared the news that Jacqueline Littlewood would be her personal chaplain. We also started selling tickets for our branch raffle for a knitted snowman and santa claus. On 12 November our meeting involved making some Christmas crafts, hanging

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

decorations using natural items decorated with Christmas ribbons. Sue Oaten had organised this, although Sheila Brown did the demonstration as Sue had gone to welcome her new grandchild. We will be having a coffee and mince pie morning on 14 December, everybody is welcome. Our Christmas meal will take place on 10 December at Bartellas

First Steps

First Steps

First Steps

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 1.45pm 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 11 DECEMBER 2019.



MUSTARD SEED

Third Thursday of the month

In

Christ Church hall 2.30 – 4.00

We invite you to come and join us for tea, biscuits, cake and conversation with occasional speakers and quizzes.

Come and find out who we are and meet new people. All ages welcome

Contact: Colin Parsonson: 01474 359713

Pam Kilby: 01474 332693



On Sunday 3rd November during the 10am Eucharist the Mothers' Union Diocesan President Julia Jamieson enrolled Reverend Sally Womersley and Paula Cuffley as members of the MU.



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

semiouavers

Youth choir in Gravesend

We meet weekly for Rehearsals

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.15 pm to 7.30 pm



SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Sunday 1 December from 3.30 p.m.

CHRISTINGLE

a magical start to Advent for all the family, with craft activities, oranges, sweets and candles

Sunday 22 December 6.30 p.m.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Friday 20 December Meet 7 p.m. in Church

COME AND SING!

Carol singing around residential homes in the parish

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE



Two services to choose from 3 p.m. and at 5 p.m.

– A Service especially for children, which will be repeated—come to whichever time suits you best



CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLY COMMUNION at 8 a.m.

and

FAMILY COMMUNION WITH CAROLS 10 a.m.

Mothers' UNION



Christ Church Mothers' Union
Invite you to join us for
Mince Pies and Coffee
On Saturday 14th December

In the Church Hall from 10 to 12
£2 per person ~ All Welcome
We will also be holding a raffle ~ proceeds
will help support our good causes in 2020



£6

Your Parish
Magazine for
2020

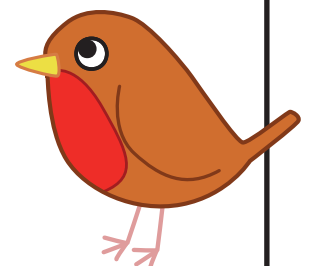
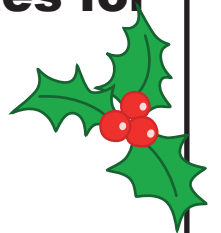
If you usually pay for your Christ Church Parish Magazine on an annual basis, then there can be no better time to make your contribution than when you collect your January copy. At just 50p per issue this represents very good value for you to keep up to date with what is coming forward, or what has happened in the few weeks that have just gone by. With the running of your church it is another way in which you can help

Here are the latest recommended posting dates for all services to UK addresses

Last recommended posting date
Royal Mail 2nd Class & 2nd Class Signed For
Wednesday 18th December

Royal Mail 1st Class & 1st Class Signed For,
Parcelforce Worldwide express 48, express 48 large
Friday 20th December

Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed
Parcelforce Worldwide express 24, AM, 9 & 10
Monday 23rd December



Brownies Shorne Woods guided tour

During the half term holiday Christ Church Brownies met at Shorne Country Park for a guided walk. The weather put some off and our original group size of 19 was greatly reduced, However those who did attend had a wonderful time. Mr Andrew Mayfield answered their many questions as we explored the park together. We learned about the clay industry, carriage drive and Randall Manor where we found medieval roof tiles. We found flints - evidence of our Mesolithic ancestors, enjoyed looking at the faerie ring and were taken off the usual route to see evidence of the World War 2 army camp. No one minded the rain and at the end of the walk we rewarded ourselves with hot chocolate at the café.



BIBLE NOTES

As well as the "New Daylight" booklet of Bible notes prepared by the Bible Reading Fellowship, there is also a booklet entitled "Bible reflections for older people". This also comes out every four months and is priced at £4.60 for New Daylight and £5.05 for "Bible Reflections for older people"

This booklet is written by older people for older people, the reflections are designed to bring hope, assurance and sustenance, reminding the reader of the presence and love of God. Each issue contains 40 Bible reflections and prayer suggestions to use and revisit as often as needed.

If you would be interested in seeing a copy of this booklet please have a word with Julie Hill.

Half term “Bath Bomb making”

At the end of half term ten of the Brownies attended Marie's Emporium to learn how to make bath bombs. Great fun was had

choosing colours and perfumes and mixing them together and then choosing moulds shaped as shells or starfish to fill with the mixture. Refreshments were enjoyed while the bath bombs were drying.



What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

08.00 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

Monday morning prayer 08:00
Holy Communion (said)
Saturday 08:00
Wednesday 10:00
and evening prayer 17.15

**For further information
Contact
The Church Wardens**

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Office hours

Friday 18:30 until 19:30

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
<i>First Steps</i>	First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)
Thursday	Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice: 2.30 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third)
Friday	Rainbow Unit; Scouts; Parent and Toddler
Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)

 Mothers UNION
Christian care for families



Northfleet's Secret History: illustrated talk

Speaker: Christoph Bull

On: Monday 9th December 2019

At: Coach & Horses public house, The Hill, Northfleet

Starts: 7.30pm with a buffet and ability to purchase old prints of Northfleet. Cost: Free

Information: Coach & Horses 01474 534624.

Come and hear something of Northfleet's great history in its oldest pub.

Myths & Legends of Gravesham and Dartford (illustrated talk)

On: Friday 13th December 2019

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford (Boys Grammar School)

Begins 7.30pm

Cost: Free to members of Dartford Historical & Antiquarian Society, £3 for visitors.

Dartford Historical & Antiquarian Society invite you join them for this seasonal talk about odd stories, folklore and customs covering both Dartford and Gravesham. No need to book, just turn up.

Alzheimer's & Dementia

S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

We are the local specialist dementia service for Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley. We empower people affected by dementia to carry on their chosen lifestyle. We equip people with the knowledge and practical support to live well with dementia. If you are affected by dementia, we are here for you. The services you can choose from are:

- One to one information and guidance to support you with living with dementia
- Peer Support Groups
- Memory Cafes
- Singing Groups
- Advocacy
- Carers Peer Support Group
- Carers Learning Groups
- The Beacon Day Support
- Support at Home
- Support at Home Care Service

To find out how we can help you, contact us on
01474 533990

info@alz-dem.org

Safeharbour Memory Wellbeing Centre, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Kent
DA11 8AE

If you are interested in volunteering with us we would love to hear from you, please contact us to find out more.

The birth of Jesus

Mary lived at home with her parents in a town called Nazareth, she was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter who was descended from the great King David. Every day, as Mary swept and cooked she looked forward to when she would marry and have a home of her own.

One day, when Mary was doing her chores, a light suddenly filled the room where she was working. She looked up and saw a beautiful man standing in front of her. "Hello Mary," the man said. "God has sent me, I am His messenger, the angel Gabriel. I have come to tell you the Lord has chosen you for a very special blessing." Even though Gabriel had spoken gently, Mary was petrified. "Don't be afraid," he said kindly. "God loves you. He's going to send you a son, whom you must call Jesus." Poor Mary was confused. "How can I have a child? I'm not married yet." The angel replied, "Remember that nothing is impossible for the Lord."

When Mary told Joseph she was expecting a baby. Joseph was very worried, what would people say? That same night Joseph had a dream. An angel came to him, and said, "Joseph do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, the baby growing inside her is the Son of God. When the child is born, call him Jesus and raise him as if he were your own son." When Joseph awoke much comforted.



As the time drew near for the baby to be born, another problem arose. The Emperor Augustus Caesar ordered a census. This meant that Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem.

By the time they arrived the town was full to bursting. There wasn't a single room to be had anywhere. Joseph and Mary trudged from place to place, exhausted, dirty and starving.

And Mary began to feel the baby was on the way.







Bang! Bang! Joseph thumped on the door of an inn. "We haven't any room," said the burly innkeeper from behind the door. "Wait!" Joseph yelled. "Please! We just need a tiny corner somewhere, somewhere warm and dry. It doesn't matter where. My wife is about to give birth!"

The innkeeper said that all his rooms were completely full. But he could offer them a stable, if they didn't mind the animals being there. Joseph accepted the offer.

So it was in the innkeeper's stable amongst the oxen, sheep and chickens, that the Saviour of the world was born. Mary had no crib in which to lay her precious bundle, so she nestled Him among the straw of a manger from which the animals fed. There the baby Jesus stayed. He was safe and warm and sheltered, and He had His loving mother and father at his side.



CALENDAR DECEMBER 2019

Sunday 	1 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	8 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion	15 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 18.30 Service of Lessons and Carols	22 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion	29 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
Monday 	2 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES	9 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES	16 08.00 Morning Prayer	23 08.00 Morning Prayer	30 08.00 Morning Prayer
Tuesday 	3 18.30 Semiquavers	10 18.30 Semiquavers Christmas Concert	17 18.15 Semiquavers MOTHERS UNION 19.30	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Crib Service at 15.00 and again at 17.00 Midnight Mass 23.30	31
Wednesday 	4 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer	11 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer 13.45 First Steps	18 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer	25 Christmas Day 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Family Holy Communion with Carols	
Thursday 	5 Choir Practice BROWNIES	12 Choir Practice BROWNIES	19 Choir Practice 14.30 Mustard seed	26	
Friday 	6 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours RAINBOW	13 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours RAINBOW	20 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 19.00 Come and sing around the parish	27	
Saturday 	7 08.00 Holy Communion	14 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Work party Mothers' Union Mince Pies and coffee 14.30	21 08.00 Holy Communion	28	

Advent calendars are a fantastic interactive way to begin the countdown to Christmas. There are several advent calendar designs to choose from within the Traidcraft range, including the fair trade Divine Chocolate advent calendar; each of our calendars has been printed within the United Kingdom. As an alternative way to count down to the festive season Traidcraft also offer an Advent Candle.

Sending a Christmas card to family and friends can really show you care. The personal touch of a hand written, hand delivered, Christmas card surpasses many other seasonal gestures. Traidcraft's extensive and diverse range of festive cards offer customers everything they need to share a thoughtful seasonal gesture with family members, neighbours and friends.

Nativity sets were first hand crafted in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi, since then Nativity sets have been a key focal point of Christmas celebrations and perfect for Christmas gifts.

Traidcraft have a fantastic array of Nativity sets, each with unique characteristics surrounding its crafting process. A large amount of care and passion is put into each Nativity piece, from the olive wood Nativity set which was master crafted by Holyland Handicrafts in Bethlehem to the wooden Holy Family made by the hand of master craftsmen in Jakarta.

Traidcraft offer a great selection of indulgent hampers, including the choice of mixed gift sets to large food hampers - each containing organic fair trade produce.



Please speak with David Williams if there is anything you would like to purchase or for more information about what is available

