

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

2023



CALENDAR

Sunday 1st January 2nd Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments) God's Gang meeting during the service

12.30pm Holy Baptism

Wednesday 4th January

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 18th January

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th January Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

7.45pm Parochial Church Council

Thursday 19th January

2.30pm Mustard Seed

Tuesday 10th January

7.30pm Mothers Union – Film Night

Sunday 22nd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

6pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Methodist Church

Wednesday 11th January

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 12th January

10am Pilgrim Group (please note new time)

Wednesday 25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 14th January

9.30am Church working party – come and help keep the church fine and dandy!

Thursday 26th January

10am Pilgrim Group

Sunday 15th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

Saturday 28th January

7pm Fish, chips and Beetle

Sunday 29th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple CANDLEMAS

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 1st February

10am Holy Communion
5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 5th February Third Sunday before Lent Septuagesima

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments) God's Gang meeting during the service

Wednesday 8th February

10am Holy Communion
2pm First Steps
5pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 11th February

9.30am Working Group – come and give a hand

Sunday 12th February Second Sunday before Lent Sexagesima

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Tuesday 14th February

7.30pm Mothers Union AGM

Wednesday 15th February

10am Holy Communion

MORNING PRAYER will be said in church at 8.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (check weekly sheet for any changes) not in the weeks beginning 23rd & 30th January. You can join us in person or on line. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy Communion at 10am continues through the months

WEDNESDAY 5pm Evening Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 16th February

2.30-4pm Mustard Seed

Saturday 18th February

10am Marriage Preparation morning

Sunday 19th February Last Sunday before Lent Quinquagesima

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)
Including God's Gang
12pm and 1pm Holy Baptism

Tuesday 21st February

4pm – 6pm Pancakes at the Vicarage

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion (BCP) with imposition of ashes
5pm Evening Prayer
8pm Solemn Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Sunday 26th February First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Monday 27th February

7.30pm Lent Study Group

Thursday 2nd March

10am Pilgrim Lent Group

GOSPEL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 17th January at 7.45pm on Zoom

This month: Baptism and beginnings in Matthew's Gospel Matthew 3.13-17 and 4.18-22

ZOOM LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495884692>

We finish just before 9 with a service of night prayer. If you would like the Bible text or a copy of Night Prayer please email vicar@christchurchgravesend.com



THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped make Advent and Christmas so special this year. To those who sang and played, decorated and arranged flowers, to those who cleaned and cleared up, to those who welcomed, read and lead prayers, to those who served mulled wine and mince pies, to those who put up Christmas trees and cribs.

Thanks to all who gave so generously to our collections for Embrace the Middle East and Children's Society. To those who filled shoe boxes. To those who brought contributions for the Food Bank, and boxers for Gravesend Hub.



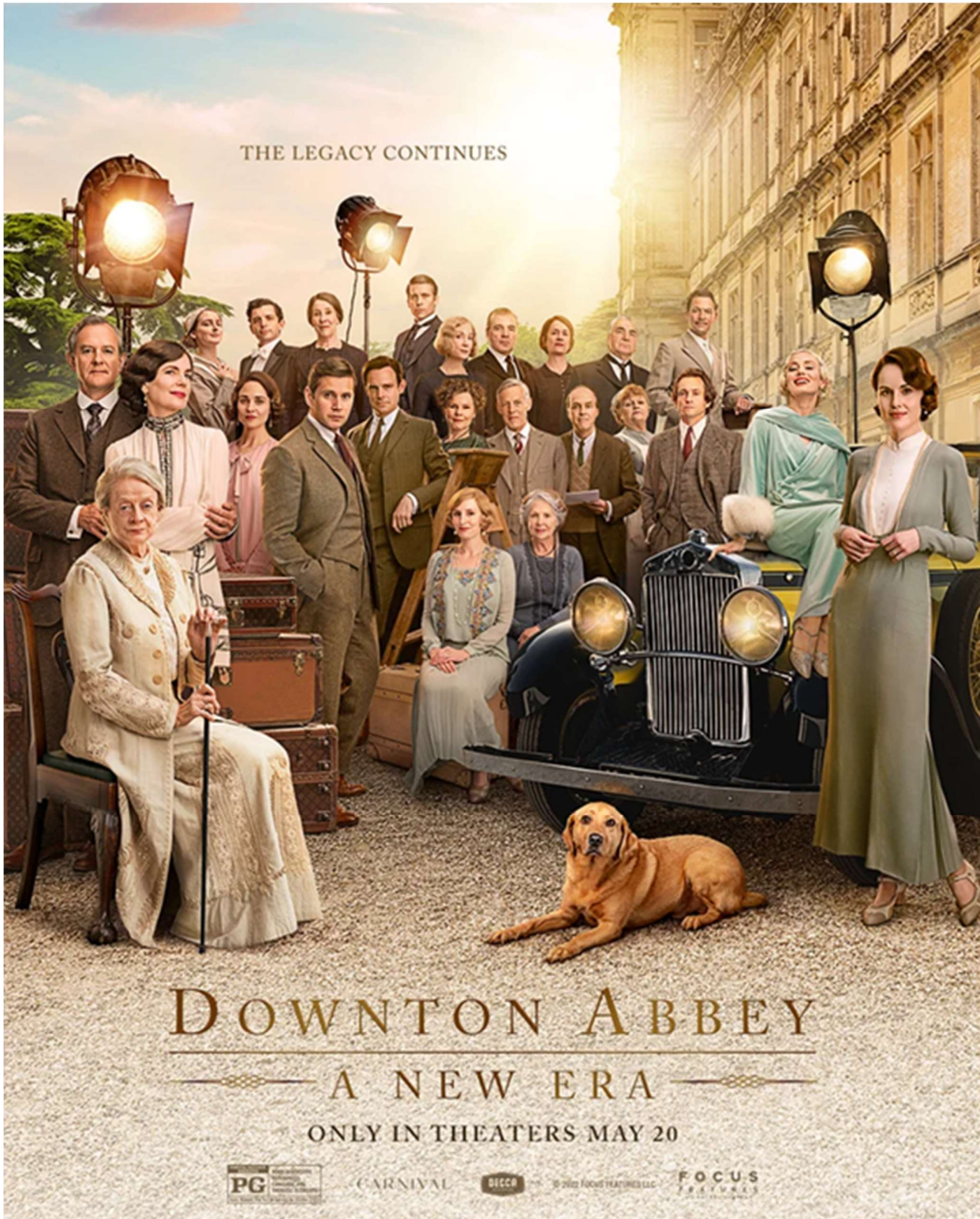
Saturday 28th January "Fish, Chips and Beetle" Fish and Chips £10, sausage or veggie burger £6. Please speak to Angela Kirby to book your place. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.



SHROVE TUESDAY 21st February

PANCAKES AT THE VICARAGE 4pm to 6pm

MOTHERS UNION FILM NIGHT 10th January 7.30pm



PALM CROSS AMNESTY

We need your palm crosses. As we approach Ash Wednesday we are inviting people to bring their palm crosses from previous years back to church. These will be used to make the ash we will use to mark the beginning of Lent. Please place your crosses in the basket by the door.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on 22nd February. There will be two services at Christ Church, 10am and 8pm.

At 10am there will be a service using the Book of Common Prayer.



In the collect we address God 'who hatest nothing thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent'.

Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and with repentance goes restoration- Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, we pray in our collect...

At both services we use ashes as a reminder of our sinful mortality, and the unavailability of all we aspire to being burnt out and wasted. We embrace those ashes in the confidence that the grace and mercy at the heart of God will embrace and defend us as we walk in faithfulness and emulate God's mercy and faithfulness in the world.

THE LAST WEEK IN JERUSALEM

Reading the Passion in Matthew's Gospel

Lent Group

Mondays at 7.30pm – starting 27th February

Thursdays at 10am – starting 2nd March

This year we will be exploring Matthew's Gospel and its account of Jesus' last week. We will begin with the entry to Jerusalem, moving onto the clearing of the temple, the anointing in Bethany, to the last supper, arrest, trial and execution.

This is a chance to read the Bible together, to ask some of the questions you've always wanted to and to go deeper into the central story of our faith.



The Passion story is a familiar text but often we find that we think we know it better than we do. During Lent we will be looking at Matthew's Gospel – the gospel on which our readings throughout this year (Year A) are based. Maybe sometime during Lent find time to read Matthew chapters 21 to 27 in one sitting.

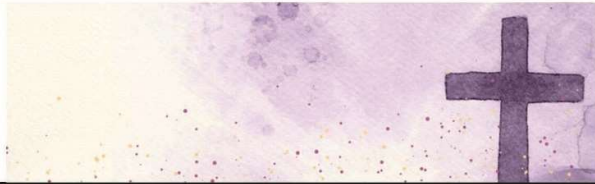
JANUARY 10TH
FILM NIGHT

THE MOTION PICTURE EVENT RETURNS
DOWNTON ABBEY
A NEW ERA

FEBRUARY 14TH



MARCH 14TH
HOLY WEEK EVENT



APRIL 11TH
FIRST AID COURSE



MAY 9TH
SILENT WORLD - DEAFNESS AWARENESS
WITH GARY HARDING



JUNE 13TH
TRIP TO AYLESFORD PRIORY



JULY 11TH
SCHOOL & STREET PASTORS



AUGUST 16TH
T@3



SEPTEMBER 12TH
JOHN SPRINGHAM



OCTOBER 10TH
GRAVESHAM FOODBANK



NOVEMBER 14TH
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



DECEMBER 2ND
COFFEE & MINCE PIES 10 - 12



DECEMBER 12TH
CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT BARTELLAS

From the registers

BAPTISMS

11th December

Willow Harper Ray Moody

Elliott Frederick Merlin Moody

FUNERALS 19th December Dorothy Curtis

22nd December Mary Thompson

A new reader for Christ Church

Have you tried out our new easy-to-use credit card reader?



PRAYER DIARY

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Parochial Church Council
5	Schools	The children in our church God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	The police	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed
23	All who work on the river	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Those who prepare our notice sheet and communications
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Those who are housebound or isolated
31	Those who live and work in our local Care Homes	Give thanks for our diversity

EPIPHANY Blessing our homes

On or near the feast of the Epiphany, and conveniently close to the beginning of a New Year, the tradition has been to ask God's blessing on homes and mark the step, door post or lintel with chalks that have been blessed for that purpose. The doors are chalked with the legendary names or initials of the three Magi, and the numerals of the New Year, connected with a series of crosses. The initials C, M, and B commemorate the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but also stand for the Latin prayer *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house." In this way, the door of a house would be marked as follows:
20+C+M+B+23



In this way, we invite Jesus to be a "guest" in our home, a listener to each conversation, a guide for troubled times, and a blessing in times of thanksgiving, and present in those who visit us.

Chalk is made of the substance of the earth and is used by teachers to instruct and by children to play. As the image of the chalk fades, we will remember the sign we have made and transfer it to our hearts and our habits.

Into the New Year at Christ Church

Celebrating Epiphany

Parish Eucharist at 10am

Sunday 8th January *Epiphany*

The coming of the wise men

Sunday 15th January *The lamb of God*

Sunday 22nd January *Follow me*

Sunday 29th January *Candlemas*

The presentation of Christ in the Temple

My eyes have seen your salvation

