



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

GOOD GOD!

November 2004

Editorial

On Tuesday 2nd November at 7.30 pm we hold a Memorial Service to remember those who have died, those who touched your life in some way, and those whom you have loved and now miss in your own life.

The service can be a deeply moving and uplifting occasion, a time of healing as well as a time of both joy and sadness. It is traditional to read out the names of the departed during the service and your contribution would be welcome even if you cannot be there.

As each one of us in Grayswood looks forward to tomorrow, let us not forget those who made us into what we are today.

Last month I got quite cross - if you hadn't noticed! - and described a god I don't believe in. God must get more bad press than even celebrities these days, and, regrettably, often from people who claim a Christian belief. In his time Jesus got particularly angry with the people who were supposed to understand what God is like, but who made him out to be some sort of harsh task-master or petty-minded tyrant. I think perhaps he might do the same today.

In direct contrast to that picture, Jesus was attractive, like a magnet (except of course to the religious leaders!). The ordinary people, and those who were on the outskirts of society for whatever reason - the leper, the cheat, the foreigner, the 'loose woman' - simply loved him. Because he loved them and they knew it.

Jesus made the outrageous claim that if people had 'seen' him, they had 'seen' God. So, if we're to believe that, God is good. God loves good and desires good - the good of all: the good of those who are

Christians, the good of those who follow God by another name, the good of those who profess no belief at all; he desires the good of individuals, the good of communities and the good of the world. Jesus shows us that God is accepting rather than forbidding, giving rather than demanding, forgiving rather than judgemental. After all, he shared his last supper with Judas the betrayer, even washed his feet. God is more than good; he is - in very essence - love.

Love, as we know from the familiar reading often used at weddings, is patient and kind, isn't envious or boastful, arrogant or rude. Love doesn't insist on its own way, it isn't irritable or resentful; it keeps no record of wrongs, but rejoices in the truth. Love can bear heavy loads, believes rather than mistrusts, and never loses hope. Love keeps on going on. This is the fundamental nature of God.

So what about all the evil in the world? Watch this space.

Barbara Steele-Perkins

All Saints Away Day

Around 22 Grayswood villagers and their children found themselves in Whitehill for the "away day" to discuss and consider the future of All Saints church. The day was fun, instructive, and we came out with great enthusiasm and lots of ideas about the future for your village church.

We all agreed that All Saints has to move forward with the times, reflecting the needs wishes and concerns of all the people who live in Grayswood—not just those people who go to church on Sunday!

So if you have any ideas or thoughts—we want to hear from you and would really welcome your response.

SPICE NIGHT AT WHISPERS SCHOOL!

20th Nov 7.00 pm

In aid of the Kings World Trust. Telephone 01428 653504 for more information!

Some Events in November

- Gardening Club—at the Grayswood Club at 7.30 for 8.00 pm—Wildlife Beauties of Surrey/Hampshire Borders 4th
- Mens Breakfast at the Village Hall—7.45 am 6th
- WI—AGM at the Village Hall at 8.00 pm 10th
- All Saints Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall from 10.00 am 20th
- Rock Coffee Morning at 10.30—Tearcraft gifts for Xmas—at Rockfield (652306) 26th

GRAYSWOOD VILLAGE CELEBRATES JEAN'S 50TH YEAR AS CHURCH ORGANIST



The Autumn Harvest festival in October celebrated not only our food and those who grow it, but also the 50th Anniversary of Jean White's appointment as organist. Jean was presented with a number of gifts but in particular an album of pictures of Grayswood and personal cards from members of the village.

Following the service a lunch was held in the Village Hall, with music and a pantomime with a difference to celebrate both Harvest Festival and Jean's amazing achievement.

Jean has asked the Grayswood Runner to extend her surprise and gratitude for the kind thoughts and gifts which touched her deeply.

All those who have enjoyed Jean's music at weddings, baptisms, and other church services I am sure will join us in extending our thanks and love to her.

The Good News Van will be arriving on 22nd November at 10.30—77 Lower Road

Contacting us: Telephone: 01428 656504 or e-mail us at editor@grayswoodparish.org

Correspondence to: Church House, Grayswood Rd, Haslemere, Surrey

Visit our website at www.grayswoodparish.org

All Saints Matters

Sunday Services

Services take place at All Saints every Sunday, usually a Holy Communion at 8.00 am and a further service at 10.00.

Our 10.00 services are usually well organized for families with young children—we have crèche facilities, fun for older children at Sunday School, and really don't mind if children make a bit of noise in church either! In fact we particularly encourage children to enjoy our church and join in with the first part of our service.

Thursday Services

Every first and third Thursday of each month at 10.15 am we hold a Holy Communion and Healing Service too. All are very welcome!

Contacting All Saints

Your vicar Barbara Steele-Perkins is

usually on duty on Monday, Thursday and Sunday and is available on 656504. The answerphone is regularly monitored. Other people to contact if you need help are:

Doreen Hutton (644178)
Pauline Lamb (643798)
Peter Rix (644295)
Jenny Wardill (644443)
Jean White (643338)

If you need a vicar urgently then please contact Rev Norman Jones on 658107. The Church office e-mail address is all-saintschurch@grayswood.co.uk Our web address is

www.grayswoodparish.org

and there is lots of information on the Church notice board inside the Porch. The Church Administrator is Janet Fry and she is available Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Help in the Village

We are very fortunate to have a team of people in the village who volunteer to

come to you to help—whether it is something spiritual like coming to terms with illness or bereavement, or something practical like finding a good plumber. This year Jenny Wardill completed her formal course as a Pastoral Assistant specialising in Baptism and Bereavement and writes: *"The course has been extremely hard and demanding, but very very rewarding. I have become very good friends with many people on the course and I know that these friendships will last."*

Jenny's Service of Recognition is on the 18th November at Guildford Cathedral—congratulations and thanks to Jenny and all our pastoral team.

Prayers this Month

This month we pray especially for those people in Grayswood who live on the Grayswood Rd. We also pray for the next president of the United States and that he may have the wisdom to make Godly decisions however difficult the results may be.

Grayswood to lose its No 70 bus service?

No services from Grayswood/Haslemere to Godalming, Guildford, Midhurst

If we are not very careful Grayswood will lose its main bus service from February 2005. It is apparently no longer economic for Stagecoach to run its buses through Grayswood because not enough people use the service.

Whilst it is recognised that Stagecoach have to make money and the majority of the village probably do not use the bus, it will be a desperate blow to those who

depend on it and be the loss of yet another village amenity. We will be left with two other services (the 59 and 504), which are comparatively limited in service and times.

Most of us prefer to use the car but we must also think of those who don't have one, or unable to drive or can't afford to own one.

Surrey County Council have a duty to consider the social necessity of uneco-

nomic routes and where appropriate to provide financial support.

If you are interested or concerned please contact your local councillor to express your views as soon as possible!

It is "disappointing" that so little effort has gone into consulting with the community on this decision. No notices on bus stops, no press advertising, no notices at the village hall—or are we all missing a trick here?

Milford Hospital Update

There are now some public meeting dates set for people to show up and give their views on the proposed closure of the hospital:

Milford Village Hall, 15th Nov at 10.30 am

Rodborough School, 18th Nov at 7.00 pm

Haslemere Hall, 22nd Nov at 2.00pm

All Saints Christmas Fayre

20th Nov in the Village Hall 10am

Bric a Brac, Crafts and Jewellery, Books, Videos, CD, Cakes and Produce, Toys, Christmas Cards, Plants, Raffle

Outside stallholders (£10 + 10%) and stall contributions also welcome—call

Daphne (643140) or Gill (644295)

(Grayswood School Christmas Fayre—diary note for 11th December!)

Operation Christmas Child

Rebecca Willows (641921) is still pleased to hear from you if you are able to put together a shoebox of toys for sending to hurting children all over the world - in orphanages, refugee camps, hospitals wherever but regardless of race, nationality or religion.

It is a great fun and a really valued thing to do!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON!

**MAKE A CHILD SOMEWHERE
VERY HAPPY THIS CHRISTMAS!!**