



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

December 2004/January 2005

Editorial

One of the nicest things about being in Grayswood at Christmas is that the village really does seem to have a day of rest. The stream of traffic on the A286 becomes a trickle, Ray and his colleagues at Royal Mail have a day off, no newspapers are delivered, the trains are quiet, breakfast is later than usual, the children are up earlier than usual, the birds sing louder. Wow, it really is a special time.

We hope that as many people from the village as possible will come to your village church during Christmas too. Why? Because it is a joyful, wonderful, happy occasion which is great to share with everyone in our village family. It is fun!

It is also amazing that a tiny baby, born over 2,000 years ago with no TV, press, radio, or newspapers to record his birth, can make such an impact on all of us here today. That also is really worth celebrating!

The Grayswood Runner wishes everyone in the village a really lovely Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Here's to 2005!



The Wonder of Christmas

You either love it or you hate it. It's in the shops in November and you're either already fully prepared, haven't even started yet - or know that you'll panic at the last minute. For once I've already got presents for some of our far-flung family - having used the opportunity while we were visiting them earlier in the year! For the last few years I've been discovering what it's like not only to get the house clean and organised for visitors, put up the Christmas decorations, plan the menus and cook them, but also to prepare and/or lead umpteen carol services, sing myself hoarse, and write several sermons and talks - before collapsing in a heap after dinner!

For some people though, Christmas is a different sort of problem - they're alone and lonely and have only memories and wishes for company. For several years in the past we have welcomed one or two people who would otherwise be on their own to be part of our family for the day. This year, several churches around Haslemere are getting together and are inviting any who will be on their own to be their guest at a Gala Christmas lunch, 12.45pm at Haslewey Community Centre. Transport can also be arranged. Phone 01428 642180 if you'd like to be there - or if you can be available to help.

The message of Christmas is not all cuddly. It is of course about giving gifts in celebration of God's gift of

Jesus to us; children love it - both the receiving and the giving and the story of the baby in the manger. But it has a deeper message too. It reminds us that God chose not to stay at several steps removed from human beings, but to involve himself intimately with us. He got his hands dirty, as it were, and knows what human life is about - the joys and the sorrows, the blessings and the anguish, the successes and the failures.

God knows what our life is like - from the inside, and he is not remote, but approachable. The message of Christmas speaks to people whose lives are fulfilled, busy, and full of hope for the future, (not least to challenge them to think about people whose lives are very different) but it also speaks to people who are sad and lonely, or full of regrets and 'if-onlys'. That's the wonder of Christmas

Barbara (and Richard!)



Steele-Perkins



See this picture and others on www.grayswoodparish.org

Some Events in December/January

Mens Breakfast	4 Dec
Christmas Supper Grayswood WI	8 Dec
Christmas Dinner Grayswood Gardening Club	10 Dec
Grayswood School Christmas Fair	11 Dec
Christmas "Punch Up" in the Village Hall	11
Burns Supper in aid of the Haslemere Hall— apply to Haslemere	22 Jan
Good News Van—at Church House	24 Jan



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE— 5th December, 10.00 am

If you are not in the village over the Christmas period then why not come to our special Christingle Service on 5 December. This lovely service, accompanied by candles, fruit and sweets, can be a very moving service and one which is usually enjoyed by people of all ages. It is great fun and has a very special message for all of us at this special time of year.

Telephone: 01428 656504 or e-mail the Grayswood Runner at editor@grayswoodparish.org

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

Visit the All Saints website at www.grayswoodparish.org or email the church office on office@grayswoodparish.org

All Saints Matters Sunday Services

Christmas Services

In addition to our normal services we are also holding special Christmas services:

5th Dec—Christingle, for children of all ages at 10 am

19th Dec— All ages service with Nativity Play 10 am

19th Dec—Lessons and Carols by Candlelight 6 pm

24th Dec—Crib Service 4 pm

24th Dec—First Communion of Christmas 11.30 pm

25th Dec Holy Communion (Old Prayer Book) 8 am

25th Dec Carols for All Ages 10 am followed by a short Holy Communion

26 Dec All Age worship with Carols at 10 am

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 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)

Jean White (643338)

The Parish Pastoral Assistant is Jenny Wardill (644443)

If you need a vicar urgently then please contact Rev Norman Jones on 658107.

The Church office e-mail address is office@grayswoodparish.org. 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 usually available Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays on 656504.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY GRAYSWOOD SCHOOL

Grayswood Infant School is about to celebrate a 100 years of educating children on its present site. The school had to move to larger buildings due to increasing numbers so a new school was built and opened on January 30th 1905. The school is going to be holding a number of events to celebrate its birthday. On Tuesday 1st February between 9.15am and 2.45pm there will be an open day for village friends to visit the school, so please feel free to come and visit us on that day.

On Wednesday 2nd February, 7.00pm-9.00pm an evening wine and nibbles event for past and present staff, pupils, parents and governors has been organised; it will be good to see people who have been part of

the school in the past and share how we are now. If you would like to attend, please notify the school office.



There will be a dress up day for children ending in a big birthday party on Thursday 3rd February and in the morning we will be going to church for a service of thanks. There will be an

exhibition of photos and Log Books, in the school hall during the week, to jog people's memories as well as to provide an opportunity to reflect on past school days

The school would like to hear from past staff and pupils in the hope that they will be prepared to write memories of the school and/or come to talk to the children about Grayswood School in the past. It would be good if we can put together a simple book of Grayswood School memories. We would also like to find our oldest past pupil? Does anyone have photos of the school and pupils to share?

PLEASE CALL 01428 642086—Anne Britstowe and her team would love to hear from you!

Theatre Evening at the Village Hall—Dec 18

The play is called 'Four Dames in Search of a Panto' and it is being performed by the Proteus Theatre Company (who have done the last 2 plays at the hall). Ticket prices are £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for children under 12. Date is Saturday 18th December 2004 at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments available including a licensed bar and ice creams!!

Contact telephone number for any details or ticket sales is Michelle Brown 01428 643859.

Grayswood School Christmas Fair—Dec 11

As the school approaches its 100th birthday please offer its Christmas Fair your support by coming on December 11th at 10 am.

There will be refreshments available, Father Christmas will be there, there will be activities for the children as well as lots of stalls.

Milford Hospital and Buses Update

It appears that democracy does have its bene-

fits as the views of residents and interested parties are now beginning to matter to the authorities. There is still time to let people know your feelings on these important matters—particularly your local councillors and the prospective parliamentary candidates for next year. Why not make them do some work for your votes!

TRAIN HORNS—DO THEY BOTHER YOU?

We have heard mutterings from a number of residents throughout Grayswood about the volume of the new train horns in Grayswood. Do they bother you? There are things that can be done if there is enough feeling on the matter. Let us know your thoughts!

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