



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

February 2005

Editorial

There is a patch in the middle of the village hall car park that stubbornly refuses to behave itself. I guess the village hall committee have done their best but this "patch" is full of lumps and bumps and holes to trip the unwary and act as a great splashing puddle for the children in the village.

Nature has decided that this is where its spring will erupt—however much tarmac and concrete is placed there — and it has so far defeated all man's best efforts. Putting the occasional hurricane to one side, Grayswood is generally spared the extremes of nature.

When you next go to village hall, have a look at the "patch" and admire the forces of Nature. At the same time why not also remember how amazingly fortunate we are to live in the kind and moderate environment which Grayswood offers.

Some Village Events in February 2005

School Open Day	1st
Gardening Club	3rd
Mens Breakfast—7.45	5th
WI—Trek to Everest	9th
Ash Wednesday Special "Ashing" Communion at	9th
Grayswood School Valentines Quiz Night—7.30	12th
Start of Lent Courses—all very welcome!	16th
Good News Van—77 Lower Rd at 10.30	28th

IT'S NOT EASY, IS IT?

What language can we use to speak about God in the face of human suffering - whether it's one 13 year old dying of cancer, or 150,000 killed by a tsunami? Where are the answers to the anguished questions: If God is good (see November Runner), how can God allow it? Why? Where is God? Is there a God at all? And so on. It's a subject for much discussion at the moment.

You've probably heard of Job (and his proverbial patience). He's the central figure of a story (probably fictional) in the Bible, written for the very purpose of providing an alternative answer to the trite ones which were around then - almost 3000 years ago - to the same questions. This story might help us - not perhaps with everything we want, but going part of the way at least.

Job was a good man who was almost overwhelmed by tragic personal circumstances. His friends were there for him and started off well, simply sitting silently with him in his pain. But when they did open their mouths, they put their feet right in it! Out came all the pat responses - wordy and preachy - which their inadequate understanding of God had taught them. They believed that if awful things happened to you, it must be your fault; God was judging you. Remember, this book is in the Bible with the express intention of saying that that is not

true, that is not what God is like, but we've heard both Christian and Muslim leaders say very similar things recently; that's frightening.

In the end, Job was vindicated in his belief that although like everyone else, he was far from perfect, he had done nothing to deserve anything like this. His friends were put in their place, and Job's 'answer' was a larger understanding of the mystery that is God. Not exactly helpful, we might think. No complete answers. But it helped him nevertheless. Job came to understand that God wasn't the sort of God who would zap him - or anyone else - on a whim; that God was greater than that sort of petty dealing. The message of Jesus goes alongside this: that God is alongside us in our pain and bewilderment. He is 'God with us'. He lived our life and even died our death. This is no remote God sitting watching from a place above pain and suffering, but an involved God. And a God who involves us, partly at least by inviting us to respond to human need - to be a flesh and blood help alongside those in pain and distress.

It's a small view of God which offers the trite answers; we are invited on these sorts of occasions to struggle through to a larger view. It's not easy, is it? But Job found it was worth it - and so can we.

BARBARA STEELE-PERKINS

TRAIN HORNS TO SOUND QUIETER SOON.....

It is quite amazing how many people responded to our brief comment on the new noisy train horns in the last newsletter. Quite a number of residents had independently written to South West trains and following the December Runner they have been able to usefully compare notes and experiences.

There is however good news on the horizon: South West trains have agreed to adjust all 620 train horns on their new trains to conform more closely with established UK practice and the noise expectations of people like us in Grayswood. They have stated it will take a few months so hopefully it will be just in time for summer! They anticipate a reduction by as much as 3/4 from the current volume levels without compromising safety. A peaceful summer is now on the cards!



GRAYSWOOD SCHOOL CELEBRATES !

Come and join the school to celebrate its one hundredth birthday in the first week of February **Tuesday 1st February**—everyone in the village is welcome to drop in and have a look round during the school day. **Wednesday 2nd February**: Past and present governors parents, staff and pupils are all invited to a drinks and nibbles evening between 7 and 9pm. **Thursday 3rd February**—staff and pupils will be dressed in Edwardian costume and they will go to church at 9.30 and then celebrate later in the day with a big party!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRAYSWOOD SCHOOL AND HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

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. Jenny Wardill (644443) is the Pastoral Assistant.

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.

Doreen Hutton (644178)
 Pauline Lamb (643798)
 Peter Rix (644295)
 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.

PRAYER TRIPLETS

What are prayer triplets?

They are groups of three or more people who meet regularly in each other's homes to pray for their own need and the needs of others. If you are part of a prayer triplet, would like someone to pray for you or someone you care about, or would like to be part of a prayer triplet, then please contact either:

Rebecca Willows (641921) daytime-
 Dian Mordin (644143) evenings

and they will help to arrange this for you.



THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES!



QUIZ NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE!
 The Grayswood School Governors, in the school's centenary year, invite you to a special quiz night on 12th February at 7.30 in the village hall to celebrate Valentines Day! An evening of fun and frivolity is promised with a fish and chip supper (who says romance isn't dead?) thrown in for £10. A well stocked bar will also be on offer selling wines and beers to get into the right mood!
 Tickets from Nick Brown 652571



USEFUL GRAYSWOOD PHONE NUMBERS

- Church Office 656504**
- Village Hall Bookings 643859**
- Wheatsheaf Pub 644440**
- The Grayswood Club 644154**
- Grayswood School 642086**
- Rover Garage 642303**
- Barkers 642894**
- Haslemere Herald 651271**
- Haslemere Hall 642161**
- Hairdresser 642821**
- and any other suggestions?**

VILLAGE SERVICES SAVED.... FOR NOW!

It is very encouraging to see that both of the issues raised in the Runner last year (the closure of Milford Hospital and the loss of Grayswood bus services) have seen the powers-that-be defer their decisions pending further investigation and after taking into account the views of people like us.

It is of course surprising that these views weren't properly considered in the first place and then much of the anxiety and stress that has been generated could have been avoided. It is of course all of us in Grayswood who employ these decision-makers so the lesson is not to feel too coy about letting them know what you think. Especially in an election year.

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP



The Bible Reading Fellowship is a charitable organisation dedicated to helping people understand the world's best selling book—The Bible.

Our local representatives in the village are Elizabeth and Mary Holthouse and any person interested in receiving further information or reading material should call them on 643367.

A new series starts in May 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Simon and Alex Alcott on the birth of Joshua, a brother for Ellie

Gayle and James Betts who were married at All Saints on 18th December

Sarah and David Dodgson on the christening of their daughter Tallulah on 23rd January

To contact the editor please e-mail editor@grayswoodparish.org or contact the Church Office.

And finally....

Three children are in the playground bragging about their fathers.

The first says: 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him £50.' 'That's nothing', says the second. 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song and they give him £100.' 'I can beat you both', says the third. 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes 8 people to collect all the money!'