



# The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

July/August 2005

## Editorial

St Swithun is the saint to blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days and nights after that too—I make that to the 24th August!

Swithun was the Bishop of Winchester and was originally buried just outside the west Door of the Cathedral. He was eventually moved on 15th July 961 and the story goes that in addition to amazing miracles on that fateful day it started raining and didn't stop for 40 days and nights. How many of our wet summers might we have been spared had St Swithun been left where he had wanted to be buried?

So this year, as 15th July approaches, spare a thought for St Swithun and perhaps the prayer that despite the general drought conditions currently prevailing, continuous rain for forty days and nights might be averted.

Have a lovely summer!

Remember that there is no Runner covering August so we look forward to being pushed through letter boxes at the end of August and early September.

## Some Village Events in July 2005

Gardening Club	7th
Mens Breakfast	9th
Village Fete	10th
Womens Institute	13th
Good News Van	25th

## OUTSIDE OF GRAYSWOOD....

So what else does a vicar do? It depends. Most are full time, but I have another part-time job, which you might be interested to know something about. When I'm not busy for the parish (officially 3 days a week), I work for the Diocese of Guildford helping to train people for local ministry. I come to the end of my tenth year in July, so I've seen at least 140 people, both women and men, aged between 26 and 65 go through the course and become Readers (lay preachers) or priests.

It's a 3 year part-time course and, especially for those who are working full time, very demanding. In my current year group of 16, many professions are represented (law, engineering, accountancy, business management, local government, teaching, etc) and only two students are retired. They meet every Monday evening in a school in Guildford, and in addition are expected to study for about 8-10 hours each week and attend two residential weekends a year. They study theology of course, the practical 'how to' side of ministry (and sometimes how not to!), the wide range of activities included in what we call prayer, and also things like Ethics and Pastoral Care. I love the job, the people and the teaching, but not so much the marking, which I seem to be buried in at

the moment, and as the course is validated by a University, we have to be up to scratch. Some students even come back afterwards to convert their Diploma into a degree in theology, and part of that is my responsibility too. Being a minister isn't just about knowledge and learning, although that is a very important part of it, but also about becoming a person who will be seen to represent the Church - and God. That's scary. It's about character, discipline and lifestyle as well as growing in prayer and corporate worship.

It's also about having fun. At every residential weekend, Saturday evening is letting-hair-down time, when we usually do something daft together, like put on a pantomime (usually in June), play silly party games or visit the local ten-pin-bowling alley! Can you imagine me (yes, it's compulsory for the staff too!) as Mummy Bear (Goldilocks) or as a horse for Cinderella's chariot? Probably not your idea of my job! But the gospels do hint that Jesus had quite a mischievous sense of humour.

Talking of Jesus, none of us manages to live up to his standards. We do try, but for our unintentional lapses we hope you will be generous and forgive us.

Enjoy your summer.

Barbara Steele-Perkins

## ALL SAINTS PETS SERVICE A HOWLING SUCCESS!



The weather could not dampen the spirits of the one hundred or so villagers who brought their pets to church in June and had fun and frolics on the green afterwards. They brought around 30 dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and other fluffy things! The afternoon was a huge success and, despite the damp weather, the dog races, prizes and certificates for the participating pets were a great success. Congratulations to Hazel Morgan and George below on winning Pet of the Year 2005!



## THOUGHTS ON GOING TO CHURCH


If after church, you wait a while,  
Someone may greet you with a smile;  
But if you quickly rise and flee,  
We'll all seem cold and stiff, maybe.  
The one beside you in the pew  
Is perhaps a stranger too;  
All here, like you, have fears and cares,  
All of us need each other's prayers.

## CHRISTIAN AID RAISES RECORD AMOUNTS IN GRAYSWOOD

Many thanks to those who contributed a total of £282.54 including Gift Aid for the Christian Aid collection during May. An alternative approach to the doorstep collections was made this year and it has proved very successful

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<h2>All Saints Matters</h2>	<p>On the fifth Sunday of the month, which happens a few times a year, we share our worship with St Bartholomew's and St Christopher's in Haslemere <b>Thursday Services</b></p>	<p>Doreen Hutton (644178) Pauline Lamb (643798) Peter Rix (644295) Jean White (643338)</p>
<p><b>Sunday Services</b></p> <p>Services take place at All Saints every Sunday, usually a Holy Communion at 8.00 am and a further service at 10.00.</p> <p>Our 10.00 services are very accommodating 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. We work on a rotation basis during each calendar month as follows:</p> <p><b>1st Sunday:</b> Parish Communion <b>2nd Sunday:</b> Morning Worship <b>3rd Sunday:</b> Parish Communion <b>4th Sunday:</b> All age Morning Worship</p>	<p>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! <b>Contacting All Saints</b></p> <p>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. <b>Help in the Village</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>If you need a vicar urgently then please contact Rev Norman Jones on 658107. The Church Administrator is Janet Fry and she is available Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.</p> <p><b>VILLAGE PRAYER</b></p> <p>In June we pray for those who live beyond our parish boundary and yet still join us in prayer here at All Saints, Grayswood.</p> <p><b>Our charity this calendar quarter is the Church Mission Society which reaches out across the world to spread the Christian message. Our mission partner is Katie Hart who is at present in China. Contributions can be made on the plate at the back of Church.</b></p>

<p><b>TRAIN HORNS UPDATE</b></p> <p>Now that the hot weather is here, the feedback is that even more people are being disturbed by the train horns.</p> <p>The Horns group, which has taken on the task of trying to get a major reduction in the noise nuisance, reports that discussions continue with the South West Trains and other bodies, who are co-operating with trying to find a way of reducing or removing the need to blow the horns. This process may go on for some months more.</p> <p>Meanwhile South West Trains admits that it has had delays in its programme to make the horns quieter and now says the work will be completed by the end of June. It is often difficult to remain confident about any of South West Trains punctuality and timetables and Grayswood villagers may judge for themselves how successful SWT have been on achieving their initial timetabled reduction in horn volumes by the end of April at the end of July!</p>	<p>Church Office 656504</p>  <p><b>USEFUL GRAYSWOOD PHONE NUMBERS</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>Head for the Day</b></p> <p>Lucky Grayswood School pupil Stuart Holmes became Head Teacher for the day at Grayswood School. He reports:</p> <p>“At the start of the day I had to do playground duty and then take Achievement Assembly. I got to do all the stickers and show the children which line to sing and I got to light the candle. I then had to show two new parents around the school. I signed some letters and found out the childrens' favourite hymns for the Village Songs of Praise - Stand up Clap Hands was the winner. Everyone likes standing up rather than sitting down all the time. I gave the children five minutes extra playtime in the afternoon.”</p>
<p><b>CONGRATULATIONS</b> to James Mackie on securing a Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology at the University of</p>	<p><b>Village Prayer</b></p> <p><b>In July</b>, we pray for those who live in Prestwick Lane, The Paddocks, Muddy Lane and Clammer Hill Road <b>In August</b> we pray for those who live in Holdfast Lane, Three Gates Lane and Highercombe Road</p> <p>And do remember our prayer chains and prayer triplets which offer further access to prayer in times of need. Contact: <a href="mailto:editor@grayswoodparish.org">editor@grayswoodparish.org</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>ROAD SAFETY AND SIGNAGE</b></p> <p>Pressure from Grayswood villagers has now led to some new “SLOW” road markings in The Mount to support the new 30mph speed limited. We look forward to seeing whether these yet to be painted markings improve the current situation.</p> <p>Rumour has it that other groups in the village are trying to introduce further safety improvements elsewhere.</p> <p>Watch this space!</p> <p>To contact the editor please e-mail <a href="mailto:editor@grayswoodparish.org">editor@grayswoodparish.org</a> or contact the</p>