



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

September  2005

Editorial

One of the most positive sides of Autumn is undoubtedly the new conker season. Originally "conkers" were hazelnuts and the first recorded game using horse chestnuts was in 1848 on the Isle of Wight.

I well remember (some years later!) as a youngster steeping conkers in vinegar, then putting them in the oven for hours in my efforts to get to a "twenty-oner" which was the ultimate school accolade. Today they use super-glue!

I also recall my niece more recently skewering her hand in her effort to get the hole through the conker—she survived! But perhaps the greatest pleasure of conkers is that of collecting them—we have some wonderful trees around Grayswood and what an amazing pleasure it still is to be able to find, nestled among the muddy damp leaves, a matt green spiky ball, containing its perfectly smooth, shiny conker.

The next potential twenty-oner! A great time of year!

EDITOR

Some Village Events in

Gardening Club	1st
Mens Breakfast	10th
WI	14th
Good News Van	19th
Autumnal Equinox	22nd

THINKING UPSIDE IN/MOD

Another word for the vicar, or leader of a church congregation is *minister*. This is a healthy reminder that any leadership role in the church is not about being in charge or top dog. To be a minister means to be a servant.

One of the titles of the Pope is 'servant of the servants of God', which is why he (like the leader in any local church) comes last in any procession. Unfortunately, it often comes across as the opposite, perhaps because some of our processions have become far too full of empty ceremony and self-importance.

How wrong can we be?

Two of Jesus' disciples wanted to make sure of an honoured place in his kingdom, and he said to them (more or less), "Hard luck guys. If you want to get on in my kingdom, think upside down. If you have the heart and motivation of a servant,

you'll do well; if not, forget it."

But it's not just the vicar who's a minister. All God's people have gifts and abilities which we try to use for the benefit of everybody. Some are used to serve within the church - locking and unlocking the building, for example, or keeping it clean and tidy, arranging flowers and taking part in services - reading, singing in the choir etc.

Some are used within the community - like visiting the household, caring for the environment, delivering the Grayswood Runner, serving on the Hall committee, protesting about injustice, and so on.

But it's a constant challenge to think about our motivation.

Are we doing these things in order to serve God and/or our fellow human beings, or to bolster our own sense of self-importance?

If we forget we're here to serve, Jesus might well say to us, 'Hard luck, begin to think upside down.'

Barbara Steele-Perkins



GRAYSWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET TRIUMPH!

Over the summer great news was received by Steve Frye informing Grayswood Cricket Club that it had been awarded two grants to improve the children's cricket facilities in the village. At present there are not enough wickets to play all the games for each age level. This has resulted in several fixtures being abandoned. For the 2006 season, two "Off Square" wickets will be prepared for the exclusive use of children, including those from Grayswood School and other schools that do not have their own facilities.

For further information telephone Steve Frye on 653482 or come to the Club on Tuesday, September 6th at 7.15pm.

MILFORD HOSPITAL AGAIN THREATENED WITH CLOSURE

It may come as no surprise to many that following its reprieve immediately before the general election, Milford Hospital is now threatened again with closure after the election. Our local healthcare trust is in serious

financial difficulties and the closure of Milford Hospital is once again an option. Many local patients and families have hugely appreciated the benefits of its wonderful facilities, staff and environment—so do keep an eye on the local press for more information about the future plans of the trust.

Contacting us: Telephone: 01428 656504 or e-mail us at editor@grayswoodparish.org
Correspondence to: Church House, Church Close, Grayswood, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2DB
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 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:

1st Sunday: Parish Communion

2nd Sunday: Morning Worship

3rd Sunday: Parish Communion

4th Sunday: All age Morning Worship

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

Thursday Services

On the 15th and 29th of September 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 prac-

tical 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 Administrator is Janet Fry and she is available Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

VILLAGE PRAYER

In September, we remember in our prayers those who live in The Mount, Upper Mount and Williamson Close.

Our charity this calendar quarter is the Church Mission Society, a national and international mission charity. Our church mission partner is Katie Hart is at present in China where the church is making fantastic growth under difficult conditions.



Alpha

Millions of people have attended Alpha Courses across the world and every year up to a dozen people from Grayswood join them and also take the course.

It consists of a series of ten evenings when, following an informal supper, a video is watched and then it is honestly and openly discussed in greater detail. This is a non-threatening way to explore what Christianity is all about, to find out more about the meaning of life, whilst at the same time having a really enjoyable evening with other local people.

Call David or Judy on 01428 644125.



USEFUL GRAYSWOOD PHONE NUMBERS

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

AUGUST—THE HOLIDAY MONTH

Whilst many of us were on holiday our church was blessed with no less than five baptisms and one wedding—all in the last two weeks of August! Best wishes to those baptised in August,



Louise, Harry, Jake, Toby and Henry, as well as newly-weds Dawn and Andrew Congratulations to them all and well done to Barbara, Jean and the choir!

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GRAYSWOOD SNIPPETS

James Mackie was awarded his Archaeology Certificate by the University of Surrey—accidentally omitted in our last edition.

All Saints Harvest Festival—2nd October at 10.00 followed by coffee, light entertainment, Fair Trade goods and simple homemade soup and ploughman's lunch. All very welcome!!

The "SLOW" road markings are now on the western end of Lower but not the eastern end.

What a colourful sight The Wheatsheaf has again been this summer—well done to Ken for his display and its proper recognition in The Herald.

More and less

- Fear less, hope more;
- eat less, chew more;
- whine less, breathe more;
- talk less, say more;
- hate less, love more;
- and all good things are yours.

Lord Fisher, Admiral 1841 – 1920

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