



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood



December



2005

Editorial

The last time I probably wrongly remember it snowing on Christmas Day around these parts was 1988, nearly twenty years ago.

The grown-up in me despairs at the prospect of snow, the traumas of traveling and sliding down our steep hills, the dangers of falling over, the dirt, and slush everywhere being trodden into homes and carpets. The inelegance of having to wear Wellington boots to go shopping! The bit of child still left in me secretly wants snow, loads of it, tumbling out of the sky so that I can join the kids outside and wonder at the beauty, make snowmen, and throw snowballs.



I imagine Joseph and Mary would have been somewhat stressed looking for their lodgings even without the almost certainly fictional snow! But how that stress must have changed to childish trust and wonder on the birth of their new baby in a safe, warm stable.

The team at The Runner sincerely wish all its readers a very peaceful, happy and even childishly white Christmas!

EDITOR

**THE NATIVITY
ITS OUR STORY
T O D A Y**
I've had a phone conversation with my daughter in Australia this morning, and heard how she's languishing in temperatures of 28 degrees plus. When I told her how the grass was still frosty at 9.30, how crisp and cold it was, how the sun was shining and the sky was blue, she said - Oh, how nice!



It must be very strange getting ready for Christmas at the other side of the world: but no less strange for us than the 'real' Christmas was all those years ago. We have so domesticated it that we tend to forget the historical setting: Mary was Asian; she had dark hair not blond; brown eyes, not blue, and the pale blue robe of custom was probably an indifferent

brown.

The story was awkward to say the least. Pregnancy outside marriage in those days was a stoning offence; travel difficult. Galileans were hardly safe on the street if they wandered south; political conflict, even within Israel itself, was rife and we hear of murder on a grand scale in order that a mad but skilful statesman stay in power.

Recognise it? It's our story today; and it was part of the first Christmas story. Romanticising the story does us no favours. It's far from the cosy and sweet nativity scenes we see, good as it is for our children to first learn the story like that. But if it has anything at all to say to our world, it is that God entered it as a human being in all its mess and untidiness; in all its pain and sorrow and fear; in all its bigotry, crime and political shenanigans. And shared our life with us, so that we can share his. Amazing!

With very best wishes for an amazing and wonderful Christmas

Barbara Steele-Perkins



SPECIAL SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS IN DECEMBER

Christingle

11th December at 10.00 am
A very special fun service for all the family as we celebrate this special holiday in a special way

Nativity Service

18th December at 10.00 am
An all age service with a delightful nativity play by the children and a baptism.

Carols by Candlelight

18th December at 6.00 pm
A very special service focusing on the Christmas story and the singing of popular carols

Crib Service

24th December at 4.00 pm
An especially child focused service of music and the nativity.

Midnight Eucharist

24th December at 11.30 pm
Join the village to welcome Christmas Day together

Christmas Day Service

25th December at 10.00 am

New Years Eve

31 December at 11.30
Service of meditation followed by a glass of wine.

Some Village Events in December 2005

Gardening Club	1st
Church Fayre 10.00 am	3rd
School Fayre 5.00 pm	9th
Mens Breakfast	10th
The Punch Up 6.00 pm	10th
WI	14th

THREE GREAT CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY!

On Saturday December 3rd, the Church will be holding its Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall from 10.00 am—lots of excellent stalls, refreshments, fun and village friends to meet and share some time. The School Fayre will take place on Friday 9th December from 5.00 pm. Finally join your village friends in the hall on Saturday 10th December, at 6.00 to enjoy some musical fun and plenty of laughter—followed by punch and mince pies!

All of the events above take place in the Village Hall—have a great time!

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 5th Sunday of the month we share our service with St Bartholomew's and St Christopher's, Haslemere.

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 Mondays (am), Thursday (all day), Friday (am) and Sunday and is available on 656504. The answerphone is regularly monitored. Jenny Wardill (644443) and Doreen Hutton (644178) are the Pastoral Assistants

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)
- Graham Wardill (644443)
- 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 December we pray for those who live in Prestwick Lane, Clammer Hill Rd, The Paddocks and Muddy Lane.

Our charity this calendar quarter is Through Faith Missions, well known for spreading the gospel through the "Walk of 1000 men" in churches, schools, pubs, clubs and doorsteps throughout the UK.

Dec 21—The Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches. With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

Enjoy your Christmas tree and its traditional decorations in Grayswood this year!



USEFUL GRAYSWOOD PHONE NUMBERS

- Church Office 656504
- Village Hall Bookings 643859
- Wheatsheaf Pub 644440
- The Grayswood Club 644154
- Grayswood School 642086
- Grayswood Cars 642303
- Barkers 642894
- Haslemere Herald 651271
- Haslemere Hall 642161
- Hairdresser 642821
- Village Hall Payphone 658931

CHRISTMAS SNIPPETS

The Four Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You are Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus!

Love is.....

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. Anon.

And finally.....

What did Adam say on the night before Christmas?

"Its Christmas, Eve!"

LOCAL ISSUES

Everyone seems absolutely thrilled that the train horns have finally stopped their continual honking.

The buses are still running through the village, but we must be wary of the future for this important community service.

Milford Hospital is saved... for now

Haslemere Hospital has escaped the worst of the cuts but we are encouraged to use it—especially Minor Injuries and Out Patients, or it too may be threatened with cuts in 2006.



What a lot of shoe boxes!

Congratulations to all those involved in Operation Christmas Child—over 150 boxes were presented to the charity for children all over the world!

And what a great party!

A great time was had by all at the Village Party when £1,600 was raised for Children in Need and the Kings World Trust! A bit thank you to all who helped.



THERE IS NO RUNNER IN JANUARY

No Good News Van in December, next on 23rd Jan