



# The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

October 2008

## PROMOTING JESUS IN A BEER GLASS

I am sure a number of Runner readers will have read about the new Church of England campaign to remind people about the true meaning of Christmas. The question on the campaign poster is "Where will you find him?"



This stirs memories of frustrating hours spent peering at ante-natal scans —searching for foetal daughters sucking their thumbs inside the womb. Can you see the face on the beer glass?

There has been a general furore about this advertisement. Patronising, inappropriate, and offensive have been some of the comments. For many Christians I am sure the general view is that there would have to be a more appropriate way for the Church of England to spend its money and get the message across. Makes you wonder what Jesus would think.

Editor

## Some Village Events in October 2006

Gardening Club	5th
WI	11th
Mens Breakfast	14th
Good News Van	23rd

## PREJUDICED?

Who..... me?

Here's a dilemma. What would you do?



Say a relatively wealthy person (well-dressed, articulate, good job) comes into Grayswood church one Sunday morning for the service. At the same time a tramp comes in. Do you treat them the same - or differently? Or say an important person (like the mayor, for example) comes in at the same time as someone who you don't recognise and who looks rather shabby. Do you treat them the same - or differently?

It's a dilemma, because what's often done in practice is that the mayor is treated with deference and shown to the front pew, and the tramp shown the door. We wouldn't dream of doubting the mayor's motives in coming to church, but the tramp is often treated with suspicion - he's only come in out of the rain, he wants a free meal. But shouldn't they both be treated with equal respect?

One of our Bible readings in September (from the letter of James) said that we shouldn't be prejudiced, we shouldn't make judgements on how people dress, or treat them according to how "important" they are in the community - or according to how much money we think they are able to give. That's nauseating. But we do it.

To God, *everyone* is equal - women and men, adults and children, black and white, straight and gay, academically brilliant and intellectually disabled, and to show favouritism in church to any group over another is simply inexcusable. It was only 50 years ago that churches in America's deep south were actively teaching that discrimination against black people was justified in the Bible, which of course it isn't. How could that sort of thing happen when the Bible says the exact opposite? How can we discriminate against some people when the Bible says the exact opposite?

Part of my daughter's RE homework when she was a teenager was to show us photos of different people and ask us what we could tell about them - just from those pictures. She delighted in telling us that we were prejudiced - and so we were! Are we still? I hope not.

Barbara Steele-Perkins

## The Trumpet shall sound!



A SPECIAL CONCERT 8 pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>

In All Saints Church Grayswood

We are delighted to welcome Crispian Steele-Perkins to Grayswood for a very special and entertaining evening. Crispian (Richard's brother) plays and introduces music by the great composers, using original instruments of the period and is in great demand. His varied experience, practical approach and unquenchable enthusiasm in all fields of music have made him one of the world's most authoritative and highly esteemed trumpet players.

Crispian brings with him his regular accompanist Leslie Pearson. Leslie has enjoyed one of the most distinguished and varied careers of all keyboard players. He has been the official keyboard player of the Philharmonia Orchestra for nearly 40 years. On the concert platform his performances have entertained millions in the televised "The Three Tenors" spectacular.

We are privileged to have this concert here in Grayswood.

Space is limited - book early.

Tickets £15 available from -

Sandy McCarthy 643433

Pauline Lamb 643798

Judy Culhane 644125

It should be a very special occasion indeed and early reservations are highly recommended!

## HARVEST LUNCH

1st October

Following the church service on Sunday 1st October there will be a special Harvest Lunch across the road in the Village Hall. Come and celebrate the amazing bounty of nature with your fellow villagers—it should be a great lunch and entertainment with a difference!

## DINNER DANCE

18th November

Almost a village institution the dinner dance in aid of Children in Need and the Kings World Trust will be held in the Village Hall. Please look out for notices as there is sure to be a high demand for this popular event!

Contacting the Runner : Telephone: 01428 656504, [editor@grayswoodparish.org](mailto:editor@grayswoodparish.org)

## All Saints Matters

### Sunday Services

**8.00 am** Holy Communion every week

**10.00 am** 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.

**1st Sunday:** Parish Communion

**2nd Sunday:** Morning Worship

**3rd Sunday:** Parish Communion

**4th Sunday:** All age Morning Worship

**5th Sunday** we usually join in with St Barts or St Christophers, either in Grayswood or Haslemere—see notices on the Church Door!

Evening Services are occasional but are advertised in the village.

**Mondays** at 9 am (not Bank Holidays) - a short meditative service which follows the pattern of the Church since its early days

### Thursdays

**1st and 3rd Thursday** Holy Communion using the BCP (old prayer book)

**5th Thursday**—Modern Iona style Communion Service

At all services we pray for people in any sort of need. If you would like us to pray for someone in particular - or be prayed for yourself (we need only a first name and you don't have to give a reason), either pop a note into Church House, leave a message on the answerphone, write in the book at the back of church, or ask someone to pass the message on.

### Sacred space

The church building is open every day from about 9am until dusk in winter, about 6pm in summer. It's a peaceful place to think, meditate, dream, pray.

### Contacting All Saints

Our vicar **Barbara Steele-Perkins** ([barbarasteeleperkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbarasteeleperkins@tiscali.co.uk)) is officially on duty all day Sunday and Thursday, and Monday and Friday mornings; she also works part-time for the diocese, but both jobs allow for some flexibility. She responds to answerphone messages left on 656504 every day except Tuesday and will get back to you as soon as possible. Janet Fry, our church administrator, works in **Church Office** 656504 (in Church House) which is open Wed, Thurs and Fri mornings from 9am-12 noon. **Doreen Hutton** 644178 is the coordinator of pastoral care in the parish. Please contact her if you would like someone to visit you - for whatever reason. You are promised complete confidentiality. If you would like to donate flowers at any time - in memory of someone or at a special anniversary. **Jaquie Lisle** 661091 is our flower coordinator. If you need a vicar urgently and can't get through to Barbara, phone **Norman Jones**, Rector of Haslemere (644578).

### A-level and GCSE Religious Studies entries increase for third year

More students than ever have opted to take A-levels in Religious Studies. Recent statistics reveal that there were 43 per cent more A-level entrants taking Religious Studies this year than three years ago. At GCSE level, statistics released showed that the full course, usually studied over two years, was taken this year by an extra 12,000 students - an 8.2 per cent rise to almost 160,000 students.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This annual project enables us to fill ordinary shoeboxes with small toys, school supplies, and other gifts that we take for granted and give them to hurting children all round the world. It has made a world of difference to 47 million children who have received such a box since 1990. If you would like to participate you will need to get a leaflet either from Rebecca Willows (641921) or from the back of the Church. Please contact Rebecca with any questions!

### VILLAGE PRAYER

In October we pray for those who live in Lower Road, Park Close, and Ash Tree Close.

### APPLE DAY—21ST OCTOBER

It is Apple Day on 21st October and there are special events near to Grayswood where you can enjoy a huge variety of apples and other locally produced foods. The big shows are at Wisley, up the A3 and at West Dean near to Chichester—they are both great locations and the sheer variety and number of apples is truly mind-boggling!



### 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**

### IS YOUR HUT BURNING?

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened: everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied. It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground - it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

### When I say... "I am a Christian"

- When I say... "I am a Christian", I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
- I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."
- When I say... "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.
- I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.
- When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong .
- I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.
- When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success.
- I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.
- When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect,
- My flaws are far too visible. But, God believes I am worth it.
- When I say... "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain.
- I have my share of heartaches so I call upon his name.
- When I say... "I am a Christian", I'm not holier than thou,
- I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

If you would like to contact The Runner please phone 01428 656504 or e-mail: [editor@grayswodparish.org](mailto:editor@grayswodparish.org)