



# The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

December 2006 and January 2007

## A TIME OF HOPE

This Christmas seems different from previous years in the sheer volume of bad news. The planet seems doomed to be destroyed by our pollution and the effects of global warming. Fish stocks are so depleted that within 50 years fish will no longer fill the sea. Politically the threat of international terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and civil and regional wars also seem to loom large in every day news. Famine in various regions are being widely predicted in 2007. Nearer to home, important local services seem to be continually threatened as government tightens its belt.

What is the ordinary person in the village of Grayswood to do? Do we have any impact? Most people understandably simply hope the best for the future and carry on—we are all too busy just working and living to get involved with politics and global issues. The size of these problems seem mind boggling.

Christmas is a time of joy and hope and whether you hope, wish or pray, I am sure all village people are united in their concerns for the future. A time of new beginnings and a time of shared hope for all.

Happy Christmas!

Editor

## Your Favourite Bit

What's your favourite bit of the Christmas story?

As it's told to us, it's a very odd mix, isn't it? Ordinary hard-working peasants, rough (and possibly thieving) shepherds, foreign dignitaries, national and political leaders both good and bad - and an illegitimate baby.



Fairly inclusive. All sorts of people. Some were honest - the genuine article, others were despots, schemers and murderers. Some were simply going about their ordinary business, minding their own business. Some were poor,

some wealthy. Some were spiritual seekers after truth, some couldn't care less. Some were self-centred, some altruistic.

We could go on .....

What was going on under the surface for people then, we can imagine was not a lot different from what's deep inside us today: fear, anxiety, longing, hurt, struggle to make ends meet, worrying about our children, our elderly parents - and so on.

Each of us today can find ourselves somewhere in that story. However we understand the story, whether we see it as literal, partly or totally metaphorical, or mainly theological, it has a spiritual meaning for everyone, good and bad, religious or atheist, rich or poor.

That's why it's good news; it's a message of peace - well-being and harmony - from God to all people. So what's your favourite bit of the story for this Christmas?

Barbara Steele-Perkins



## GRAYSWOOD EVENTS TO GET YOU IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD

There are three events in the first two weeks of December which all look like they will be fun, a great way to meet fellow villagers, as well as support each of the village organisations.

On the 2nd December at 11.30 All Saints will be holding its traditional Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall. Light lunches will be served and all sorts of goodies will be available for sale—ideal for Xmas presents.

On 8th December, at 3.15 the school will be holding its Christmas Fair—a very special visitor from the North Pole will be present!

On 13th December, from 7.30 the Grayswood Club Open Door welcomes all villagers to come and sample its friendly atmosphere, excellent facilities, and fine beers. New members are always very welcome—support a true village institution in 2007!

## Events in December

Church Christmas Fayre	2nd
Good News Van	4th
Gardening Club	7th
School Christmas Fayre	8th
Men's Breakfast	9th
WI	13th
Club "Open Door"	13th

## Special All Saints Services for Christmas 2006

In addition to our normal service we have special services over the Christmas period and in January:

- 17th December– 5.00 Carols by Candlelight
- 24th December—10.00 Carols and Nativity, 4.00 Crib Service, 11.30 Midnight Communion
- 25th December—10:00 Christmas Service (no 8.00)
- 28th January—10.00 Christingle Service

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).

### Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican even-song without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So - imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep.

So, thanks Luke!



At All Saints, we don't sing carols no more - you have to listen to them off your iPod



### 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**

### VILLAGE PRAYER

In December we pray for residents of Prestwick Lane, Clammer Hill Rd, The Paddocks and Muddy Lane.

### Royal Surrey fights on!

If you support the Royal Surrey County Hospital future survival then voice your concerns in writing to:

Chris Butler,  
Chief Executive  
Surrey PCT,  
Bourne House  
Guildford Rd  
Chertsey  
Surrey KT16 0QA

Writing to Patricia Hewitt just results in a standard letter, passing the buck by suggesting you write to the above gentleman. Definitely worth another letter just to see the response!

### Christmas Day starts at Midnight!

Why does Christmas Day begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight - a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth. Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time."

So things don't change, then!

### DESPERATE CRACKER JOKES!

**Santa has three gardens so that he can hoe, hoe, hoe!**

**Santa's little helper was depressed and had low elf esteem.**

**A Christmas sign on a reducing salon: '24 Shaping Days until Christmas.'**

**Reindeer: horses with hat-racks.**

**A turkey crossing the road is poultry in motion.**

### AND FINALLY

**When Adam first cracked a joke, no man could say 'I've heard that one before'.**

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