



The Grayswood Runner



Hannah Bleach, Gold Class 2002

Serving the Community in Grayswood

February



NOT MY FAULT

It was so upsetting to discover that once again someone had climbed up the war memorial in Haslemere whilst under the influence and managed to break off the cross at the top.

It is upsetting for lots of reasons. Of course it is a slap in the face for all the families and friends of those who gave their lives for our peace in various armed conflicts. It is also the mindless vandalism of a town's much cherished work—a symbol of Haslemere. It is also the symbolic desecration of the cross at the top which must be upsetting for those who are Christian.

What many have found amazing is the attitude of those involved who have decided to blame the police and the council for not protecting the memorial with more officers and protective fencing.

Should their sober response more properly have been to put their hands up to the crime and proffer a full and unreserved public apology. We can all understand the effects of alcohol (the writer with particular embarrassment!) and start to forgive this act if the person is truly sorry. The Christian response of forgiveness sometimes does not come easy.

Editor

Events in February

Gardening Club	1st
Mens Breakfast	3rd
Valentines Day WI	14th
Ash Wednesday	21st
Good New Van (Church House)	26th

WHOSE BUILDING IS THIS?



In one sense I suppose, it 'belongs' to God. 'God's house' we call it.

In another sense it 'belongs' to those who have worshipped and prayed here before us. Although in Grayswood that's only a little over 100 years, in my last parish, two of the three church buildings were 12th century, and it was awesome to think of people coming there to worship and pray over all that length of time. People then experienced much of life differently, but their thoughts and feelings were not too dissimilar from ours; their loves and losses were similar to ours, their yearnings and longings for God too.

In yet another sense it 'belongs' to the people who worship and pray there now. We appreciate our heritage, but we are not constrained by it. Mostly we worship and pray in modern English, but we express the same thoughts and feelings as our ancestors did.

But neither they nor we 'own' the building, because there's a sense in which it 'belongs' to the village. It's a community building, open for all. It's a place, not only for communal worship on a Sunday, but also for anyone who needs a quiet place, even for just a few minutes, a place to be still, to reflect, to pray.

The building is open during the day, and we're working at ways to make the side chapel (behind the choir stalls on the left) more inviting for people to sit and be quiet. So far there's usually a visual focus of some sort, and there are more comfy chairs in the pipeline. Of course you may prefer to sit in a pew, but please do use the building - it 'belongs' to you. If you have any ideas about how we can make it more welcoming, please do write (anonymously if you wish) in the visitors' book, just inside the main door.

Barbara Steele-Perkins



A Light Hearted Concert

13th March 2007 at 2.30 pm

All are welcome to hear the Harriet Adie Harp Trio in the Grayswood Village Hall.

Call Sarah for more information: 643129



SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Andrew Trimble of Ireland is 22. He made his Ireland debut against Australia at the beginning of last season and went on to collect five more caps and three international tries during the season. As a Christian, Andrew sees rugby as an integral part of his Christian life, "God has given me the gift of rugby and I want to give it back to him. I have to live for something that will last, not something temporary. It is God who has given me my talent so it is not something I can boast about".

Players prepare for games in different ways. Some are loud and need to psyche themselves up. Trimble prefers to sit quietly. He will often read the Bible in preparation for a game - for example Psalm 84. Words like "Better is one day in your courts than 1000 elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than dwell in the tents of the wicked" help keep rugby in perspective. The 2007 Rugby Six Nations gets underway on 3 February and continues through five weekend sets of fixtures to reach its climax on 17 March. It should be a great six weeks!

Contacting the Runner : Telephone: 01428 656504, 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** (barbarasteelerperkins@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).

Don't sniff at the common cold!!

What is the leading cause of a visit to a doctor in a Western country?



Colds have been bad this winter. And a major cause of absenteeism from work. The mundane, misery-inducing common cold. The common cold is not a precisely defined disease, but you sure know it when you've got one. This virus brings on symptoms which last from two to 14 days, and range from sneezing, congestion, a runny nose, sore throat, headache, tiredness and coughing. On average, you are likely to get between two and four colds a year.

Since Vitamin C was first isolated in the 1930s, it has been used to fight respiratory infections. In recent trials of more than 11,000 children and adults, it was found that though people who take Vitamin C regularly still get colds, they seem to recover more quickly.

At least a day ahead of the others.



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 January we particularly pray for those in Holdfast Lane, Three Gates Lane and Highercombe Road

THE TUNNEL STARTS

It is exciting to be able to report that work on the Hindhead Tunnel finally has begun and for the next four or five years we will probably have even more traffic through Grayswood as people seek to avoid the roadworks on what is already a bottleneck.

What fascinates me is what will happen to the excavated soil.

Just where does it all end up....?

Simeon's thoughts (Luke 2:25-35) on meeting the baby Jesus

The waiting and the wondering are over,
He is here,
Revealed by the Spirit.

By the Spirit filled and led I come,
With my own arms to hold him,
With my own eyes to know him,
Miniature of humanity,
Fullness of God.

My blessing a reality check
Of piercing and promise,
Of rising and falling,
To all people
In the challenge of light.

In the peace of my leaving, Lord,
And for your glory
Let the light shine

Daphne Kitching

RATS IN GRAYSWOOD

Anyone spotted more rats in Grayswood than normal? Environmental Health Officers have expressed serious concern about fortnightly dustbin collection and composting kitchen waste encouraging rats. My amazement at how fast our kitchen waste reduces in volume takes on a sinister perspective.

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