



The Grayswood Runner



this banner was designed with assistance from Gold Class, Grayswood School 2006/2007

September 2007

WAS THAT SUMMER?

What a difference a year makes in our village life! Only 12 months ago we were despairing about the lack of rain and the appallingly dry weather. This year's summer...well need I say more?! We were also girding our loins to fight for the very survival of the Royal Surrey whereas now, 12 months on, its survival looks promising for the foreseeable future. And that of course is the very point—how far ahead is genuinely foreseeable in this fast moving and fast changing world? It seems that you either believe that everything is completely random or that maybe, just maybe, there is some great hand moving things down here and having a good laugh at our expense.

This "great hand" theory poses many awkward questions such as —why does it let so many awful things happen? Can we change the course of the future or is it all mapped out for us?

An Alpha Course is a great place to think about and discuss these difficult issues—and possibly even find a solution, some peace amongst the chaos.

Why not give it a go this year?

Editor

Events in September

Men's Breakfast	1st
Gardening Club	6th
Book Group	11th
WI—Woodland Trust	12th
Good News Van	24th

The Farmer's in his Den

My late father loved the Devon countryside and it was always a source of amazement to him that his sons were not interested in the Latin names of hedgerow flowers and plants, or in whistling the songs of the birds. However, in spite of my deficiencies, I have the fondest memories of more than thirty years of ministry as a country parson and the farming community has a special place in my heart.

I remember my first visit to a thriving family farm in mid-Devon. The farmer's wife offered me "a dish of tea" and before I could say anything she had called all the men in from the fields to meet the "Rector". The "dish of tea" turned out to be an enormous kitchen table groaning with food. I remember the little Norman church near Tiverton where I had to light the gaslights, prepare for Holy Communion, and then toll the bell, and as I did so I would look out of the narrow window in the belfry and watch the farmers walking across the fields to church. I remember the farmer, crippled with arthritis, who raised beef cattle on a muddy forty-five acres about 1000 feet above sea level, one of whose sons went on to gain a doctorate at university. If you asked them whether they wouldn't get a better return if they sold up and cleared their overdrafts and invested what remained, they would look at you as if you were mad. They love what they do and would never choose to do anything else. In the passing of the seasons they recognise God's care and yet they know that they are at the mercy of the elements and that viral diseases such as foot and mouth are an ever present threat. It has been heart-breaking to see the present distress of men and woman whose herds have been slaughtered and whose life's work has been destroyed. They deserve our thoughts and prayers more than ever now.

Richard Steele-Perkins

(for Barbara who is on holiday)

Grayswood Book Group

A new Book Group is starting in Grayswood on Tuesday 11th September. The Group will be meeting once a month at 7.30 in Grayswood Club. The first book they will be discussing is the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, by Mark Haddon. Why not come along and join us and bring along some suggestions for next month? Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to know more call Paul or Janis Smy on 643377



MEXICAN FIESTA!



Saturday 10th November

Grayswood School have re-scheduled their fund raising Mexican party from the summer to 10th November.

It should be a fantastic evening with some authentic Mexican food (not too spicy!), amazing music and of course dancing.

From 7.30 to midnight in the Village Hall, tickets can be purchased from Penny Glaser on 01428 652147.



ALPHA IS BACK!

Built around a meal, the world famous basic Christianity course is back here in Grayswood. Join us for an introductory supper—please contact David or Judy on 01428 644125.

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) 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 Monday, Wed, 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).

21st Century Grayswood

Whilst the Grayswood roots go back a long way into history, please do not imagine for one moment that we are not also a future thinking village too! In addition to the All Saints website there is also the Cricket Club website, the Village Hall website, and the Pub, Club and School has a good presence too.

The latest development is that Grayswood also has a presence on Facebook—anyone under the age of 21 knows Facebook— and all those associated with the village and with internet access are encouraged to join our Facebook community—a means of communicating with each other and just keeping in touch about what's going on in the village as well as a means to publicise your cause. It is moderated by adults and can be found at www.facebook.com and then searching for Grayswood—you will need to open an account first though!

May see you there on day!



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 September we pray for those who live in The Mount, Upper Mount and Williamson Close.

DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a special time for families but of course there are those in our community who do not have immediate family nearby or are unable to travel. Volunteers put on a special lunch in Haslemere on Christmas Day for those who are alone and if you are willing to help then please contact Fay as soon as possible on 644183.

NEW DISCIPLESHIP COURSE LAUNCHED

The Diocese of Guildford offers an opportunity to explore God's call on our lives and to develop confident disciples, able to apply faith to everyday life.

There are no entry requirements other than an enquiring mind and a willingness to listen to other Christians. The coursework does not involve homework, but your learning will be enhanced by the reflections suggested. The Diocese has designed the *Toolkit for Christian Living* as an addition to enable Christians to learn more about their faith and grow in discipleship. There are opportunities to join throughout the autumn and winter.

To find out more please contact Cyane Sullivan on 01483 484912

RUNNER DELIVERIES

ARE WE GETTING THEM TO YOU?

A lot of voluntary work goes into the writing, printing, printing, folding and delivery of The Runner and we are anxious that everyone who wants a copy gets one.. If you have not received your copy by the fourth day of the month then you are always welcome to collect a copy from the back of the church.

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