



The Grayswood Runner



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

Dec 2007/Jan 2008

HARD TO GET YOUR HEAD AROUND THIS ONE!

It is hard to get your head around Christmas.

Around 2,000 years ago, in a small village on the West Bank in Israel, a carpenter and his wife gave birth to a little boy. He lived until he was around 32 and though he had no money and was definitely not a show-off, he has had an impact on the world which is momentous.

He had no PR agents, no publicity machine, no money, and certainly no email, phone or internet. Whilst he was alive only a comparatively small number of people knew about him.

Yet here we are 2000 years later, and billions of people around the world are celebrating that birth just like our village will do. Amazing.

The great thing is that I don't have to "believe" in anything to celebrate Christmas. It just feels that the message he preached seems right and touches the heart like no other. So even if you struggle with the religious bit (and who doesn't!), it is still worth celebrating the message of love and compassion that he preached and has so amazingly affected our world.

Happy Christmas!

Editor

Events in December

Gardening Club	6th
Mens Breakfast	8th
Book Group	11th
WI	12th

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

It seems early to be writing that in the middle of November, when Advent hasn't even begun yet. Advent, the season when we prepare for the coming of God.

Firstly of course we celebrate that coming in the baby of Bethlehem, mysterious and wonderful as that is. Because of that first coming, as a human being who touched other lives with love and grace, we can know something about God – and something about what God is not like. We can know that God does not pontificate from a great height and even further distance, but that God is best expressed in terms of love and self-giving.

Then we are encouraged in Advent to look for the coming of God 'in glory'. Any explanation of that is fraught with difficulty, and must always be incomplete and inadequate; it's far too easy to be trite. 'Glory' is a word for the dazzling light of God's presence, which inevitably brings with it ideas of righting wrongs, of love and justice, of peace and joy. One day all that will be visible, obvious - glorious indeed. For now it's partial, sometimes almost impossible to discern, but it's coming.

Having seen what God is like in Jesus, we are also able to recognize the coming of God in smaller ways. The touch of a hand when we're sad, the time we spend with a friend, a letter out of the blue, quietly giving to the needy, noticing injustice and doing something about it, working for harmony in our community or for peace across the world - all evidences of love and self-giving. They are small signs of the coming of God now, mediated through ordinary human beings, possible because of the God 'veiled in flesh'.

So we have a three way view of the coming of God: then in Bethlehem, future 'in glory', and now, in the present moment. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Barbara Steele-Perkins



All Saints Christmas Fayre

Saturday 1st December
11.30am

Grayswood Village Hall

Please support this event held by your local village church!

A Great Cup of Coffee!

Congratulations to all those who organised and supported the Grayswood Macmillan Coffee Morning—either turning up for a cup of coffee on the day or supporting it financially even though they could not attend.

Thanks are also due to the Grayswood Club who offered their building as the venue.

A magnificent £505 was raised which is fantastic. Well done!

The Ben Williams Trust

Join Gilly, Phil and Jonathan Williams at Burnside, Prestwick Lane for coffee between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 8 December to raise funds for the Ben Williams Trust. Claire Taylor's highly popular fresh Christmas wreaths will be on sale, together with bring and buy cakes. Further information from Gilly (652582).



THE SPECIAL SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

AT ALL SAINTS, GRAYSWOOD

How wonderful it is to celebrate Christmas in our own village church and all villagers, friends and families are especially welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus at All Saints during this special time of year. Services of particular interest include:

23rd December — All Age Service with Nativity, 10.00 am

23rd December—Carols by Candlelight 5.00 pm followed by Punch and Pies in the Village Hall immediately afterwards.

24th December—Crib Service with Carols 4.00 pm

24th December—First Communion of Christmas 11.30 pm

25th December—Christmas All Age Service 10.00 am, (with shortened Communion to follow)

Come and join the Celebration!

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** (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).

Some Things to do in December and January around and about Grayswood

1st Dec—All Saints Grayswood Christmas Fair—Village Hall

2nd Dec— Haslemere Christmas Market

7th Dec—Jazz at the Georgian

8th Dec—Ceramics Demonstration—Haslemere Museum

15th Dec—Crafty Chef cookery workshop for children—Three Counties Hall, Haslemere

19th - 22nd Dec—Santa's Victorian Parlour—visit Santa at the Haslemere Museum

22nd Dec—Christmas Cracker Carol Concert—Haslemere Hall

25th Dec —All Saints Grayswood Christmas Service

5th Jan—Opera South—Twelfth Night Celebration at the Georgian Hotel

26th Jan—Charity Dinner—Mayor of Haslemere's celebration of Twelfth Night at Wispers School



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 remember those who live in Prestwick Lane, Clammer Hill Rd. The Paddocks, and Muddy Lane

In January we remember those who live in Holdfast Lane, Three Gates Lane, and Highercombe Road.

GRAYSWOOD VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of all in the village, a huge thank you to all those who freely volunteer their services to our village community. These include school governors, PCC and council members, church officers, group and society organisers, the Village Hall and Grayswood Club committees, sports and other interest group officers. These people do make the difference—2007 has been a busy and memorable year. Many thanks!!

LOST CHAPTER IN GENESIS... A SMILE LINE FOR CHRISTMAS

Adam was walking around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked him, "What is wrong with you?"

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will always be very sympathetic whenever you have a cold and admire your DIY however it turns out."

Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

The rest is history....

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