



The Grayswood Runner



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

November 2009

Drop by drop.....

I have spent the last 4 days driving through the beautiful welsh countryside, visiting places new and actually venturing up (and then walking back down?!) a very wet and windy Mount Snowdon. I confess to taking the train on the upward journey, but was treated to an actually very interesting commentary of things I was looking at... one thing the voice in the train said about mountain water struck a chord and got me thinking....

I thought about how quickly a single raindrop goes from a drop, to a puddle, to a trickle, to a stream, a river, a channel, a sea and then a mighty ocean and how that is so much like the stages of life. How easily we absorb new things and change and grow. Sometimes we stay the same for a while, working out lifes little dramas, but eventually we change and move on to the next big thing coming our way.

I have no idea at all which stage I'm in right now, or even when I'll get there, but I know one day, each of us will be our own ocean, and my how fantastic we'll be! **Editor**

Dear friends

There's no doubt that reading the Bible can be problematic. What do Christians mean by 'inspired'? Different groups of us answer that question differently, but it certainly doesn't mean that God perched (metaphorically!) on the shoulders of the writers and by-passed their personalities and their minds. That doesn't hold any theological water at all.



Why are there differing accounts of the same thing? The birth stories of Jesus are one example; nice though the nativity story is at Christmas with small children, when we begin to think for ourselves we ask the obvious questions, which are often silenced - because we either don't know what to say or we deny there's a problem at all. A story in Luke is different from the one in Matthew (eg the Lost Sheep); why? Kings of the Old Testament are seen differently by two groups of writers; why? Deuteronomy is obviously a revision of Exodus; why? Paul writes differently to different people in different contexts; why? And as for God - did God really expect the people of Israel to commit mass murder and genocide? Whatever sort of a book is this? Holy?

No wonder we have a problem with it - if we're honest, that is. In September I wrote about mindsets, and the origin of our Bible is from within a mindset of a (to us) totally alien culture. We expect factual accounts and historical accuracy; for them, history was something to be interpreted. Actually, it is for us too - think about books about WW2 - by Churchill, an English woman whose husband and sons were killed, a member of the French underground and a Luftwaffe pilot and you see what I mean.

For me, the Bible has even more value because the difficult bits weren't ironed out, they didn't try to harmonise and flatten the different and sometimes conflicting 'voices'; they put it all in. This makes for a rich tapestry, but it gives us some hard work to do, and we discover there is no such thing as a 'plain reading of scripture'. It's not that easy.



If you have problems with the Bible, I hope you're encouraged. Perhaps a Bible hot potato evening might be a good idea? Let me know if you'd be interested.

With my very best wishes

Barbara



All Saints Christmas Fayre

Saturday 5 December

11.30am-1.30pm

Grayswood Village Hall

Lots of fun and entertainment for all, including:- Father Christmas, Treasure Tree, Children's Toys & Games, Gifts Stall, Bric a Brac, Jewellery, Cakes and Produce, Books, CDs & Videos, Greetings Cards, Raffle and lots more...

Soup, Hotdogs and Mince Pies served from 12pm - 1pm

Outside stallholders (£10 + 10%) and stall contributions welcome - call Daphne (643140) or Susie (642917)

Come along and join in with the fun...



Grayswood WI & Macmillan

The Ladies of the Grayswood WI would like to thank everyone who was able to join their Macmillan Coffee morning held in September. Thanks to your support on the day and your generous donations they raised just under £470

Well done everyone!



Would you like to be part of something special as part of your preparation for Christmas?

Our modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. Last year the 'Mary and Joseph' which are part o four simple wooden nativity set in Grayswood did this journey for the second time, and we'd like to repeat it this year, but involving more people, if possible.

Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night—sometime between 2nd and 23rd December? The person before you will make arrangements with you to bring the figures to you, and in turn you will be responsible for taking Mary and Joseph to the next person on the list. All you need to do is give your name and phone number to Janet in the church Office (details overleaf) by November 26th and offer a night that is convenient.

Contacting the Runner : Telephone: 01428 656504, editor@grayswoodparish.org

All Saints Matters

Church Services in November

Sundays: 8am Holy Communion every week

1st November 10am All Saints Day Patronal Festival

Monday 2nd November 7.30pm Annual Memorial Service *Come and light a candle in thanksgiving for a life remembered*

8th November 10.50am Remembrance Day Service *and Sunday School*

President and Preacher: Ven Julian Henderson, Archdeacon of Dorking

15th November 10am Parish Communion with crèche and Sunday School *with the commissioning of Fiona and Vera as our new Pastoral Assistants*

22nd November 10am All Age Service with Baptism

29th November 10am Advent Sunday Parish Communion

Preacher: Rev Dr Steve Summers, Principal, Local Ministry Programme

Mondays at 9am A short (20 mins) meditative service. 23rd November is in St Bart's.

Thursdays 5th and 19th November at 10.15am Holy Communion

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 usually 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, Thu, 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).

USEFUL GRAYSWOOD PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office 656504
 Village Hall Bookings 643859
 Wheatsheaf Pub 644440
 The Grayswood Club 07748 065 821
 Grayswood School 642086
 Grayswood Cars (Garage) 642303
 Grayswood Nursery School 658931
 Barkers 642894
 Haslemere Herald 651271
 Haslemere Hall 642161
 Hairdresser 642821
 The Rockery B&B 643178
 Village Hall Payphone 658931
 Grayswood Taxi Service 644440
 Mobile 078877 14799



Just reminder that this annual project enables people like you

and me to take gifts that we take for granted, and give them to needy children all round the world.

If you would like to participate please collect a leaflet from the back of All Saints Church or visit the website www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk The completed boxes should be returned to the back of the Church by Sunday 15th November 2009.

Please contact Rebecca Willows on 609709 if you have any questions

Events in October

Gardening Club	5th Nov
Book Club	10th Nov
WI	11th Nov
Men's Breakfast	7th Nov

VILLAGE PRAYER

In November we remember and think about all those who live in Lower Road, Park Close and Ash Tree Close

Village Hall AGM

Grayswood Village Hall Management Committee will hold their AGM on the 18th November 2009 at 8.00pm in the village hall. This is

Grayswood Book Club

The Grayswood Club Book Group will be reading the following books during the next three 3 months:

10th November: The Road by Cormac McCarthy - which was voted by readers of The Times as number 16 in the best 60 books published during the last 60 years. It has also been made into a film and should be on general release next

year. **8th December:** Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens, because it is full of fun and great Christmas read. **12th**

January: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel, which is this years' Booker winner and something to put on your Christmas present list.



Hope to see you in November. If you would like to know more please call 01428 43377