



# The Grayswood Runner



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

March 2012

## With Love....

I am sure by now many of you will have heard about the sad loss of a very much-loved village resident. **Richard Steele-Perkins, husband of our parish vicar Barbara, died suddenly last week.**

**A true Gentleman in every possible way whose gifts of love, kindness and compassion touched everyone who was fortunate enough to know him, and for those who didn't, be assured that no truer words could be spoken of such a genuine, gentle man.**

**To lose a loved one, is a heartbreaking thing, be they a friend or family member, however to lose someone so suddenly and unexpectedly could perhaps challenge the strongest of people.**

**Each one of you will, and sadly probably has, dealt with bereavement in your own way.**

**Barbara and her family have asked me to pass on their deep gratitude for the cards, gifts, love and support that they have received at this sad time.**

Editor

## Dear Friends

I'm writing this letter to you on Ash Wednesday with the words of the Ash Wednesday service ringing in my ears, said to each worshipper as his or her forehead is marked with an ashen cross:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

Dust is a very fragile substance, and the community of Grayswood is painfully conscious of that, as the sudden death of Richard Steele-Perkins has reminded us that our lives, our security, are far more fragile, more precarious than we like to believe. I'm sure that every one of us has been struggling to make sense of this deeply shocking news, even as our thoughts go out to Barbara and her family with sympathy and prayers. Faith may tell us that there is more to our existence than this time and place, and that God understands and has shared the pain of loss, but the pain is not one jot less for that belief.

We began Lent on Ash Wednesday, journeying together through the wilderness towards the drama and the pain of Holy Week and the Way of the Cross, and looking beyond these to the promise of new life at Easter. Perhaps this year we should focus on the need to be gentle with each other and ourselves, remembering our fragility and our vulnerability and giving ourselves time and space to recognise what really matters in our lives. Yes, of course Lent is a penitential season, a time when you "give things up" – everyone knows that – but that symbolic sacrifice isn't an end in itself. Rather, it can be the physical expression of our refocusing on God, on the real priorities in our lives. And Lent is a time of hope, even in darkness, a time when the days lengthen and spring is somewhere in the air even though there may be snow on the ground.

And my hope – my prayer – for the community of Grayswood this Lent is that as you grieve for Richard, and as you support Barbara and the family, and as you look after each other and the people who matter to you, each one of you may find comfort and strength in the Easter promise of new life and hope.

*With my love and prayers*

*Mary Bowden (Rector of the United Benefice of Haslemere & Grayswood)*

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**CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH**

**Sundays: 8am** Holy Communion every week

**Every Sunday: 10am**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion
- 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup> All Age Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday (with the Song Squad)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion

**Mondays 9am** Morning Prayer (20 mins)

**Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion at 10.15 am

**Grayswood Village Hall - new curtains**

If you know anyone locally who might like to consider making new curtains & giving a quote please email [culhane@grayswood.co.uk](mailto:culhane@grayswood.co.uk)

**Contacting All Saints**

Do contact us if you would like us to pray for you. Phone any number below, send an e-mail, write the name in the book at the back of church, pop a note into Church House, or ask someone to pass a message on. A first name is all we need and confidences are ALWAYS respected.

**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.

**Barbara Steele-Perkins** 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 answer-phone messages every day except Tuesday and will get back to you as soon as possible.

tel: 656504 e-mail: [barbarasteelerperkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbarasteelerperkins@tiscali.co.uk)

**Janet Fry**, our **church administrator**, works in **Church Office** (in Church House) which is open Mon, Thurs and Fri mornings from 9am-12 noon. At other times you can still leave a message.

tel: 656504 e-mail: [office@grayswoodparish.org](mailto:office@grayswoodparish.org)

**Doreen Hutton** 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.

tel: 644178 e-mail: [david@dhutton.mail1.co.uk](mailto:david@dhutton.mail1.co.uk)

**Fiona Gwynn** is our **flower coordinator**. Contact her if you would like to help with an arrangement for a special festival or donate flowers at any time – in memory of someone or at a special anniversary, etc.

tel: 654728 e-mail: [gwynnfamily@sky.com](mailto:gwynnfamily@sky.com)



**VILLAGE PRAYER**

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

**Events in March**

- Gardening Club Thursday 1st
- Book Club Tuesday 13th
- WI Wednesday 14th
- Good News Van Monday 26th
- Grayswood Toddlers — Each term-time Wednesday 9.15—10.45 am

Please contact us using details overleaf for further information on any of these activities

**Useful Grayswood**

**Numbers**

- Village Hall Bookings 643859
- The Grayswood Club 07748 065 821**
- Grayswood School 642086
- Grayswood Nursery School 658931

**Want a new book but not sure what to read?**

Why not come and join the Grayswood Book Club on the second Tuesday night of each month and have an informal chat about a chosen book. Future books to be discussed are:

- Tuesday March 13th: Double Helix: Reviewing "The Mill on The Floss" by George Eliot & "The Sense of an Ending" – Julian Barnes
- Tuesday 10th April: "Snowdrops" - A D Miller
- Tuesday 8th May: "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" - Muriel Barbery

Our friendly and very informal meetings are in the Village Club at 8.00 pm.

If you would like to know more please call Paul or Janis Smy on 01428 643377

**A Thank You**

The Friends of All Saints Grayswood would like to thank all supporters and friends who came to the concert by the Instrumental Quintet of London last month, and those who helped to make the evening so outstandingly successful.

The Quintet, comprising world renowned flautist Susan Milan; Nicholas Ward, violin; Matthew Jones, viola; Sebastian Comberti, cello; and Leuan Jones, harp, played a varied programme of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Debussy, and two composers new to some of us, Damase and Jongen. Their outstanding technique and virtuosity delighted the audience, who filled All Saints Church. The Friends are hoping that Susan Milan will return next spring, perhaps with a different line-up of musicians, and enchant music lovers in Grayswood again.

Our thanks also to Ken for providing a delicious pre-concert supper at The Wheatsheaf, which was enjoyed by many of the concert-goers.