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Dec 12 / Jan 13

Not Just for Christmas....

Facebook reliably informs me that at the time of writing it is just 34 sleeps to Christmas. By some minor logistical feat, I am organised, prepared and hope to spend the festive season doing things I enjoy, rather than fretting about things I haven't yet got round to.



I realise that my mild smugness might make some of you mutter and grumble, but I say this as a woman with 34 sleeps to go and who hasn't yet remembered that one thing which is key to festive survival (and that shall only return to my memory about 3am on Dec 23rd!!!)

Logistics and material chaos aside, so many of us use this season as a time to reconnect with friends, family and neighbours. We take extra care to tell those we love, that we love them and reach out to those who might be lonely or in need.



The season of giving begins so they say, in December.

Giving is pretty gifts, be they wrapped in shiny paper, or the ones that come from kindnesses, such as your time when it's needed.

My wish for you all is that you receive the gifts you need, and maybe just one that you want. I also ask that, if you are able to connect with people because it's Christmas, tell them how special they are, but try not to wait a whole year before you tell them again.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and every Blessing for a wonderful year ahead.



Editor

Dear Friends

'NO'

Previously, 42 out of 44 dioceses had voted 'yes'. But procedures in Synod mean that a two-thirds majority is necessary in each of the three 'houses'.

The House of Bishops voted overwhelmingly 'yes'.

The House of Clergy voted overwhelmingly 'yes'.

The House of Laity voted 'no' - by a margin of a mere 6 votes.

So although more than 75% of Synod voted 'yes', women cannot (yet) become Bishops in the Church of England, even though there are women Bishops in other parts of the Anglican Church worldwide.

Someday, I hope soon, it will change, as a 'no' answer generally reflects either a so-called traditional view of the Church where Jesus appointed no women so we shouldn't either, or a view of the Bible which does not take into account the different contexts into which Paul's letters (for example) were written. In some places - where women were uneducated - they were not given authority, but they were encouraged to learn. In other places where women were in positions of leadership in society - yes, in the Bible - they were embraced as leaders within the Church.

What has this got to do with Christmas? Not a lot perhaps, except we were all (women and men alike) hoping for a particular Christmas present this year - a 'yes'. But it made me think about God's 'yes' to Mary;

God approved of her

God chose her

God blessed her

God gave her all she needed to perform this special task, which was by no means easy.

Thank God that didn't depend on a human vote - it would surely have got a 'no'. And thank God for Mary, through whom we can celebrate God's 'yes' in Jesus. God's 'yes' - Jesus - approves of us too, chooses us, blesses us and gives us all we need to demonstrate his love to all.

'YES' - 'YES' - 'YES'

*With my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas
and a New Year filled with joy and peace
Barbara*

The Village Hall Committee Warmly Invite you to the First Annual switching on of Christmas Lights!!

Sunday 9th December from 5-6.30

Please bring your lanterns and torches and join us as we switch on the newly lit Willow tree.

There will be music, mulled wine and warm mince pies... maybe even a Carol or two.

All are most welcome



Comedy Night!

The Governors of Grayswood Infant school will be hosting a Comedy night at the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd March 2013 from 7-11pm. We hope you can join us for a fun evening of live stand up comedy acts and magic!

The bar will be open from 7pm and there will be a buffet supper to enjoy before the entertainment begins.



We will also have two amazing items up for auction during the evening - a week in a Greek villa on the Peloponnese and a week in an apartment in the French Alps.

Please do come along and help support Grayswood School. It promises to be a fantastic night and we look forward to seeing you there! Tickets (£20 each) will be on sale at the start of term - 7th January 2013.

For more information and ticket reservation/purchase - please contact Nick Page on 01428 653900, email grayswoodcomedy@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

The Friends of All Saints Grayswood are delighted to announce that The Milan Trio will give a sparkling evening of music on Saturday March 9th 2013, in All Saints Church at 8 pm.

We welcome again the acclaimed flautist Susan Milan, with international cellist Sebastian Combetti and pianist Andrew Ball, Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music.

Their concert will include works by Haydn, Schumann, Martinu, Weber, Blake and Boehm.

Tickets £15 each for concert only, and £25 each to include a two-course meal at The Wheatsheaf.

Contact Pauline on 643798 or lamb@haslemere.com

CHURCH SERVICES for DECEMBER & JANUARY**Every Sunday:** 8am Holy Communion**Every Sunday** the main service is at **10am****DECEMBER**2nd **Advent Sunday** Parish Communion9th Morning Worship16th **Nativity Service**23rd Pre-Christmas Parish Communion23rd **5pm Carols by Candlelight***followed by Punch**& mince pies*24th **Christmas Eve****4pm Crib service****11.30pm Midnight Communion**25th **Christmas Day All Age Celebration**
followed by a shortened Communion**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**30th All Age Parish Communion**JANUARY****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**6th Parish Communion for the Epiphany13th Morning Worship20th Parish Communion27th **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE****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.

Contacting All Saints

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

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: allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com

Pastoral Care—please contact Barbara or Janet if you would like someone to visit you - for whatever reason. You are promised complete confidentiality.

tel: 656504 e-mail: allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com

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: gwynnfamilysky.com

Please come and support
All Saints Christmas Fayre
from 11 am—1 pm
on Saturday 1st December
at Grayswood Village Hall
All welcome

**One More Year—Thank you!!**

The Grayswood WI held its AGM in November, and has managed to keep going for one more year with the support of two members taking the President's and Secretary's role.

The new member year begins on Wednesday 9th January and it will continue to welcome new members then and through out the year.

A fantastic programme of events has been organised to include cake decorating, champagne tasting and much more.

If you would like to come along or would like more information, please email grayswoodwi@gmail.com

The Ben Williams Trust Christmas Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale will be held on Saturday 8th December from 10-12.30 at Crofton, Park Road, Haslemere.

A selection of gifts, wreaths, cakes and table decorations will be available—

Everybody Welcome!

VILLAGE PRAYER

In December & January our prayers are for those in Prestwick Lane, The Paddocks, Muddy Lane, Clammer Hill Road, Holdfast Lane, and Highercombe Road

Useful Grayswood Numbers

Village Hall Bookings 664410
The Grayswood Club 07748 065 821
Grayswood School 642086
Grayswood Nursery School 658931
Wheatsheaf 644440

**Events in Dec/January**

Book Club	2nd Tuesday
WI	2nd Wednesday
Good News Van	4th Monday in Jan
Toddler Group	9.15-10.45 am on Wednesdays in term time (last meeting - 12th December, restarts 16th Jan)

The All Saints Christingle Service
will be held on
Sunday 27th January at 10 am

Everyone is welcome to this lovely celebration by the children.

There will, as always, be a collection for the Children's Society who have been a key part of celebrations in churches and who have raised essential funds for the support of children and young adults across the UK

