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Dec 2014/Jan 2015

Christmas - a tale for today

I find it remarkable how, amidst the noise and brash commercialism of our modern Christmas, the sense of something mysterious and 'other wordly' manages to endure. Even the most cynical heart cannot fail to sense the 'magic'. But it is often condescendingly said that 'Christmas is a time for children' - well, perhaps it is, perhaps we need the eyes of a child to help us wonder a little and see beyond our cluttered, two dimensional, adult world. And yes, Christmas may have been 'Disneyfied' too, but let's not chuck the baby out with the bath water. There is something about the unwrapped gift at the foot of the tree in the stillness and silence of Christmas eve that hints at something more, a mystery, a greater gift waiting to be received and opened.

By contrast, I also find it remarkable that what tiny children re-enact in their tea towels and tinsel halos is, in reality, a very adult and earthy tale. It reminds me that you cannot have the 'extraordinary' without first having the 'ordinary'. For, behind the traditional nativity images of angels and shepherds and the Bethlehem babe, is a tough and gritty tale of a refugee family in an occupied country with a husband and his outcast wife carrying an illegitimate child to a messy and unsanitary birth in a cowshed. There is nothing magical about this literally 'down to earth' account of that extraordinary event. To me it is a powerful reminder of a God of surprises choosing a baffling and inauspicious prologue to his dramatic entrance. It is a tale for today and a mystery worth exploring, is it not?

Extract from 'Sound Bites' by Richard Everett
richardeverett.co.uk

Dear Friends

Have you got your Advent calendar yet? The countdown to Christmas has already begun in the shops of course, and those of you with families will have lots to think about and prepare for. Presents to buy (or make?), food to get in and prepare, decorations to put up, decisions to make about who is going to spend which day with whom this year, and so on. Some of it is still fun for you, I hope.

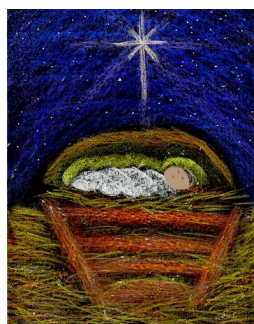
Please do spare a thought for those people for whom Christmas is the loneliest time of the year. They have nobody to prepare for and will spend the whole season on their own.

My daughter in America has to work on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and last year decided not to bother with turkey and all the trimmings, and do something simple instead, but she missed it all so much that she's decided to go for it again this year - regardless! It will take careful preparation though.

In the Church too we prepare carefully for Christmas with all that it means. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation alongside the practical, as the services (see over) look forward to and then celebrate the most amazing event in human history - when God became a human being and lived among us. 'Once, in royal David's city ...' God knows what it's like - first hand, even though in a different culture from ours - to suffer all the idiosyncrasies of human existence; understands family, struggle, work, management, and so on. And we join with the angels in singing 'Glory to God in the highest AND on earth, peace to all people'.

With best wishes for a wonderful Advent, Christmas and New Year

Barbara



All Saints Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th December

11.30am - 1.30pm

Grayswood Village Hall

Lots of fun and entertainment for all, including:-
Children's Corner, Toys and Games, Gifts, Bric a Brac, Bulbs, Mugs,
Decorations, Books and DVDs, Cards, Raffle,
Bottle Tombola and lots more....

Soup and Bacon Butties served from 12pm - 1.30pm

Stall contributions welcome, as are any offers to help on the day!!

Contact Di (01428 654303; drdianecook@hotmail.co.uk) or Shirley (01428 653285; shirley1942@btinternet.com)

Free events
Grayswood Village hall
Tree lighting
2014

with
Carols,
Mulled wine,
Hot Chocolate
& Mince pies



Sunday 7th December at 5pm

Contacting the Runner : Tel: 01428 656504, grayswoodrunner@gmail.com Deadline for inclusion of items in next edition: 19th Jan. 2015

NOVEMBER 30th * Advent Sunday * Joint Service * 11am * at ST CHRISTOPHER'S

CHURCH SERVICES for DECEMBER and JANUARY

Every Sunday: 8am Holy Communion

Every Sunday the main service is at **10am**

DECEMBER

7th Parish Communion

14th Parish Communion

21st Nativity Service

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!

28th Morning Worship for all ages together



JANUARY **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

4th Parish Communion for the Epiphany

11th Morning Worship

18th Parish Communion

25th CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

[Feb 1st Candlemas]



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: barbarasteeleperkins@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

If you would like someone to visit you - for whatever reason please contact Barbara or Janet (details above). You are promised complete confidentiality.

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

For more information, visit the church website on www.grayswoodparish.org



All Saints Christingle Service will be held on Sunday 25th January at 10 am

Everyone is welcome to this lovely child-friendly service

During the service there will be a collection for The Children's Society which raises essential funds for the support of disadvantaged children and young adults across the UK who are suffering from poverty, harm and neglect

Useful Grayswood Numbers

Village Hall Bookings:
mark@stonefern.com

Grayswood Club 07748 065 821

Grayswood School 642086

Grayswood Nursery School 658931

Wheatsheaf 644440



Events in Dec/Jan

Book Club: usually 2nd Tuesday in month (see below)

WI: 2nd Wednesday in month

Good Book Morning: 4th Monday in month

Grandparent/Parent Toddler Group: each Wednesday in Term Time (ending on 10th Dec, & re-starting on 14th Jan) Please contact Jane White, 643891, or Janet Fry, 01483 527390, for details

The Runner by Mail

It's not too late to renew your order for the coming year.

Please email Pauline Lamb on: lamb@haslemere.com for details, or phone: 01428 643798.

VILLAGE PRAYER

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

Grayswood Gardening Club:

13th December:
Christmas meal at "The Wheatsheaf" 7 pm for 7.30 pm (so NOT the usual first Thursday of the month!)

Grayswood Book Club:

9th December:
Christmas poetry reading at the Village Club, at 8 pm - all welcome

Come Wassailing:

17th December:
Join us for a carol singing tour of Grayswood. Meet at 8 pm outside the Village Club & finish at "The Wheatsheaf", around 9.15 pm. Tel: 652667 for details.

HASLEMERE FOOD BANK

This year we are hoping, once again, to have a special Christmas distribution.

We invite anyone in the community who would like to support this, to donate, in addition to the normal non-perishable items:

- ☐ mince pies
- ☐ packets of shelled nuts
- ☐ sweets/chocolates
- ☐ Christmas crackers

before 17th December.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any home cooked mince pies - they need to be bought with a sell-by date.

SAVE THE DATE -

Returning By Popular Demand
The John Shillito band will perform an evening of New Orleans Jazz in All Saints Church on Sat. 14th March 2015 at 8 pm.
Tickets £16 each, or including a 2-course supper, £26.

Contacts:

Pauline Lamb lamb@haslemere.com or Janet Dallas janetdallas54@gmail.com

Supporting the Friends of All Saints Grayswood