



Dear Friends

A survey conducted in 2014 showed that one in three children aged 10 to 13 did not know that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. That shocked me. In the Christmas edition of the Runner that same year I enclosed a picture of a 'proper' Advent Calendar, which tells the Christmas story behind 24 windows. I was bewildered just now when I googled 'Advent Calendars'. You wouldn't believe the variety of things featured from nail polish to booze, from the incredibly luxurious to the decidedly questionable. Most websites had no religious ones at all; on others I had to scroll down a long way before I found any which were remotely Christian. Is it any wonder that many youngsters don't know the Christmas story – and the depths of what it means?



The message of Christmas is engrained in the story. Included are:

- a hard-working carpenter and his young wife-to-be, travelling miles because the state says so, called and trusted by God for an amazing task. And as a result, ending up as refugees even further from home.
- rough working men, shepherds, who as a whole had a reputation for dishonesty, but these were the first to appear on the scene – empty handed.
- foreign dignitaries with expensive gifts.
- national and political leaders.
- Behind the scenes there are no doubt more, perhaps a village midwife or local baker who provides food.

And the reason for all this? An illegitimate but very special baby.

It's a fairly inclusive list. All sorts of people. Some were honest - the genuine article, simply going about their ordinary lives, minding their own business. Others were despots, schemers and murderers. Some were poor, some wealthy. Some were spiritual seekers after truth, some couldn't care less. Some were self-centred, some altruistic.

What was going on under the surface for people then, we can imagine was not a lot different from what's deep inside us today: alongside the joys and delights of life there's often fear, anxiety, longing, hurt, struggle to make ends meet, worrying about our children, our elderly parents - and so on.

Each of us today can find ourselves somewhere in that story. However we understand the story, whether we see it as literal, partly or totally metaphorical, or mainly theological, it has a spiritual meaning for everyone, good and bad, religious or atheist, rich or poor. That's why it's good news; it's a message of peace - well-being and harmony - from God to all people.

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

Barbara

Loyal Service Award for Jean White

Jean White has lived in the same house in Grayswood all her life and many villagers say that you can tell the time of day by seeing Jean out and about, walking her dog or going along Lower Road to the church.

Jean attended Grayswood School until she was 13 [and left to go to Godalming Grammar School] and frequently played the piano for school assemblies.



At that time girls were not allowed to sing in the church choir but had to sit in the front pew with the congregation. In her late teens she occasionally played the organ in church, and when she went to teacher training college she played in the college chapel for services.

In 1954, aged 20, the term she started her teaching career, she was officially appointed organist at All Saints, and this Harvest, marked 63 years of devoted service.

To mark this landmark event she was presented with the Royal School of Church Music's loyal service medal during the harvest festival service.

So many of you will have had Jean playing for family marriage, baptism and funeral services we thought you would like to know we appreciate her dedication too!



Toddler Group

Wednesday mornings,
during term-time ,
from 9.15-10.45 am
in the
Oonagh Jeffrey Room,
Grayswood Village
Hall

For more info please
ring Jane White,
01428 643891

We look forward to
meeting you!
£2.50 per family unit



DAYTIME HOME GROUP



Church House

2.30-4pm

ALL WELCOME

First and third

Thursdays

All Saints
Christingle Service
will be held on
Sunday 28th January
2018 at 10 am

Everyone is welcome to
this gentle 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.



All Saints Christmas Fayre - Saturday 2nd December - 11.00 am to 1.30 pm - Grayswood Village Hall

Soup and Bacon Butties served from 12pm – 1pm

Entrance: £1 for adults (including tea/coffee and biscuit) : Under 10s free

Contacting the Runner : 01428 656504, grayswoodrunner@gmail.com Deadline for inclusion of items in next edition: 15th January 2018

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Every Sunday: 8am Holy Communion
Every Sunday: the main service is at 10 am

DECEMBER 2017

- 3rd Advent Sunday - Parish Communion
10th Parish Communion for Advent
17th Nativity Service
5pm Carols by Candlelight
followed by Christmas refreshments
24th Christmas Eve
All Age Morning Worship
4pm Crib service
11.30pm Midnight Communion
25th Christmas Day **We wish you a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**
10am All Age Celebration followed by a shortened Communion
31st UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE of Holy Communion



JANUARY 2018 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- 7th Parish Communion
14th Morning Worship
21st Parish Communion
28th CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



VILLAGE PRAYER

In December we remember those who live in Prestwick Lane, Clammer Hill Road, Paddock Way and Muddy Lane, and in January those living in Holdfast Lane, Three Gates Lane and Highercombe Road.



Do you need space to escape the busyness of life? Whether you want to pray, give thanks or find hope in times of despair, our beautiful Grade II listed church is open for you every day from around 9am until dusk in winter, and until 6pm in summer.

Would you like us to pray for you? God hears you, but it is good to know you have other people who care, joining with you! Phone us, email us, add your name to 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.

Would you like a home visit or to speak with a priest? Grayswood has two ministers who serve our parish.

Revd Barbara Steele-Perkins works part-time for the Parish. Barbara's day off is Tuesday.

Tel: 656504 Email: barbarasp46@gmail.com

Revd Fi Gwynn works part-time, mainly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fi's day off is Friday. Tel 654728 Email: revfigwynn@gmail.com

Baptism? Wedding? Funeral? Please contact the church office on 01428 656504 in the first instance.

Do you have a general enquiry? Our church office in Church House, Church Close, GU27 2DB is open Mon, Thurs and Fri mornings from 9am -12 noon for general enquiries and is staffed by our administrator Sarah Bennett. At other times you can still leave a message or send an email. Messages will be listened to every day except Tuesday.

Tel: 656504 Email: allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com

For more information, please visit:

www.grayswoodparish.org

Cards for Good Causes

Haslemere Educational Museum,
High Street, Haslemere

until Fri 15th December

10.00 - 4.30



#GodWithUs - Your Christmas Journey

#GodWithUs is a series of 13 short reflections to take you through the Christmas period- from 1st December right through to New Year's Day.

Contact Fi Gwynn (654728) or sign up for the reflections by SMS (text). Get your friends and family to join Your Christmas Journey by texting #GodWithUs to 88802*. Further details from: www.churchofengland.org/christmas *You'll receive one SMS for each of the 13 reflections. *Standard network rates apply.



THANK YOU to Haslemere Garden Centre and the Town Council for donating the Christmas tree at The Club. Angela Wheeler



EVENTS IN DECEMBER

In the Village Club:

Book Club: 8 pm on Tues 5th
"In the country of men" by Hisham Matar

Gardening Club: 7.30pm on Sat 9th - Christmas Dinner at The Wheatsheaf

Quiz night: 7.45pm on Thurs 21st - bring nibbles!

Coffee and Chat:
10.30 - 12 on Weds 13th

In the Village Hall:

Toddler Group: 9.15-10.45 am
Weds (termtime) Jane 643891

EVENTS IN JANUARY

In the Village Club:

Book Club: 8 pm on Tues 9th
"Wolf Winter" by Cecelia Ekback

Gardening Club: 4th Jan Social evening (bring nibbles)

Quiz night: 25th

77 Lower Road:
Good Book Morning:
Mon 29th, 10.30 am

Coffee and Chat:
10.30 - 12 on Weds 10th

In the Village Hall:

Toddler Group: 9.15-10.45 am
Weds (termtime) Jane 643891

HASLEMERE FOOD BANK

"We are in need of the things to add to pasta, pulses and rice to make up complete meals - tinned stew or ham; tinned vegetables such as peas, carrots and potatoes; as well as coffee, long-life milk, desserts and custard. Shampoo, soap and feminine hygiene products are also required." Thank you

Suggested items:

* Tinned products

Baked beans, Tomatoes, Vegetables
Soup, Meat, Fish, Fruit, Rice pudding
Custard, Pasta (spaghetti, ravioli, macaroni cheese), Potatoes, Drinking chocolate

* Packet products

Tea bags (small packs), Cereals (not family size please), Porridge oats, Rice, Couscos, Sugar, Long life milk

* Jars

Jam / marmalade, Pasta sauce, Coffee (small jars of instant),

* Toiletries

Toilet rolls (4 pack),
Shampoo, Soap,
Feminine hygiene products, Toothpaste

Thank you so much for your ongoing support



The Nativity for all the Family

"Dramatic and Intimate telling of the Christmas story"
Weds 13th - Sun 17th
December, times variable

Prices: £18 (adults), £9 (child);
family ticket £50
(2 adults, 2 children).

www.wintershall-estate.com



SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE FRIENDS'
NEXT JAZZ CONCERT

24TH MARCH
2018

ALL SAINTS
CHURCH



Contact: Pauline Lamb on
01428 643798 or
lamb@haselemere.com

THANK YOU to all those who gave so generously on our recent Gift Day as we raise funds for the new parish office & accessible WC.

Plans are available to view in the Church which is open daily from around 9am until dusk.

If you would still like to contribute, your donations would be more than welcome. Cheques to All Saints Grayswood PCC please; Gift Aid envelopes are available just inside the church.

Thank You

USEFUL NUMBERS

Village Hall Bookings:
grayswoodvh@outlook.com

Grayswood Club
07748 065 821

Grayswood School
642086

Grayswood Nursery School
658931

Wheatsheaf
644440