

The Aspect

**Our Vision: To grow as a Christian Community
reflecting God's Love.**

Remember your loved ones on Valentines Day



**Also remember God's love for us and the amazing thing is
that his love is for everyone**

**We invite you to come and experience his love at our
Sunday services and activities**

**Dene Holm & Gravesend Methodist Churches
Issue February - March 2012**

This magazine is free-Please take a copy

Gravesend Methodist Church.
Registered Charity No.1132238

A very warm welcome to our Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services. Gravesend Milton Road.
11.00am & 6.30pm. Family Service 2nd Sunday in the month

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Mr Jonathan Pike. Tel:325728
26 Hartshill Road.Northfleet Kent. DA11 7DY

Church: Milton Road Gravesend. Kent. DA12 2RE (front) Tel:328249

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Mrs Sheila Allison Tel: 535881
Mr Titus Mak Tel:533750
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Mrs Fran Spencer Tel:746628
Mr Emmanuel Eshun Tel:364277

Church Treasurer: Mr Michael Butler Tel:362740

Church & Hall Bookings: Gravesend: Mr Robert Hawkins Tel: 536702

Care Team.

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JONATHAN'S JOTTINGS

As we come to plan for a New Year, we need to consider the following;

- A) Where we've come from?
- B) Where we're currently at?
- C) To who or what are we going to commit over the next 12 months and beyond?

We may face challenges individually and as a Church.

How we work through them makes us / shows who we are.

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well developed, not deficient in any way.” - **James 1 vs. 2-4**

Let us remember that the lows we endure make the highs we applaud

At the start of a New Year we take the opportunity to examine our lifestyles.

What are the good things we're doing?

What are the **great** things God wants to do?

We need to be about “God's business” not our business.

As God's people our goal in life should be to worship God in ALL we do. Are we glorifying God in all we do in our lives?

The examination of our lifestyles could involve giving up something precious to us. It could involve sacrifice.

After all, let us not forget how Jesus gave up eternity for human love, when he came as a baby to die at the age of 33. The ultimate sacrifice!

Prayer Concerns

Dene Holm Prayer Requests

Mary Laity, after two weeks in hospital over Christmas,
Olga Atkinson, after 10 days in hospital in early January,
Dee Bennison, feeling stronger following serious surgery,
Hayley, persevering with ongoing health problems,
Emily aged 11, and her family, patiently awaiting her healing.

Edna Martin, frustrated but cheerful in Mayflower Care Home.

Daphne Abbot also being cared for there.

Gravesend Prayer requests

Those unwell or recovering from illness:

Bill McNeil and Maria,	Lillian James from Shorne
James Cousin Emma	Dorothy Cheney.
Doreen Osmotherly	Nora Lewis
Rosalind Freeman	Joan Giles
Jean (Joyce's sister)	Doreen & Mick Foxwell
Bob Harden	

Those who also need our prayers:

Agnes Hunt	Maxine Fielder
Faga & Mary Onisimo	Alec & Lily Hodges
Emmanuel & Cecilia Eshun and Family	
Anne and Suzanne Smith	Lesley Smith Charles
Trevor Blake Morris	

A Candle lit Wedding.

On Christmas Eve 2011 the Wedding Celebration for the joining together of Stephen Butcher and Debbie Hart in Holy Matrimony took place in the Gravesend Church.

At the request of Stephen and Debbie the Christmas candles were lit all around the balcony and in the windows under the balcony, the main lighting was subdued leaving only the candle light after the joining of hands and the blessing.

Mitchell played the organ and Kate Hardy was the singer, Mitchell also sang a solo during the signing of the register.

The song "band of Gold" was played at the entrance of the Bride. The songs. 'Come to a Wedding', 'make me a channel of your piece' and 'Jerusalem' were also sung. Mitchell singing 'The Lord's my Shepherd' as a solo.

Everybody remarked on the unique atmosphere created. Photos were taken with the candles and the Christmas tree as a background.

A memorable Wedding day to be thought of and treasured for ever.

Come to a Wedding.

*Come to a wedding,
Come to a blessing,
Come on a day when happiness sings!
Come rain or sun,
Come winter or summer,
Celebrate love and all that it brings...*

Sung to the same tune as Morning has Broken

GRAVESEND SISTERHOOD

I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Unfortunately, dear Bob omitted our News in the December/January Aspect (How could you forget the ladies!! Bob)

I would like to thank Barbara for organising our Christmas Lunch at the Robert Pocock, it was a very pleasant time which all the ladies enjoyed. At our Christmas buffet we invited all our speakers over the last year to join us, it was a very happy occasion. My thanks to Doreen and all those who helped with the Buffet. At both events it was lovely to see Charlotte, she is still part of Sisterhood and we miss her.

I would like to thank all the ladies for their support, especially Barbara and Doreen. If any ladies wishes to spend an afternoon out on a Monday, why not come to us, we meet in the Jubilee Room from 2.30 till 3.30, most weeks we have a speaker and end with tea, cakes and biscuits.

May 2012 bring happiness and peace to all. **Sheila Allison.**

Diary dates:

February	5th	Mrs Edna Pike.
	13th	Mr Alan Pooley
	20th	Mrs Mavis Prater
	27th	Mr David Ware
March	5th	Mr Alan Wood
	12th	Mrs Jenny Force
	19th	Mrs Priscilla McBean
April	25th	Open Meeting
	2nd	Deacon Vic Downs HC
	9th	Bank Holiday – No meeting
	16th	Mr Richard Arnold
	30th	Rev Tim Crome

Melva Mann

Senior Moments

Senior moments are when you can recall events of 'yester' years But cannot remember what you were going to do next.

A Modern Parable

The Gospels are full of the parables of Jesus. He took ordinary situations and told stories around them which would prod people into making their own judgment about their hidden meaning. Invariably ended by saying, 'He, who has ears to hear, let him hear'.

What would He have said about the garden at the house which had been empty for four years?

And He told them a parable about our lives for Him, saying, 'A man and his wife bought a house with a back garden. In the years before it had been neglected and become a waste land. The weeds took over and the ground became hard and almost unworkable. Not only that but they looked wonderful, all pink and welcoming to the insects. As the weeds finished flowering, the seeds came and when the wind blew, the seeds flew in the wind and spread all over the garden and those of the neighbours. Once settled into the house, the husband went to work each day. First he chopped off the weeds. Then he began to dig, a little at the time. There were days when his wife felt able to help and she got out her fork and started to dig out the remains of the weeds which were still rooted firmly in the ground. As the husband dug, so he sifted the soil, taking out every part of the roots of the weeds, because many of them were such that they crept through the ground and if left, would sprout and grow again. All these pieces of rot he gathered into bags and took to the tip.

In the spring, he raked the ground smooth and began to plant his seeds and plants which would provide food for the household and friends. As the weeds grew back, so he pulled them out or cut them off lest they take over the plot and damage or smother the vegetables he had planted.

As the season developed so the crops came off the ground in good measure and were a great blessing to all who used them.

At the end of the year, while the weather was bad he rested with his wife until in the New Year, he was able to escape the winds and the rain, and began the job of digging the garden again. This time it was easier to clear the ground and make it ready to receive the seeds and plants. There was much less evidence of the weeds which had been such a problem the previous year. The work was easier, the garden easier to keep clean of the choking weeds.

There was more time to enjoy the garden and the company of friends and family.

He, who has ears hear, let him hear'!

Women of the Bible - Ruth

There are two important women in this story, and it's not so far removed from the events of Christmas after all. The first of the women is Naomi, born in 'BETHLEHEM'. She moved to Moab to escape famine conditions where her two sons married Moab women, one of whom was Ruth. Already the inclusion of this book in the Bible pulls the rug from under racial exclusion and bias, so vehemently promoted by Ezra and Nehemiah against mixed marriages. But more importantly it expresses the love, loyalty and consideration in human relationships. Tragedy hit Naomi when her husband and her two sons die. After a while, with all that she held dear seemingly gone, she decides to go back to her roots at Bethlehem. Naomi encourages her daughters-in-law to go back to their homes and people. Ruth has become so attached to Naomi that she refuses to leave her. "Where you go I go. Where you live I will live. Where you die I will die". Ruth, through her love and devotion to Naomi, is prepared to leave her homeland and to live in a strange land and culture. Once back in Bethlehem Ruth comes under the protection of Boaz, a rich relative of Naomi. Boaz takes steps to restore the land and property of Naomi's family. He does this by marrying Ruth, complying with the Hebrew tradition and customs, thus restoring Naomi to her rightful place through her relationship with Ruth. Ruth bears a son Obed, who was the grandfather of King David, and the lineage of Jesus is traced back to David, which means that Jesus was not descended from pure Jewish stock.

The book of Ruth is a lovely story, simply told, and worth a read if you can find the time.

Next Hannah (the mother of Samuel).



When you get up in the morning and draw back the curtains you could be one of two people. You could say, "Good morning, Lord," or "Good Lord, its morning."

Thanks for the "Socks and Chocs"

Below is a copy of a letter from the Whitechapel Mission in London thanking us for our recent gifts.

Perhaps also what is not realised is that two ladies, Chris Harden and Carol Day often work down below in the Den sorting and bagging up Clothes and other donated goods which are then sent to the Whitechapel mission. We gratefully thank them for this work.

Dear Christine & Bob,

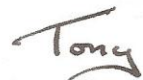
Please pass our grateful thanks to the members of Gravesend Methodist Church for their generous gifts of "Socks & Chocs" and donation of £180.00 which will be used for the Mission's work of providing the daily support that our homeless clients rely on to help them survive life on the streets of London.

With the coming of colder weather life becomes increasingly difficult for folk who are living rough. Thoughts of Christmas and all the preparations, already evident in the shops, remind our street dwellers that they do not have caring families with whom to share the festive season. We at Whitechapel are the only family most of them have and in your name we seek to make Christmas a special time for them.

This of course means that your support of our work is especially welcome and appropriate at this time. It also means that together we are continuing to make a difference.

With gratitude and Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,

With every blessing,



Tony Miller
On behalf of The Whitechapel Mission

Receipt No: 22549
/C

New Year.Good News

A note from Chris Harden.

We were very excited to hear that **Tony Miller**, Director of White Chapel Mission has been awarded an **MBE in this years Honours List**.

It has been given for his services to homeless people during the past 30 years. He has certainly earned it.

CONGRATULATIONS TONY. A big clap clap from everyone

Latest news from the Methodist Church in Fiji

On 7 January 2012 the government in Fiji lifted the public emergency regulations which seriously restricted the activities of the Methodist Church there. However they were immediately replaced by a revised public order act.

This act means that the Methodist Church in Fiji is now allowed to apply for permission to hold meetings, rather than not even being allowed to apply. They are now trying to organise themselves as it has been three years since many Church meetings have been held.

The Revd Tevita Nawadra, the assistant general secretary of the Methodist Church in Fiji, has written to thank "our friends and partners who have shared our stories and given time to think and pray for the Church in Fiji; their prayers have been answered. May God bless them all. We still have a long way to go still, but it is starting anyway".

Please continue to pray for the nation - a special prayer Prayer.



John Hunt Memorial Church, Viwa Island, Fiji
(Julia Edwards)

We give thanks for the diversity of the people in Fiji and pray that they may live together in unity We give thanks to the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma and pray that it can continue to bring a message of hope and spiritual transformation. We give thanks for the Pacific Conference of Churches, the General Secretary, Fei' Tevi and his staff, as they accompany member churches across the Pacific in alleviating poverty and offering a voice to vulnerable and marginalised people

Julia Edwards. Mission partner, Fiji

Religious Christmas Cards

Supermarkets and some big card shops don't stock them!

Large companies buy in bulk from their suppliers, perhaps religious cards don't attract enough sales or give good returns or other reasons.

If you wish to send religious cards why not try charity cards. The Webb Ivory catalogue has excellent good standard Christmas cards...The action for Children cards were great and so were other charities.

I purchased good religious cards off charity stalls and even the Avon and Kleen-eze catalogues.

Religious cards are around in plentiful supply, charities need your help.

You can even buy them online...

Same goes for Easter cards, Charities sell them also.

To me, cards for whatever occasion are a personal thing between me and the receiver. I will often spend much time looking for a suitable card that the receiver might like.

These by the way are my personal views.

Talking of cards and special occasions

Tuesday Feb 14th Valentines Day

Don't forget your loved ones

Might be instant discommunication.

But don't forget *God's love is for everyone and he never forgets us*



Seen in my aunt's autograph book from my uncle.

Roses are red

Violets are blue

My tu lips are for you.

CHRISTIAN AID



A big thank you for all those who came Carol Singing in St. George's Centre, a grand total of £476.00 was collected. My thanks to Vic and Chris who played for us, also a big thank you to Linda, who provided us with a lovely hot soup and roll before we sang.



On Ash Wednesday, 22nd February at St. George's Church Hall, we are holding our usual Bread and Cheese Lunch from 12.15 – 1.45 p.m. Cost £2.50

There will be a 'bring and buy' and cake/produce stalls.

All welcome.

Please note for your diary:–

Christian Aid week will from 13th to 19th May.

As we are down on our volunteers to collect round our allocated roads in Gravesend, please could you help, if so, let me know as soon as possible. Sheila Allison



Waste food feeds 5,000 for Lunch!

Wonky carrots, misshapen potatoes and tonnes of food rejected by the supermarkets have been used to give 5,000 people a free curry lunch in Trafalgar Square in London.

The event organised by Charities and farmers, aimed to show that a lot of food binned in the UK could be eaten.

Official figures released this week suggest the average British family wastes £680 worth of food every year.

Organisers asked people to sign a pledge, promising to reduce their food waste and asking their friends to do the same.

Seen on Ceefax Friday 18th Nov

Sadly Ceefax is no more; the switch over from analogue to digital has meant this service has been discontinued

2012 OLYMPICS

HOME FROM HOME.

You may recall that the Church Council has asked, that if possible, you do not book your holidays whilst the Olympics are on. This is because we need your help at our Church with the **HOME FROM HOME** which we plan to operate during the games.

Olympic Games 27th July to 12th August.

Paralympic Games 29th August to 9th September

As the games get nearer we are liaising with the Council but also need to put arrangements in place for the **HOME FROM HOME** and that is where you come in.

We need a small working group to take the various areas of the event forward.e.g Pastoral Care,Welcome,Exhibition,Music, Events, Catering, Children's Activities,etc.

If you are interested in becoming part of this working group please can you volunteer to Eric Davis by 12th February. We are not asking that you do everything, just that you co-ordinate people and resources needed.

Thank you

Eric Davis for leadership team.

Gravesend Wednesday DIY Team.

We are a little thin on the ground at present with only three of us regularly turning out to paint, repair, clean, etc, etc.

So if you have a free Wednesday morning starting at 9.15 am, please come along and we will find a job for you. Tea /Coffee is supplied so what could be better?

See you there **Alan Wood, Dave Young and Eric Davis**

One of the greatest miracles is the fact that even though there are billions of people alive in the world, every person is unique

The Power of Prayer, God is in control!

Thank you to everyone in my Church family who have been praying for my other family. I am pleased to say that Diane, who is still having regular scans, and some treatment, has been told she is cancer free!! Jean is recovering well from the surgery, has started chemotherapy and will be starting radiotherapy soon. Both Jean and Diane, and the rest of the family, say a huge thank you for all the prayer support. Prayer has definitely been answered. We know God is in control!

Thank you too from me, for all the prayers and support that I have received, especially when at times I have felt overwhelmed.

Thank you very much, and God Bless you all. **Love Joyce**



*Such great and precious promises
Reside in Christ our Lord,
That we might be at one with him,
For ever assured.
Of every promise God has made in Christ,
Each one is 'yea',
For he shall ne're his love remove,
Nor faithfulness betray.
From Seasons of comfort and joy*



Dene Holm Pop-in.

Sorry to say that no scented notepaper has come my way to tell me about their activities, but they are all about, suddenly popping in and out of the Bus Shelters, saying hello and smiling. So they seem to be well and hearty, which is great.

But Melva keeps them in order and they are meeting on the following dates:

February 15th and 29th.March 14th and 28th.April 11th and 25th.

Palm Crosses.

The crosses are handmade in the Gambia and help fund the local church on the Kombo Western Circuit, and rural schools. The circuit is a group of 8 Methodist Churches, 1 urban and 7 rural. It is based around Brikama 20 miles from Banjul, the capital. The schools are a primary at Marakissa and two nursery schools.

The Minister writes; "each year we have a panic on palm crosses! Much fun and laughter is had by all, and after arm twisting, all the work is done. Each year we send out 15-20,000 crosses

As you look at your palm cross, think on the African sun that dried the leaves, the sons and daughters of the African soil who made the crosses, and our Lord who died on The Cross, and who binds us together in One Body, where He is our common Head.

Dene Holm Easter Celebrations.

April 1st. Palm Sunday.

11.00am Palm Sunday Service with distribution of Palm crosses.

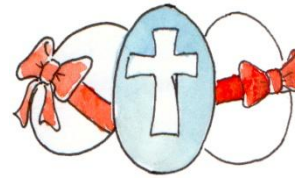
April 6th Good Friday.

11.00am Churches Together in Gravesham
Easter Pageant in the Community Square
Opposite the Woodville Halls.
Please see page 18 for details.

April 8th, Easter Day

11.00am Easter Morning. All-Age
Celebration with Holy Communion.
*This is your day eternal Lord;
Yours by right of death and resurrection,
Yours by victory over cross and grave.
Yours by the triumph of unbounded love.*

Gravesend Easter Celebrations



Easter EGGS on

Palm Sunday 1st April.

Cadbury's Crème Eggs for the Homeless.

You are invited to bring Cadbury's Crème Eggs

for the homeless on Palm Sunday 1st April. Morning and evening services. This is so that they can be taken to London during Holy Week and be given out on Easter Sunday Morning. It will be easier to get the eggs to London at this time and it follows on that this will enable Whitechapel Mission to distribute the Crème Eggs at breakfast time on Easter Sunday. Whitechapel have homeless people queuing at their doors from 6am each day and cook about 100 breakfasts each morning for all these people. It would be good to give each one of them a Crème Egg with our blessings on Easter Morning. We also distribute Crème Eggs to other Homeless Centres.

Please bring as many Crème Eggs as possible to the:

Palm Sunday Services on Sunday April 1st

At 11.00am and 6.30pm

Thank you Chris Harden and Team,



Churches Together in Gravesham

Maundy Thursday United Service

St Georges Church

Thursday April 5th

At 8.00pm

All are welcome.

**Churches Together in Gravesham
Good Friday April 6th Easter Pageant**



This will take place on the community Square opposite the Woodville Halls commencing at 11.00 am. There will be music and drama.

Please see the next page for all details.

There will be more upbeat music before a

final procession of the cross to the top of Windmill Hill.

Please support this event to give a true Christian witness to the town.



Gravesend Community Evangelism

Easter Saturday 7th April. 10.30am till 12.00 noon



On the steps of the Church we will be giving away 'Hot Cross Buns' wrapped in a serviette, to all who pass by, together with a contact card with the Easter Message and inviting

them to share in our Easter Celebrations.

We welcome donations of 'Hot Cross Buns'. Together with volunteers to help with this very important outreach activity.

Please contact Dave Young or the Stewards.



Easter Day Sunday April 8th.

9.00am-celebration Breakfast and Holy Communion

11.00am All age celebration service.

All are welcome to join us and celebrate Easter.



**Churches together in Gravesham
Good Friday Easter 2012**

Churches Together in GRAVESHAM



United in sharing the love of Christ

January 13, 2012

To members of all Churches in Gravesham,

RE: Easter 2012

I wanted to bring all of the churches up to speed with the plans and ambitions that the CTG Exec are implementing for this years Good Friday. We plan to build on the changes that really worked from last year, whilst improving the elements that were less effective. I am very aware of the variety of the Christian traditions and styles that exist regarding the remembrance and celebration of Good Friday. I hope that this year we have found a way for the Christian community to both proclaim and celebrate Jesus' redemption of His people, while still allowing time for some to attend the more reflective services that are run to consider Christ's ultimate, painful sacrifice.

We are moving the event to the newly completed Community Square outside of the Woodville Halls as it allows us to setup and develop the site without the difficulties of closing bus routes and operating in front of shops. This advantage will also bring new challenges to draw crowds up to the site and engage the community in the celebration. To help draw crowds we are developing the pageant side by arranging for 4 different acts to walk through the town centre portraying Jesus at key stages of his life story. Martin Harris is taking on the task of choreographing these elements. In addition the youth of the churches, co-ordinated by Wanda Bernard, will this year carry the cross to the Community Square.

The Community Square will be setup with a stage, sound system and also a bouncy castle, balloon modeling, face painting, etc. This is to allow us to build and gather a crowd of people of all ages to celebrate and publicly recognise Jesus' sacrifice and victory at Easter! The service will have lead vocals from various churches and the drama will again portray the events of The Passion in a fresh way. The need for people willing to volunteer to act as hosts, be part of the drama / pageant, serve as marshals, be part of the family friendly aspects (face painting, balloon modeling, etc) is again significant. I would like to invite anyone who is interested in being involved in the acting / performance side of the event to come along to the **City Praise Centre 'Base Camp' at Lower Higham Road on Monday 30th of January 7:30pm**. You'll be able to meet some of the other people and get involved in the either the walking pageant or Passion performance as appropriate.

If you are interested in being a marshal, host or manning the bouncy castle, face painting or balloon modeling then please email or phone me (contact details below) so I can link you up to the right teams. Thank you for being willing to consider being part of the team that makes this happen and I look forward to working with you,

Graeme Baldwin
Chair CTG



United in sharing the love of Christ



What is it?

What is happening?

How does it work?

How do I join in?

Do we need it?

We want everyone who is at all interested in our local foodbank to come along to our open meeting:

**Thursday February 9th 7:30pm
@ RCCG Life Start Connections
St. Clements Close, Northfleet
DA11 7RU**

Please come along and discover more about this fantastic opportunity and lets make this a reality in our town! God's people working together filling a need to spreading the great news about God!



A note from the Editor

The Editor is very pleased with the response for articles to be included in the magazine. Due to limits of space not everything can be included .I pack it as tight as possible, however articles that are timeless will be held over for future issues. The intention is that the magazine will become a good outreach tool. **Bob-the-Ed**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN NEWS



We try and raise some funds for Action for Children all year round and your continued help and support is much appreciated.

I get a steady stream of home collecting boxes given to me during the year and the books and the cards at church sell all year as well.

Supporter Towards the end of the year you buy diaries from me so willingly, and then we go Carol Singing at Asda which we did on December 2nd – We sang for a couple of hours and raised £176.27. Thank you to those who came and sang with us, thanks to Mitchell for playing the keyboard and also thanks to Linda & Steve for welcoming us back to their home afterwards.

We also placed collecting boxes on the tables at the Milton Mini Meals Christmas Dinner on December 13th and collected £20.89. Thanks everybody.

And the collections at the Christmas services were in aid of Action for Children and raised £168.95.

Dene Holm Church also gave their Christmas collection of £100 to us, and we are grateful to them for that.

Robert Hardy

Treasurer - Gravesend Action for Children Support Group



Dickens in Kent

Dickens in Kent – An illustrated talk.

Saturday 11th February 2012

At Chalk Parish Hall, Lower Higham Road, Chalk

Starts 7.00pm

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian and Librarian)

Tickets: £3 at the door (arrive early to avoid disappointment)

Details: Christoph Bull 01474 320156

"GOD & STUFF"

NEWS FROM GMC YOUTH CHURCH

"10:22" is for young people between the ages of 10 and 22, hence the name.

However, it doesn't just represent the age range.

We have also taken a verse from the book of Hebrews in the Bible to remind us what we're about as a group. "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith..."

"10:22" is where young people can get together, play games and talk about God and stuff.

We take part in young people's events, getting together with young people from other churches and we organise "Youth Services" at our church.

Meeting like this gives us the opportunity to make new friends.

It also helps me as a person to know that I'm not on my own. That there are other young people like me, who believe in God and that he loved us so much that he sent his only Son to die for us.

It helps me to look at the world in a different light, hearing about how other people have become Christians and the difference it's made in their lives. Abigail Pike

When asked what "10:22" was all about, the simple response was "God and stuff", it was for that reason that we decided to use this to head up the new regular page from our young people.

Our aim is that God is at the centre of all the stuff we do with "10:22".

From Youth Services to Street Evangelism to spending time with friends, we look to draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

We are always looking for new members:

So if you're aged between 10-22 then please join us on Sundays at 26 Hartshill Rd between 6pm-7.30pm.

Ring Jonathan on 325728 for more information.

Flowers for Gravesend

As always, this is reminding everyone, and thanking our wonderful "flower arrangers", for the ever present flowers in Church.

We thank Dorothy for all the work she has done in the past, and wish her speedy recovery back to good health



In the meantime thank you to Jean and Pauline, who continue to work so hard each week to give us our flower displays. (If anyone would like to help with flower decorating, please let Jean or Pauline know, they would love the extra help!). Finally of course, we need financial support to buy the flowers!!

If you would like to give a donation towards flowers, to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please speak to me, 01474 814706, or one of the stewards.

Many thanks for your support over the past few months. **Margaret Young**

Milton Road Mini - Meals

Did You Know.....?

Every **Tuesday**, we hold our "**Minimeals**" (which is a drop in for a light lunch), in the **Jubilee room, from 12, 30 until 2pm.**

We offer a hot meal, or a variety of jacket potatoes with various fillings, followed by a dessert.

Do come, it's a friendly atmosphere, and it saves you having to cook at home!!!!.We'd love to see you.

If you would like to join the merry workers in the kitchen, we'd love to have your help. Just one Tuesday each month.

Ask myself or Linda Brereton, or one of the stewards, for details
Margaret Young 01474 814706.

Copyright?

What is the definition of Copyright?

The Oxford Dictionary definition:

The exclusive legal right, given to the originator or his or her assignee for a fixed number of years, to print, publish, perform, film, or record literary, artistic or musical material, and to authorise others to do the same.

So if you read just inside any book or the last page of most magazine it will explain their rights of copy right, basically not copy any part of it for transmission without their permission.

Same goes for C.D's and records, read the covers.

There is lot going on about 'piracy' laws which means copying is going on and infringing copyright laws. With the onset of the internet this has become even more so.

We, as a Church are bound to hold certain licences which are renewed annually, but not everything is covered by these. Clips on the AV and some songs are not covered.

We now are required to keep a record of all song/hymns played on our premises. This includes services, funerals, marriages, events, clubs, street pastors, junior church etc. A copy of the order of service has to be kept and forwarded to Linda Brereton...

These registers need to be kept up to date and are subject to inspection by the various licensing authorities. (Some pubs and clubs have been fined recently for not complying with the law.)

The same goes for Church literature, magazines etc.

With our Church magazine I am very much aware of the copy right acts, (one church got it wrong and faced a hefty fine, but got lucky with a slap on the wrist.)

So, if articles are sent to me I check them out. If I wish for an article from another magazine, I seek permission. Newspaper articles are mine fields with sometimes hefty fees, but that is their living.

If we show that we are keeping within the spirit of the copyright law, then we will have no trouble. Please help us to keep that way.

Many Thanks

I would like to thank all those who sent me cards this Christmas and also for the box of biscuits from the Church. Thank you for the group of carol singers who visited just prior to Christmas – I appreciated their coming. Wishing you all a Happy and healthy New Year
God bless. **Agnes Hunt**

And also

Thank you, Thank you to all the kind people who came to visit me, send beautiful cards and the lovely flowers.

Thank you for all your prayers. Much appreciated.

God Bless you all, **Ann Smith.**

J Club Gravesend

Our J-Club, for 5-11 year olds, which runs every Tuesday from 6-7.30pm in the Jubilee Room, is enjoying a "Big Top" theme.

We are learning about all the men of the bible who did amazing things –such as the strong man Samson, the flame thrower Elijah, the lion tamer Daniel and the ringleader Moses.

We are in serious need of items for our crafts each week for the current theme and the coming theme related to Easter.

If you are able to make any donations, financially or physically – please see Kathryn de Freitas for a list of our requirements.

Kathryn can also be reached on 0754 893 5445 or **kathryn.defreitas@gmail.com.**

Gravesend Half Term Holiday Club.

There is a Half term Holiday Club planned for 4 – 8th June.

Please can you volunteer your services.

If interested, (however large or small) please contact Kathryn de Freitas or Jonathan Pike.

CHRISTMAS AT DENE HOLM-A TIME OF GIVING

1. DENE HOLM'S TOY SERVICE MEETS LOCAL NEEDS

Those coming to Dene Holm's annual toy service each November have always responded generously. This year was no exception.

However, where we sent the gifts was different. For some years we have passed them to the local KCC Social Services for distribution at Christmas to homeless families in their care. When we approached them again last October, they showed little interest in receiving them again. So we asked the local Salvation Army if they could take the gifts. Their response could be described as "with open arms". So, following the All-Age Family Service on 20th November, and several later gifts from the Brownies, we had 8 large black sackfuls of toys, games, variety packs of sweets, and a few low value gift cards, to take to the Gravesend Citadel. Later we received a letter of thanks from Major Pat Carton, on behalf of the Gravesend Corps of the Salvation Army:

Dear Friends at Dene Holm,

Many, many thanks for your generous donations of toys, which Martin delivered to us recently. It was good of you to think of us at the Salvation Army at this time. We recognise that the whole of your Church community contributed in some way and are really grateful for all your efforts.

We at the Gravesend Corps of the Salvation Army try as best we can to help those in need, by giving food and toys for those in immediate need in the community. However, we can only distribute what we in turn are given, or can afford to purchase.

Rest assured that your gifts will be well used, and those in need in the Borough will benefit from your giving.

2. CHRISTINGLES AND CASH

6pm on the evening of Christmas Eve is when Dene Holm has, for many years, held its Christingle Service.

This year well over 50 of all ages came together to make this service the starting point of their Christmas celebrations. It is a special moment

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when we encircle the church, and sing the closing carol by the light of the lit Christingles. We were grateful to Jonathan Pike who led this service, after it was realised that those compiling the Circuit's Preaching Plan had failed to allocate anyone to lead it. In the offertory, we invited everyone present to give gifts to the charity, "Action for Children". Its aim is simple but challenging. It is, "to help the UK's most vulnerable children and young people achieve their full potential." Including the Gift Aid tax that will be recovered on some of the gifts given that evening, the total raised was the encouraging amount of £108.59.

3. CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING

Jenny Force came to us on Christmas Day morning to lead our praise and worship. The emphasis now was not on our "giving", but on "receiving". As we gave thanks for the "Greatest Gift of All" that had been given to all of us at Christmas, we were also encouraged to "bring a present to show". This was something that Alan Fielder's grand-children entered into with great enthusiasm!

And so, we went away and dispersed ourselves to tuck into Christmas dinners at home or at various points across N W Kent. As we did so we gave thanks for what we had been able to give, but also for the gifts that we had been given.

SHORT-SLEEVED SHIRTS AND WARM SUNSHINE

Does it seem a bit early to be thinking about such things? These words can be brought to mind by the phrase, "Summer Holiday Club". But, at Dene Holm we plan to meet in early February to start making our plans for a 2012 Holiday Club and a Fun Morning.

However, one possibility that we will look at is whether it may be better to hold the Club not in the summer, but in the second week of the Easter school holidays. We might need to do that to avoid clashing with other holiday clubs that are being arranged in the Gravesend area and in which some of the children and helpers may be involved. We will let you know once a decision has been made.



Here is the latest news about our 21st Century Project fundraising. The current total raised towards the project is, at the time of writing, £19432.

We held a quiz on November 19th which raised £250 – thank you to all those who took part.

The 2012 Calendar has now sold out, thanks to you all for your photos and for buying it – plans are now under way for a 2013 version so please get snapping NOW and send in your seasonal photos.

On Saturday 21st January we held a puzzle evening – a great evening raising £211.

And on Sunday 22nd January – our morning service was a Celebration service to mark 2 years of fundraising, a really good service and thanks to all who put it together and took part.

Some dates of future events – please make a note – we look forward to your support:

Quiz Evening on Saturday 17th March

May Fayre – Saturday 19th May

Garden Party - Monday 4th June to tie in with The Queens Diamond Jubilee

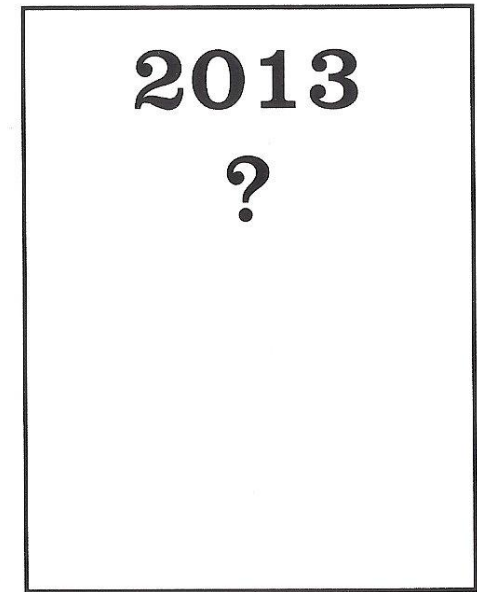
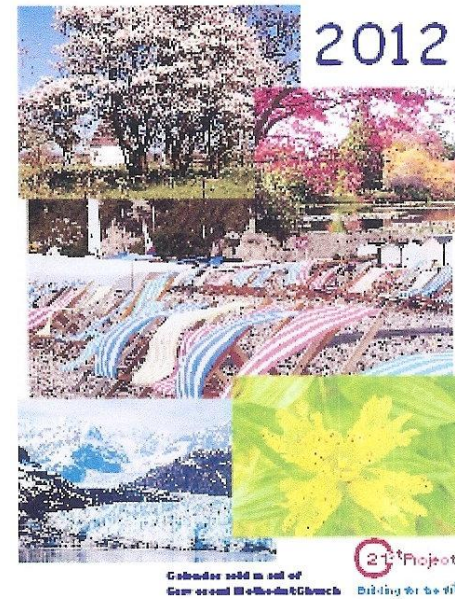
Promise Auction – Saturday 30th June

In addition to these events we will, once again, be 'Counting our Blessings for Lent'

The Saturday coffee mornings continue – please do come and visit between 10.30 and midday EVERY Saturday.

Home donation boxes continue to help swell the fund; some of you have not yet given yours to me for emptying, please can you do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, if you need any further information about any of the above please ask me. **Robert Hardy**



2013 Church Calendar

Hopefully our 2012 calendar is gracing a wall in your, a friends or relatives house. We are even told that Australia is now graced with our publication! Well, there can only be a 2013 calendar if you get out there and take your digital photos; preferably in landscape format, (wide not tall), of good quality and interesting subjects. So, as last year, it is over to you. Snow subjects may be in short supply locally this year but I am sure lots of photo opportunities will arise wherever you are; so why not pop your camera in the car or your coat and bring it out when something lights up your eyes.

Photos need to be in by the end of September 2012 please; so you have plenty of time.

I look forward to seeing them.

Thanks

Eric Davis
for C21st Project group.



NEWS FROM GRAVESEND STREET PASTORS FEBRUARY 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

I extend a very big “thank you” to all of you who have supported us in some way over the past year, through prayer, financially or practically. Everyone working together as “parts of the body of Christ” has meant that we have been able to serve our local community with Street Pastors on Gravesend’s streets almost every Friday and Saturday night and covered all costs. We have witnessed the power of prayer in calming our streets, so much so, that on Radio Kent recently, Cl Lee Russell hit the headlines when he said that the “Kent Police would like to see Street Pastors, Christian volunteers, on the streets of every town in the county. Street Pastors make a great positive contribution to diffusing tensions and reducing the incidences of crime and disorder”. The impact of Street Pastors being on the streets at night is being felt! We were one of the highly honoured Kent groups to recently be awarded with the Chief Constable’s “Certificate of appreciation” by the High Sheriff of Kent.

Last year saw us sending out teams on Saturday nights as well as Friday, and this has led to a rise in the number of people we have made contact with and a huge increase in the number of pairs of flip-flops and bottled water distributed. Street Pastors have supported a young man involved in an assault, as his terror emerged that this incident might cost him his job and security for his family. We have watched over and prayed for a lady sleeping rough outside the Civic Centre until one day she disappeared and we pleased accommodation has been found for her. We have posed for photographs with people having special birthdays and we have stayed with a person on the roadside, being violently ill, until friends or family have arrived to take the person home or we can escort them to a taxi. We have stood on draughty street corners, praying for potentially violent situations to dissipate and given thanks when the situation calms down.

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We have listened to people’s fears and worries and shared their burdens. We have tried to be Jesus’ eyes, ears, mouth and heart and to show love to others, even when we are despised, mocked or ridiculed.

We have been gratified by the number of people who trouble to thank us for being there, for helping when help was needed.

Our teams have been brilliant, but some people are tired, some are growing older, some have left and we desperately need to encourage others to come forward to take up this ministry, to be able to continue a full programme this year, when we may also be called to help with other events like the Olympic torch procession. And this is where WE NEED YOU! My Bible readings this week have been about God’s call to Abram, to leave his home and travel into an unknown territory, trusting in God’s promises, even if the future was uncertain. Whatever age you are, God has a purpose for you. Are you open to Him calling you to train as a Street Pastor this year, or to join a prayer team? Can you support someone else to make this step? Where we see insurmountable problems, God sees an opportunity and He will be with you in whatever steps you take. Please consider this prayerfully and if you feel called to train as a Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor, please contact me immediately to arrange an observer night. Yes – there is even the chance of a trial run before commitment! We hope training will commence in March/April, but need to recruit now!

Thank you for your vital on-going support. Yours, excitedly in Christ
Anne Jenkins. Gravesend Street Pastors Co-ordinator Tel: **01474 568498**
(Monday & Thursday 9am -5pm) or
07570 883896 (leave a message and I will
respond) or e-mail gravesend@streetpastors.org.uk



Doctor...

A man asked his doctor if he thought he would live to be a hundred. The doctor asked the man, “Do you drink or smoke?” “No” he replied. “I’ve never done either.” “Do you gamble, drive fast cars, and fool around with women.” “No I have never done any of those things either.” “Well then,” said the doctor, “What do you want to live be a hundred for?”

Dene Holm Methodist Church
A very Warm welcome our Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services

11.00am and 4.30pm.Parade and Family service 3rd Sunday in the month.

Pastoral and Outreach Worker: Mr Jonathan Pike
 26 Hartshill Road.Northfleet.Kent.DA11 7DY

Tel:325728

Senior Church Steward	Mr Ian Angel	Tel:358505
Stewards	Mr Martin Prater	Tel:812330
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Sylvia Angel	Tel:358505
Church Treasurer	Mr Brian Laws	Tel:833456
Church Bookings	Mrs Sylvia Angel	Tel:358505

Church Website: www.gravesendmethodistchurch.org.uk

Ebbfleet Rainbow Centre

Rose Street Northfleet DA11 9EQ

Tel:321221

Centre open Tuesday-Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm

Wait awhile

*If after Church you wait awhile.
 Someone will greet you with a smile.
 But, if you quickly rise and flee,
 We'll seem cold and stiff, maybe
 The one beside you in the pew
 Is, perhaps a stranger too.
 All here like you, have fears and cares,
 All of us need each other's prayers
 In fellowship we bid you meet,
 With us around God's Mercy seat*

Seen in a card from Grasmere Methodist Church.

Reporting of dates and Events:

People have expressed their concerns in the fact that their events are not mentioned in our "Dates for the Diary" nor mentioned in 'The Aspect'

The Editor and the booking secretary tries to glean information from various sources but unfortunately we are not mind readers.

Therefore as with any other news media, unless you tell us we don't know. A simple fact of life.

If you want your organisation or event to be published please contact the Editor.

The same thing goes for the heating at Gravesend. If you do not tell the Bookings secretary when you are meeting, much as froid (very cold) similarly if you are not meeting on your usual day the heating will be wasted.

The heating clock is set on Fridays, so all the events for the following week must be noted by Friday, similarly cancellations.

Please remember to turn out all the lights before you leave. Energy is an expensive item.

Please Note:

Items in this magazine are printed in good faith and are sometimes reproduced with permission from others.

If you wish to copy an article, please contact the Editor, who will advise you accordingly.

Thank you for your courtesy.

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February – March 2012