

Christ Church News

February 2012



12

Everyday

Mystery

Lent

Missions

Services in February

Wednesday 1 st Feb	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Sunday 5 th Feb	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion (Order 2)	Christ Church
	10.00 am	Parish Communion	Christ Church
	11.00 am	Praise Service	Christ Church on the Wells
	6.30 pm	NEW Evening Praise	Christ Church
Wednesday 8 th Feb	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Sunday 12 th Feb Stewardship Sunday	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion (Order 2)	Christ Church
	10.00 am	Parish Communion	Christ Church
	11.00 am	All Age Worship	Christ Church on the Wells
Wednesday 15 th Feb	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Sunday 19 th Feb	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion (Order 2)	Christ Church
	10.00 am	All Age Worship	Christ Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church on the Wells
	6.30 pm	NEW Celtic Service	Christ Church
Wednesday 22 nd Feb Ash Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	8.00 pm	Holy Communion with Ashing	Christ Church
Sunday 26 th Feb 1st Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Said Holy Communion (Order 2)	Christ Church
	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Ministry of Healing	Christ Church
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Christ Church on the Wells
	12.00 pm	Holy Baptism	Christ Church
	2.30 pm	Holy Baptism	Christ Church
Wednesday 29 th Feb	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church

Copy date for the March edition – Mon 9th February 2012

Contacts

Editor:

Craig Donovan

editorccn@christchurcheppsom.org.uk

Vicar:

Revd Rosemary Donovan

01372 720302

vicar@christchurcheppsom.org.uk

Church Wardens:

Hazel Rose

01372 729227

h.rose10@ntlworld.com

Martin Shipton

01372 812175

martin.shipton@ntlworld.com

Parish Office:

01372 743133

christchurch.parishoffice@btinternet.com

Registered Charity No. 1127945

Contributors, please note that Christ Church News is uploaded to the Christ Church website for two months and therefore will be available via the Internet. If you do not want your article to be available via the website please advise the editor accordingly.

Letter from the Vicar

Greetings for the New Year.

Since the launch on Advent Sunday many people have told me how much they have appreciated the new monthly prayer cycle 'A call to pray.' I am extremely grateful for this feedback but note that there will always be teething problems with any new initiative and I hope that including the lectionary as an insert to Christ Church News will increase the number of people able to access a regular daily pattern of prayer (spare copies are available in church if you have not yet received one).

I have found that making a commitment to read one's Bible regularly and to set time aside for prayer and reflection really does enable me to remain connected to God and to sustain a spiritual life and I can only encourage others to adopt this practice if it is not already a lifetimes habit. I've no intention of teaching my grandmother how to suck eggs; I am simply aware of how I need encouragement to keep going and keep praying at times and can appreciate how many people find prayer difficult.

Consequently 'A call to pray' was not just an initiative for Advent but for this whole liturgical year as we continue to journey together as a church discerning God's will for our future. The PCC spent a very fruitful morning in November re- visiting our Vision statement and we shall be widening out this exercise with the whole congregation shortly, a process which will require great wisdom and understanding as well as prayerful waiting on God's Holy Spirit.

The home groups too are beginning a new course of study entitled 'A journey of the heart' – a pilgrim's guide to prayer, and will be feeding back in forthcoming weeks on the insights gained and reflections made. We have already planned a quiet morning to be led by Sharon Seer on March 24th and are hoping to re-establish a way for individuals to be able to post specific prayer requests in church. The Epsom Group Ministry is exploring how we can support individuals in having a holy week in the run up to Easter and there is a possibility of holding a 24/7 prayer event during the Olympics.

It is my desire that as we move through this year of celebration our spirituality can be deepened and our faith renewed as we all respond to the call to pray in a variety of different ways.

Yours in Christ

Rosemary Donovan

Daphne Baptiste

Daphne Baptiste may not sound like a cockney but that is what she is; having been born in the City of London within the sound of Bow Bells. She loved living in London and grew up, with her sister, in various fire stations around London as their father was in the fire service (she has fond memories of sliding down the pole and playing with the equipment when the fire-fighters were out). She only came to Epsom when her father retired, because her mother had her heart set on either Epsom or Brighton as the place they should retire to. Daphne was still living at home despite being married because it was war time and her husband, Don, was in the army.



Fortunately, her parents were offered a large bungalow to rent next to Rosebery Park and so the whole family moved in. After the war Don and Daphne moved temporarily to Nottingham but when Don was then posted to Egypt to help soldiers who were returning from war Daphne returned to Epsom, where she had their first child.

On being discharged from the army Don took his civil service exams and was then promptly posted to Blackpool so Daphne and baby followed but they soon ended up back in the south and by the time baby number two came along, Don was working in London and they had a council house on The Wells where they lived for 7 years. In 1956 they managed to buy their own house and 56 years later, Daphne is still there – Don sadly died 14 years ago.

Having initially attended St. Martin's Church the Baptiste family switched to Christ Church when they moved to the Wells. When they moved again they attended St. Giles Church in Ashted for a while but soon returned to Christ Church and threw themselves into church life. Like many of the congregation who have seen a few years come and go, Daphne has been involved in many roles in the church including being a member of the choir, one of regular cleaning crew, serving, acting as Chalice Assistant, being a parish Visitor, House Group Leader and Prayer Group Leader and being on the Prayer Ministry Team. Some of these all at the same time! Oh, and I shouldn't forget that Daphne was also one of the editors of Christ Church News...

Apart from her husband and the Church Daphne's great love in life has been singing, something she has done from quite a young age. She gained a 3 year scholarship as a young girl to attend Trinity School of Music, where she didn't actually sing but instead studied theory of music and played the piano, and later spent many years as a member of the Epsom Choral Society.

In December Daphne turned 90 and she celebrated the event surrounded by family and friends including many from Christ Church.

Carol Jamieson

New for 2012!



Themed All Age Worship
3rd Sunday of the month

12

12 is a very special number.



Any mathematicians will know that Number 12 is the largest even number that can be expressed as the sum of two prime numbers. Being a summation of two prime numbers, number 12 is believed to be the number of strength, conviction, absoluteness and finality. This gives importance to the meaning of number 12. Of all the numbers, 12 is attached with beliefs of mystery and authority.

Giving more substance to the belief of the number being authoritative, a jury is usually made of 12 judges. Even the human heart chakras are 12 in number. While 12 noon is the descent of the Sun, 12 midnight is the ascent marking the turn of events as well. 2012 is attached with a transformation of the world as per the Mayan calendar.

Even the star signs are divided in 12 sun signs and as per Semitic beliefs there are 12 days of duel between Chaos and Cosmos. Most of the bible is based on previous worship of the sun and as there are twelve months in a year, this is why it is so prevalent in the bible.



Twelve is a perfect number, signifying perfection of government. It is found as a multiple in all that has to do with rule. The sun which "rules" the day, and the moon and stars which "govern" the night, do so by their passage through the twelve signs of the Zodiac which completes the great circle of the heavens of 360 (12 x 30) degrees or divisions, and thus govern the year.

Twelve is the product of 3 (the perfectly Divine and heavenly number) and 4 (the earthly, the number of what is material and organic).

There are so many references to 12 in the bible as we shall be discovering throughout the year please see the programme below and we shall have fun exploring this significant number together.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 15th January | - 12 Months of the year |
| 19th February | - 12 Tribes of Israel |
| 18th March (<i>Mothering Sunday</i>) | - 12 The age of maturity |
| 15th April | - 12 Apostles |
| 20th May | - 12 Stars on European flag |
| 17th June | - 12th man in football |
| 15th July | - 12 Ancient Olympians |
| 19th August | - 12 Strikes = perfection |
| 16th September (<i>Harvest</i>) | - 12 Lines on a colour wheel |
| 21st October (<i>St. Luke's</i>) | - 12 Steps in AA |
| 18th November | - 12 People on a jury |
| 16th December | - 12 Days of Christmas |



Sharing our Story

Sharing part of our story with others is powerful. Often we think of evangelism as difficult, but one simple way of helping others find a belief in Christ is just to say how it is for us. *Everyday Church* is an initiative to incorporate personal testimony as a regular part of worship together. *Everyday Church* shows how we are Christians not just on Sundays, but for the rest of the week and that we live out our Christian lives in the mundane and every day as well as in the special activity of worshipping together.

In services at Christ Church and on The Wells, we are asking people to explain how they came to faith, what sustains them in their faith and how this has an influence on their everyday life.

It will be good to learn a little more about each other. Initially we will add this input into services about every two months at Christ Church and once a term on the Wells.

There are also regular occasions when we hear from mission partners or their sponsors amongst our congregation about the mission causes Christ Church supports.

On April 15th, at 6.30, we are holding a *Songs of Praise* service where we will have a chance to sing some favourite hymns together and listen to why these are special to those who selected them.

Thank you to those who have agreed to contribute to these initiatives. Perhaps we will see better how people make connections between their faith and daily living.

Later in the year we will be asking other people to contribute, but telling others how it is for us is something that we can all do every day.

Sue Curtis

Pancake Party & Quiz

For the Home Groups and anyone else who's interested in learning more about them.

A fun evening of food and fellowship.

Shrove Tuesday (21st February)
7.30 – 9.30 Christ Church Hall



Reflection on Lent

In the Christian tradition, Lent is the period of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer – through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial – for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is indeed a time set aside to re-assess one's spiritual life in many different ways. In Epsom Churches Together combine study material for people to attend or there are ways individuals can make their own activities to spend time in reflection and prayer. A meditation taken from Eddie Askey's book Facing the Storm with reference to scripture Matthew 12 v46-50

*Lord it can be hard following you
Sometimes,
I wonder if you really understand what it is
like being me.*

*The tensions I live with.
The pressures that build up
Blowing me all ways at once.
Making me want to scream
Like a safety valve letting off steam.*

*I don't want to be different
I'd much rather run with the herd.
Be part of the crowd.
Unnoticed. Accepted.
Sticking out like a sore thumb is dangerous.
It gets hurt.
Snagged on the barbs of conformity.*

*But it happened to you.
I forget that, in my self-pity.*

*And I can almost hear you echoing my
words.
Saying to me*

*"I wonder if you really understand
What it's like being me".*

*Forgive me, Lord.
I've got it the wrong way round again.
If anyone found it tough, you did.
If anyone was rejected, you were.
And as for standing out in the crowd –
You got more than a sore thumb.
On the cross*

*And that was for me.
And for your mother and family.
What seemed like rejecting them
Was just one step
In the painful progress to the cross.
And beyond.
One step in which rejection was rejected,
One step through which we're all
Drawn to you in love.*

*A new community in you.
Open to all.
Mothers, fathers, children.
Me.*

Marriage Preparation Afternoon

An invitation to all couples with impending weddings across the Epsom Group Ministry. This is an exciting opportunity to explore the meaning of Christian Marriage and draw on the experiences and expertise of others. Refreshments provided

Sunday 25th March
3.00 – 5.00 Christ Church Hall



Report from the PCC meeting held on Monday 9 January

(See also the draft minutes on the notice boards and the fuller summary available on the PCC page of the church website)

Christmas: We reflected briefly on the various Christmas events which, doubtless helped by the Christ Church Christmas card (and thanks for your help in delivering these round the parish) seem generally to have gone very well at both Christ Church and Christ Church on the Wells. The giant Christmas cards had been well used by the congregations, raising about £120 towards the Christmas Appeal for LeatherHead Start – the record grand total for which was some £1,500.

Targets: At our November meeting, we set ourselves various targets (under the main headings of Vision, Discipleship, Spirituality and Mission) with the aim of helping to build up the church community after the long vacancy. Some of these have already been achieved, and we made plans to meet the remainder over the next few months.

Activities: We also took stock of various events and activities in prospect including: the usual ecumenical Lent Home Groups; a Ceilidh in mid-March; new Group Ministry arrangements for Holy Week; a pilgrimage to Canterbury in June or July; a “taster” day trip to Greenbelt in late August; and a Quiz Night in November.

Acting Director of Music: As Esther Jones’ maternity leave is continuing beyond January, we were pleased to agree a three month extension of Leah Perona-Wright’s acting appointment – with thanks to her for all she has done for our music since last June.

Finance: We agreed the budget for 2012. We will be looking to increase our general income from about £129,000 in 2011 to some £137,000 in 2012, mainly through an increase in the number of people involved in our pledged giving arrangements, on which we shall be focusing in a Stewardship Review on 12 February. On the expenditure side, we agreed to transfer £35,000 from the General Fund to the Property Fund for essential works on the Church and Hall and at 278 The Greenway. We earmarked £14,500 for missions, the great bulk of which will be channelled via the “champions”. Much of the other expenditure is dictated by external factors, but the remainder will as usual be tightly-controlled. The net budget is for a deficit of around £35,000, which will be met out of the generous legacy from Molly Hardwick.

Hall: When the Hall was built in the mid-1980s, the Diocese set a number of restrictions on its use – in particular, that it could not be used for “any commercial purpose.” Accordingly, we have had to decline otherwise acceptable letting requests (e.g. for keep-fit classes) simply because the organiser aimed to make some profit. This not only damages our reputation and outreach to the surrounding community but also denies us what could be useful additional income. We have therefore – and with Diocesan support – applied for a simpler set of conditions to give us greater discretion over how the Hall may be used.

Next meeting: Our next meeting, the last planned before the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 22 April, will be held on Monday 12 March at 8pm in the Hall.

Roger Morgan – PCC Secretary

New Communion Assistants

Following a recommendation from the PCC, the Bishop has licensed Vi Williams, Robert Burns and Tricia Coleman to be communion assistants at Christ Church. This means that they are authorised to distribute the bread and wine at Communion Services. Vi, Tricia and Robert are warmly welcomed into their new role at Christ Church.

Richard Shortman - Sacristan

easyfundraising .org.uk

Shop online at your favourite stores and raise money for Christ Church at no extra cost to yourself

Have you heard about easyfundraising yet? It is the easiest way to help raise money for Christ Church Epsom Common. If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, eBay, iTunes, Early Learning Centre and many others, then we need you to sign up for free to raise money for Christ Church while you shop.

So how does it work?

You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, and a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself.

How much can you raise?

Spend £100 with M&S online or Amazon and you raise £2.50 for us. £100 with WH Smith puts £2.00 in our pocket and so on. Some insurers and mobile operators will pay a substantial one-off donation of up to £50 when you sign up with them. There's over 2,000 retailers on their site, and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase.

Save money too!

easyfundraising is FREE to use plus you'll get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping us, you'll be saving money yourself.

Sign up at

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/christchurchepsom>

Support Christ Church
start making a difference... simply by shopping.



Another mystery – can you help solve it?



Unlike the stone cross in the grass by the main entrance to Christ Church (which, as revealed in last November's issue, is from the chapel of ease replaced by the present Christ Church), here's an unsolved mystery. Who is the "EEP" remembered in this window panel to be found in the memorial chapel?

As I shall show below, the solution seems bound to involve the Rosebery family. The fabulously wealthy Lord Rosebery (the 5th Earl of Rosebery) was a significant figure

in Victorian and Edwardian England – not least as a politician (including a year as Prime Minister in 1894-95) and race horse owner (with three Derby winners to his credit).

Following his purchase of The Durdans – still standing at the foot of the Downs behind the iron gates in Chalk Lane – in 1872, he put down strong roots in Epsom which were maintained until his death in 1929. While Lord Rosebery's connection with Epsom is well known, his close connection with Christ Church is probably less so. He and his family (sometimes accompanied by his friend Sir William Gladstone) were regular worshippers. It is reported that they would enter the Church through the now long disused doorway on the north side of the church (facing the road), pass through the small lobby now used by the servers and cleaners into the north aisle and then into what is now the memorial chapel, where they would sit looking through the wooden screen into the chancel. Lord Rosebery was also a generous benefactor: he funded the construction of the south aisle in the late 1870s for which there had been insufficient funds in the initial construction.

Perhaps even less well known is that the Rosebery family name was "Primrose". (The Neil Primrose mentioned in the memorial plaque alongside the windows in the memorial chapel was Lord Rosebery's second son, killed in Palestine during the First World War.) As primroses are dominant among the colourful spring flowers in the window panel pictured above, it is safe to assume that the memorial chapel windows are associated with Lord Rosebery. But who is it that is remembered by the dedication "In memoriam EEP"?

In the leaflet *Getting to know Christ Church*, I repeated from hearsay that the windows were in memory of Lord Rosebery's wife. (She was only 39 when she died of typhoid in 1890.) That is incorrect as I have since learned that her name was Hannah. The census records for The Durdans covering the period lists no one with the initials EEP. Visits to the Bourne Hall museum and the Library's local history section also drew a blank.

So, my last hope for correcting the information for the next printing of *Getting to know Christ Church* is for someone to take on the challenge of finding the identity of EEP. Could this be you?

John Feltham

Extracts from this month's Univida News Letter



New year, new start and a big thank you from the Univida's Board of Directors to everyone who helped with the Christmas Kombi Appeal. We are still gathering donations, so watch this space for a full update very soon. Our Christmas celebrations included a special chapel service, a concert featuring dance, drama and a children's choir, a family party for parents and a special staff party on the beach.

The public school system in Fortaleza has announced its term dates for 2012 and will not begin until April. The University of Life will keep its doors open from January to March in order to help children finish the previous year's syllabus. We will then begin our new academic year in mid-April. This is very sad for our children who will have no 'summer' holidays, they will continue to work in January (including Saturdays) to catch up.



Ruth Marques will be visiting the UK from the 17th March to the 16th April 2012 and hopes to meet up with many supporters.

All of the young people at the University of Life need your prayer support. Here is the story of Talita, please pray for her as she grows in confidence as a Christian.

Talita is 13, she has been a student for six years and is now in year 9. She lives with her mum, who is a maid and her grandmother. Like many other children in the slums, Talita grew up without a father. Six years ago she was very timid and lacked the ability to communicate and make friends. Today she feels at home inside the project and has self-confidence and peace as she interacts with her colleagues.

Talita says: *"Because of The University of Life I have gained a love for reading and the desire to go to college. I've also learned about God's love which strengthens me so I can help at home."*

The full letter is on the web site www.univida.org

Avril Shipton

Special Giving at Christ Church

Giving At Christmas

We collected almost £1500 for LeatherHEAD Start in support of the homeless during our recent Christmas services. Thank you to everyone who donated and you can see where the money will be used as well as checking out practical ways to support the centre via www.leatherheadstart.org

Giving during Lent

The church year moves swiftly from Christmas to Lent and this year we will again support the Bishop of Guildford's Lent Call. This raises money to be divided equally between an overseas and UK charity.

Friends of the Holy Land support the Christians of the Holy Land, in both Israel and Palestine who are suffering greatly. Funds are made available to support projects that contribute to the sustainability of the communities, especially the most vulnerable, with funding also provided for new businesses to help generate employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation supports projects across the diocese, especially in more deprived areas. Those helped by grants include charities working with people with disabilities, family support projects, youth workers and children's workers, organisations developing employment for vulnerable people, community organisations and projects working with homeless people.

There are no administration costs taken from the donations and every amount given, no matter how small, will be split equally and the entire amount given to the charities.

Please consider including special giving this year as part of your Lent devotions.

Information leaflets and gift aid envelopes will be available in church throughout Lent and may be left in the red collection buckets each Sunday.

The Missions Group

DIARY

What's on this month

	Date	Time	Venue / Contact
Wells Committee Meeting	30th Jan	8.00 pm	75 Ebbisham Road
Premises Group	1st Feb	8.00 pm	3 St Martins Ave
Stewardship Sunday	5th Feb		
Group Steering Committee	8th Feb	8.00 pm	St Barnabas Vicarage
Mothers Union AGM	9th Feb	7.30 pm	Parish Hall
Copy Date for Christ Church News	9th Feb		
BRC	13th Feb	8.00 pm	24 Woodside Close
Pancake Party & Quiz -see page 6	21st Feb	7.30pm	Parish Hall