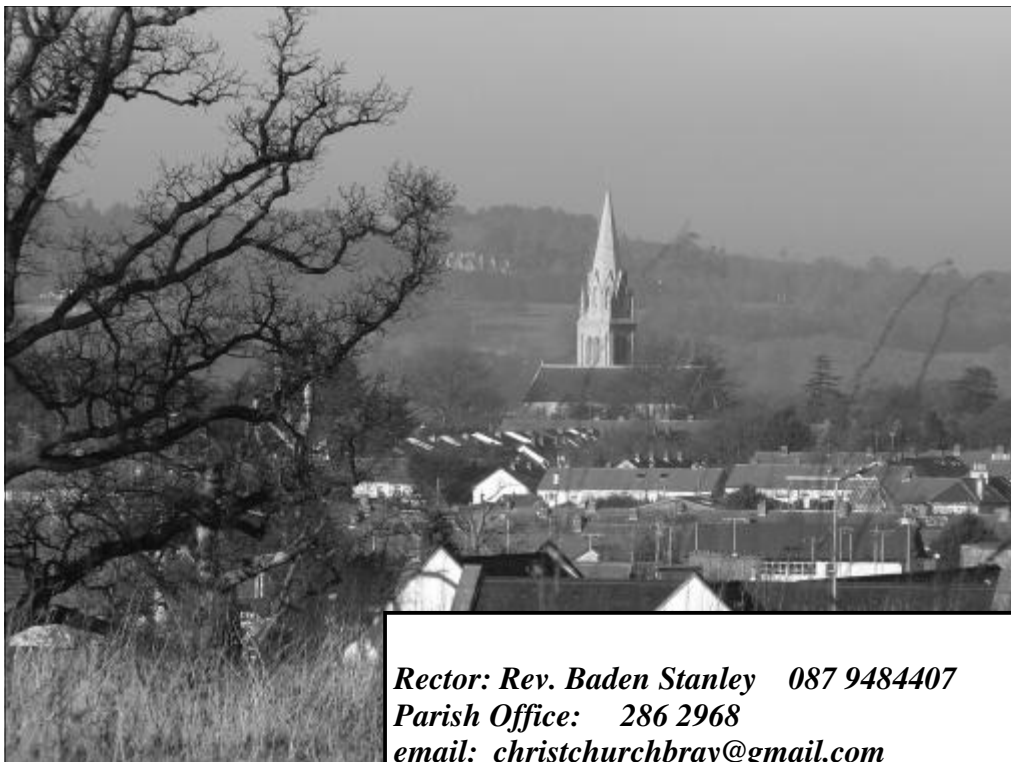


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Parish Office: 286 2968
email: christchurchbray@gmail.com
website: www.christchurchbray.org
In Touch email: intouchbray@gmail.com



December / January 2011/2012

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FROM THE RECTORY



As the flowers fade....

November 2011 has been a phenomenal experience for us as a parish. Our 'Remembrance Flower Festival' brought together many stories of ordinary people who did extra-ordinary things. But it wasn't just the stories we were trying to tell; it was the stories our visitors brought with them; stories of family members and friends; stories of great courage and humanity. One of the stark reminders this Festival has given us is that each story, each person, each family is known to God, loved by God and should be remembered by His church. Over the last 9 days we have had well over 2,500 visitors; we have welcomed people into the church building who have passed it so many times, and never thought to enter. We seem to have struck a timely chord in the changes going throughout Irish society as to how we honour our war dead.

The word 'thank-you' hardly seems sufficient to express how much we have appreciated the support of so many. To name some and not all would be dangerous; to name all would run these notes to several pages. Suffice it to say that it has been a privilege to work with a team of gifted, industrious and committed people from within and from far beyond our parish.

A special word of thanks to Archdeacon Gordon Linney who lead our Songs of Praise so beautifully and poignantly. Our Festival culminated in a wonderful performance of Karl Jenkins' masterpiece 'The Armed Man'.

A special coloured supplement of some of the photographs taken has been included with this magazine. We hope to have a DVD of the Songs of Praise and the Exhibition available to any who are looking for a unique Christmas present. Contact Shirley on 01-2862968 for more details. *-Baden.*

Congratulations: To Rachel Alexandra and Rose, who were both baptized on Sunday, 20th November, 2011.

Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Green, late of Kinvara Nursing Home and to Cissy (Anna) Hughes and the family and friends of her brother, Bobby Hughes who passed away recently.

Classics by Candlelight Concert: Last year, in spite of the early snow, we had a wonderful evening of light classical music in the beautifully atmospherically candle-lit Christ Church Bray. This year we are delighted to announce that the concert will again be held on the first Sunday of December (4th) at 7.00pm. As well as a wonderful (new) program of music by members of the National Symphony Orchestra, we will have a wide selection of Christmas fare for sale. Tickets €10/€8 concession are available from Shirley at the Parish Office (01-2862968).

Baden

Just some of the emails sent to the Parish, which indicated how much the Festival meant to so many in Bray and beyond.



'We were all very impressed and moved by the displays' - *Wicklow Learners*

'I would like to congratulate you on the Remembrance Flower Festival which I thought was marvellous. The flower displays were very thoughtfully created.' – *Etain Murphy*

'May I congratulate you on your wonderful Flower Festival – the Chancel in Christ Church was probably the most stunning and moving display I have ever seen, and I have seen a lot of flower festivals!' – *Ann Philp*

'Very moving and dignified presentation especially around the altar. Congratulations to all concerned. In these uncertain times when we are all concerned about the future we need to remember the consequences of extremism.' - *Michael*

'May I congratulate all concerned for the moving, creative and colourful display at your church. You have no idea how stunned I was on arrival at your church door to hear Mr. Churchill and it just got more and more astonishing, culminating on the main altar by the fields of poppies. I was melted by this reenactment by Ms. Salmon & Co. I should mention the lightest meringues ever!' –*Elizabeth Cremin*

Len and Catherine wish to say a huge thank you to all who helped run the very successful café during the Remembrance Flower Festival. Those who baked and provided the delicious cakes and tray bakes; those who made endless plates of sandwiches and those who used a million litres of water washing dishes. The end result more than justified the effort put in by all. Thank you once again.



THE ARMED MAN - COME & SING

Members of Choral Societies spend perhaps four months or more learning and rehearsing a choral work before getting to sing it only once, and are frequently heard to say "If only I could get a chance to sing that again". That is the rationale behind the concept of the "Come & Sing" event. Find a work that has been performed by a number of choral societies and offer them the chance to sing it again, perhaps in a new venue and/or with a different conductor, and you may find that you can even charge them to sing, if it is in aid of a good cause.

Understanding this, and given that we are fund-raising to restore our organ, and that one of the most frequently performed choral works since the millenium has been "The Armed Man", which has a theme totally in sympathy with our Remembrance Festival at Christ Church, to Tony Swaine the conclusion was obvious – let us have a "Come & Sing" of "The Armed Man" to conclude the Remembrance Festival and raise money for the Organ Fund.

Getting the agreement of Frank Kelly, conductor of Bray and Wicklow Choral Societies, was the first key element for the success of the venture. Sheelagh Harte's talent with the cello was soon recruited but, to our pleasant surprise, Sheelagh volunteered to get us an orchestra of players and instruments for the day. Soloists completed the package, and the wonderful thing was that all were providing their talent and services entirely free of charge.

We circulated the information to the various choral societies, sat back and waited, and hoped - and they came, not the three hundred that we had claimed with a little permissible hyperbole that we needed, but a satisfactory number of over a hundred.

The day had three singing sessions. The first was to refamiliarise the singers with the score, and there were some brave souls who had not sung it before for whom this session was critical. The entertainment value was greatly enhanced when John Morris decided that, rather than just playing the piano accompaniment, he would give us all a foretaste on his magic keyboards of what would come from the orchestra later.

Next it was the turn of our caterers with their well-thought out and presented lunch offerings, including a pre-bookable *table d'hôte* lunch, which greatly impressed and delighted the singers and was much commented on. Any spare moments that people had were spent perusing the elements of the exhibition that were still in place, and many compliments were passed on the amount of interesting material on display. The suitability of "Flanders Field" to the theme of what was being sung was frequently remarked upon.

Then we were in to the second rehearsal, with the orchestra in place, where the more difficult bits were fine-tuned and the trickier aspects of coordination between singers and players were ironed out. After another break for more tea and goodies, it was time for the real thing, in front of a good-sized audience that had turned up to listen. At the end of the piece, after a little over an hour of total absorption of performers and audience alike, the applause said it all. The power and emotion of this thought-provoking work had been fully tapped by the remarkably high standard of the overall performance.

For me, the event demonstrated once again how a well-motivated group of people can bring themselves and their talents together in a spirit of fun and fellowship, and produce something of quality at the end of the day. Everybody who participated in this event contributed in their own unique way, and the day was enhanced that little bit more by the presence and input of every single one, audience, singers, orchestra, soloists and conductor. However, a special mention must be made of the Christ Church team, who gave so freely of their time and talents and worked so well together to make the day a success. And, as a bonus, the Organ Fund is almost €2,000 richer as a result. A big thank you to all.

Frank Lonergan

Christ Church Bray

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by

Candlelight

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Classics by Candlelight is a major fundraising event for Christ Church . There will be an hour or so of popular works from the string quartet repertoire, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. The four musicians are all past or present members of the RTÉ National Orchestra, appearing weekly in the National Concert Hall and featured regularly on RTÉ Lyric FM. Elaine Clark, who is Co Leader of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, will be playing first violin. There will also be delicious seasonal goodies so you can stock up for Christmas! This is an evening not to be missed!

ATTENTION ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ONCE MORE - AND WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP ON **SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER** FROM 10AM TO SET UP THE TREES AND DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS, IN TIME FOR ARAVON CAROLS ON **TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER** AND OUR OWN **CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE ON DECEMBER 18TH.** PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO JOIN US - NEW RECRUITS VERY WELCOME!
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Take a quick dip on New Year's Day

"Bray Charities Sea Swim"2012 "



Organisers of the 29th annual New Year's Day Charity Swim are recruiting swimmers . The nominated charities for 2012 are: Bray Carers for Carers, Order of Malta, Hi Rez Youth Centre, Bray Poor Relief Fund and Bray Lions "Senior Citizens Fund".

If you would like to celebrate new year by splashing out, please phone/text 086 85 61 888 or email seaswim@gmail.com for a sponsorship card.

Bray Charities Sea Swim C/o John McEvoy, Office 3, Market Court, Town Hall, Bray MOB: 086 044 88 88 Landline: 286 0309 brayswim@gmail.com



New Secondary School for County Wicklow

Church of Ireland seeks patronage for New Secondary School for Greystones

Parents need to register interest in new school for bid to be successful

In light of the current and anticipated growth in population, the Department of Education and Skills has agreed to provide a new second level school in Greystones. The School, which will be located in Blacklion, across from the Lidl Centre will be a modern purpose built facility which the Department intends to have commissioned by 2014.

The Department is currently conducting a process to decide who will operate the school and this decision will be based mainly on the level of support and potential student interest that each prospective patron can demonstrate. The indicative numbers need to be with the Department by early January.

Newpark Comprehensive and East Glendalough Schools are both very successful and well recognised models for second level education. They both provide an inclusive, effective and comprehensive curriculum with an attractive ethos that responds to the academic, cultural, personal and spiritual needs of pupils. They provide for pupils with a wide range of abilities, and interests while respecting those with different faith traditions and those with none. They both involve parents and the community in their democratic management structures.

Both Newpark Comprehensive and East Glendalough Schools are under the patronage of the Church of Ireland and provide a model for the second level school that will be opened in Greystones.

The need for a new second level school in Greystones is clear. The need for a new second level school in North Wicklow that can accommodate all Protestant applicants is also clear – neither Newpark or East Glendalough can accommodate all applicants at present. This situation will be exacerbated in future and will present a real challenge as many parents are unable to bear the cost of fee charging schools.

The Church of Ireland Diocesan Board of Education has indicated an interest in being the patron for the school – in order to succeed it will be necessary to demonstrate to the Department of Education and Skills that there are at least 750 potential students associated with the bid of each potential patron.

There is a real opportunity for people living in North Wicklow to secure a school here which will mirror the success and excellence of East Glendalough and Newpark. A new second level school under Church of Ireland patronage will provide an excellent education on the basis of a well established and proven approach to second level education.

In order for the Church of Ireland Diocesan Board of Education to succeed in its bid to secure patronage for the school, it will be necessary to gather and submit the names of at least 750 potential pupils at the school by early January. These names will be drawn from the local community in Greystones, Newcastle, Kilcoole, Delgany, Newtownmountkennedy, Bray, Enniskerry and Rathmichael. This will take a monumental effort, but there is a real push by parents and the community to secure the necessary interest levels.

The effort to secure the Church of Ireland patronage for the school is being led by Rev. Baden Stanley, the Rector of Bray with support from parents in communities that are likely to be sending children to the school. In Greystones, the parents' efforts are being co-ordinated by Garrett Fennell.

Expression of interest forms have been circulated to local schools, but are also available on the St. Patrick's Parish website (www.stpatricksgreystones.ie). If you have a child who will be entering second level after 2014 and you would like to see a new second level school in Greystones similar to East Glendalough or Newpark to serve that need, please do the following;

1. **If you received the form from the local school, please complete it and return it immediately** please and no later than Thursday 1st December 2011 in any of the following ways;
 - a. Post it to Rev Baden Stanley, the Rectory, Church Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, or
 - b. Return it to the Office in the local school or the parish office by Thursday 1st December 2011 and it will be forwarded to Rev. Stanley
 - c. Scan the completed and signed form and email it to Rev Stanley at <mailto:christchurchbray@gmail.com>
2. **If you have not received the form please download it from the St.Patricks Parish Website**, complete it and return it to Rev. Stanley by any of the above methods.

If you have any queries please contact Rev. Stanley 087 948 4407 or in Greystones Garrett Fennell 086 8260761.

BRAY ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

Drama at the Mermaid Theatre

from Tuesday 24th January until Saturday 28th

Tickets from the Mermaid Theatre

Other info contact parish Office 2862968



Details of plays will follow in early January!

All support greatly appreciated—this year's nominated charities are; Laker's Special Needs Club, Jack & Jill Children's Foundation and Bray & North Wicklow's Stroke Club



Many thanks and a very Happy Christmas to all the distributors who give their time to deliver the magazine each month!



If you have a friend or relation who you have not seen for some time - Christmas provides an excellent reason to remedy this! Christmas can be a very lonely time. A short visit can often lift the day!



"Do you think it's God's way of saying, 'Thou shalt not illegally copy the carol service music?'"

HO HO HO

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

George Wilkin 087 254 3113 or
Joseph Whitten 01 286 7139

The Walls of Jericho

The school inspector is assigned to the grade 4 class in one of the local schools. He is introduced to the class by the teacher.

She says to the class: "Let's show the inspector just how clever you are by allowing him to ask you a question." The inspector reasons that

normally class starts with religious instruction, so he will ask a biblical question.

He asks: "Class, who broke down the walls of Jericho?"

For a full minute there is absolute silence. The children all just stare at him blankly. Eventually George raises his hand. The

Inspector excitedly points to him. George stands up and replies:

"Sir, I do not know who broke down the walls of Jericho, but I can assure you it wasn't me."

Of course the inspector is shocked by the answer and looks at the teacher for an explanation. Realizing that he is perturbed, the teacher says: "Well, I've known George since the beginning of the year, and I believe that if he says that he didn't do it, then he didn't do it."

The inspector is even more shocked at this and storms down to the principal's office and tells him what happened, to which the principal replies: "I don't know the boy, but I socialize every now and then with his teacher, and I believe her. If she feels that the boy is innocent, then he must be innocent."

The inspector can't believe what he is hearing. He grabs the phone on the principal's desk and in a rage dials the Minister of Education's telephone number and rattles the entire occurrence to him and asks him what he thinks of the education standard in Wicklow.

The Minister sighs heavily and replies: "I don't know the boy, the teacher, nor the principal, but just get three quotes and have the wall fixed!"

News from the Shack...

At the Shack we are gearing up for Christmas and have lots of fun activities planned - please come and join us!

1st-3rd Class:

3rd December - Decoration Time!

17th December - Carol Singing and Christmas Party

4th and 5th Class:

10th December- Christmas Movie Night

17th December- Carol Singing and Christmas Party

6th Class +:

FRIDAY 2nd December- Essential

10th December - Christmas Movie Night

17th December - Carol Singing and Christmas Party

Christmas Movie Madness - Sunday 18th December - 6th Class +

Come and join us for lots of Christmas Cheer and food from 3:30pm in the Shack. We will watch some Christmas films, order take away and go over to Church for Carols by Candlelight

JANUARY- Saturday Night @ The Shack will start on 7th January with 1st- 3rd Class meeting from 6:30pm - 7:15pm in The Shack. 6th Class + will also meet from 7:30pm - 9:00pm. A new programme for the term will be available in January.

Tots and Toys

Tots and Toys will close on Tuesday 20th December with a Christmas Party. We will re-open in January on Tuesday 17th January at 10:00am.



TOYS 'n TOYS

(Mums/Dads and Toddlers Group)

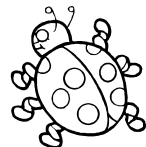
Resume 7th Sept!

Tuesdays 10am - 12pm



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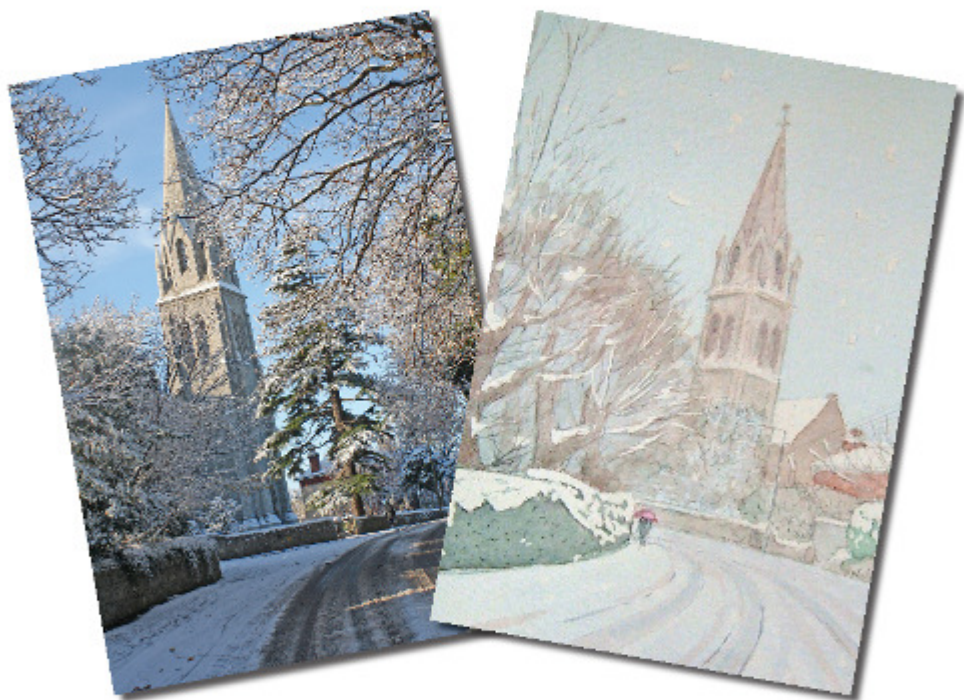
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Mother's Union

Our AGM took place on 14th November. We welcome June Robinson and Esther Sutton to the Committee in place of Hilary Collins and Helen O'Connor who have completed six years. Thank you to all the Committee members who have worked hard for the Branch over the past year. June, Esther and Nicola attended the M.U. Autumn Council in Sandymount on November 19th and delivered 17 shoeboxes for Darndale as well as several bags of knitted hats, cardigans and crib covers for the Maternity and Childrens' Hospitals and a bag of knitted hats for the Mission to Seafarers and the Simon Community. Many thanks to all the knitters. Our Christmas Dinner takes place in the PLC on Sunday, 11th December at 7.30pm. Please note the earlier than usual starting time and also the Sunday date. Members are asked to bring two small items suitable for Nursing Home residents on this evening. A very happy and peaceful Christmas to all members and friends. Nicola



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CHRIST CHURCH – PARISH OF BRAY

Rector: Rev. Baden Stanley 0879484407

The Rectory, Church Road, Bray

†

Parish Office:

Tel / 2862968

e mail: christchurchbray@gmail.com

website: www.christchurchbray.org

Organist & Music Director: John Morris

Junior and Senior Choir Practice - Sunday mornings @ 9.45 - 10.45 am.

Tots & Toys - Kirsty 087 2486368

Mothers' Union Enrolling Member: Nicola Gray

Meets 2nd Monday of the month in PLC @ 8 pm.

Hall Bookings - Parish Office

Bellringing David McNerney

& Jason Warnock

Sunday Rocks: Dorianne Paso

Meets during services every Sunday except 4th Sunday

Sunday Services - 8.30 am. Holy Communion

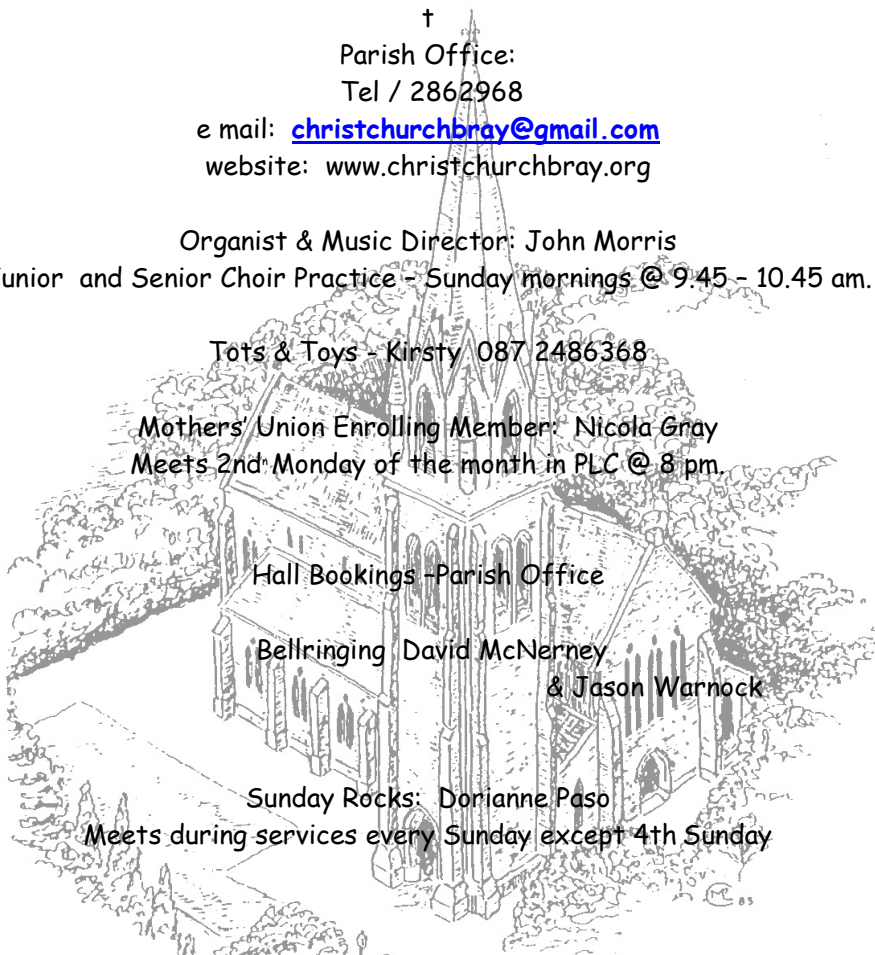
11 am. Family Services

1st and 3rd Sundays Holy Communion

2nd Sunday - Morning Prayer

4th Sunday - Family Service (all ages)

5th Sunday - Healing Service





Dates For Your Diary

DECEMBER

- Sat 3rd Dec **St. Andrew's N.S. Christmas Fare.**
- Sun 4th Dec 8.30am Holy Communion 1; 11.00am Holy Communion 2;
7.00pm Classics by Candlelight Concert.
- Wed 7th Dec 11.00am Holy Communion 1; 8.00pm in **Holy Redeemer Church – 'The Wonder of CHRISTmas'** – speaker Rev. Baden Stanley.
- Sun 11th Dec 8.30am Holy Communion 2; 11.00am Morning Prayer with Dedication of the 'Parish Archive Unit' in memory of Anne Denard; 7.00pm Mothers' Union Christmas Party.
- Wed 14th December – 11.00am Holy Communion 1.
- Sun 18th Dec 8.30am Holy Communion 1; 11.00am Holy Communion 2; 7.00pm Candlelight Carol Service.
- Wed 21st Dec 11.00am Holy Communion 1.
- Sat 24th Dec (**Christmas Eve**) – 11.00pm Sacred Music; 11.30pm Midnight Communion.
- Sun 25th Dec (**Christmas Day**) – 9.00am Holy Communion 1; **10.30am** Family Service (**please note change of time**); 11.45pm Holy Communion 2 (shortened).
- Sat 31st Dec (New Year's Eve) – 11.30 ringing in the New Year.

JANUARY

- Sun 1st Jan 8.30am Holy Communion 1; 11.00am Holy Communion 2.
- Sun 8th Jan 8.30am Holy Communion 2; 11.00am Morning Prayer.
- Sun 15th Jan 8.30am Holy Communion 1; 11.00am Holy Communion 2.
- Wed 18th Jan 8.00pm – Select Vestry meeting.
- Sun 22nd Jan 8.30am Holy Communion 2; 11.00am Family Service.
- Tues 24th Jan - Saturday, 28th January **One Act Drama Festival.**
- Sun 29th Jan 8.30am Holy Communion 2; 11.00am Christingle Service.



***Don't Forget—Copy for the February Issue
to be in by Tuesday 24th January***



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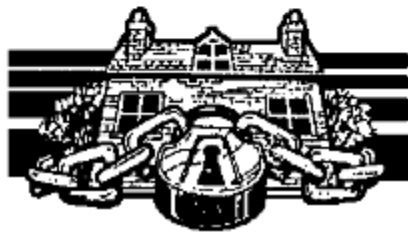
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