



**St Bartholomew's Church,**

**Otford Parish News**

**June 2018**

**[www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)**

**£1**

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

June	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
3 June 1st Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
10 June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Reordering Dedication Service	-	-
17 June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
24 June 4th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	Messy Church	-

### SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14)

**INFANT: 3-7**

**JUNIOR: 8-11**

**SENIOR: 12-14**

**First Steps** for toddlers and their carers meets on alternate Wednesdays during term time. For more details please contact Najen Harris, 01959 522813.

**EPIC** (for school years 5-7) meets on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 6-8 pm in the Church Hall.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP** meet every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Hall, 6.30 - 8.00 pm.

**HOLY COMMUNION** Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

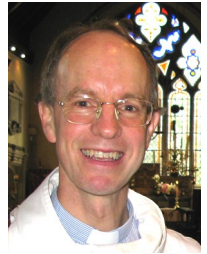
If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact the Church Office 01959 523185.

**Vicar's off duty day:** Monday

Cover photo: Confirmation May 2018 by Richard Worssam  
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 06 Volume 88

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

If anyone had any hesitation about getting married in church, the recent royal wedding would be enough to dispel all doubts. It was wonderful to watch Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, now the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, take their wedding vows in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.



The coverage of the wedding was extensive, looking at all the details such as the design of the wedding dress, the guest list, the choice of the music, the route of the procession, and so on. For me, one of the highlights was the sermon preached by Bishop Michael Curry on the power of love. It was indeed a memorable address, for both its content and style of delivery. The core message came across so clearly, that when we open our lives to the love of God then there will be transformation, on a personal and an international level.

The wedding service begins with these words from St. John's first epistle, "God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." This is a wonderful and profound promise, that as we love one another we do so not just in our own strength, but we find ourselves united with God's love.

Getting married in church affirms the wider divine dimension in which we live, and opens us to us a source

of love and strength to sustain us over the years ahead.

The cover photo of this month's magazine shows another special service in which those taking part took joyful and lifelong vows. All those who were confirmed made public promises to follow the way of Christ throughout their lives. Again, they did so not just in their own strength, but with an openness to God's love at work in their hearts.

In the central part of the service, the Bishop prayed for them in these words, "Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness," followed by the affirmation, "God has called you by name and made you his own."

Like Harry and Meghan and those who were confirmed may we be open to God's love and guidance in our own lives.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

## DIARY FOR JUNE 2018

**Morning Prayer will be said on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week  
in the Cranmer Room at 9.00 am**

2 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

### 3 The First Sunday after Trinity

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am All Together Worship**

**6.30 pm Evensong**

4 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

5 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

6 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

8.00 pm Readers and Revs (10 Flowerfield)

7 6.30 pm Young Peoples' Confirmation Group (Church Centre)

8 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Team (The Vicarage)

9 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

### 10 The Second Sunday after Trinity

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Celebration & Rededication Service Holy Communion**

**3-4.00 pm Otford Junior Choir (Church Centre)**

**Magazine material for the July/August edition by today, please, to the Church Office,  
st.bartholomews@otford.net**

11 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

12 2.00 pm Memorial Service for Chris Masson

13 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

14 6.30 pm Young Peoples' Confirmation Group (Church Centre)

15 6.30 pm Help required to move tables, etc. for the Church Fair

16 **1.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (The Green and surrounding areas)**

### 17 The Third Sunday after Trinity - Fathers' Day

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Morning Worship**

**6.30 pm Evensong**

18 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

19 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

20 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

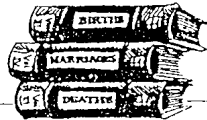
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

7.45 pm PCC (Church Centre)

- 24    **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
      **8.00 am**     **Holy Communion (BCP)**  
      **10.00 am**    **Holy Communion**  
      **12 noon**     **Baptism of Archie Berger-Smith**  
      **3.00 pm**     **Messy Church (Church Centre)**
- 25    7.45 pm     CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 27    10.00 am    Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)  
      8.00 pm     Deanery Synod (The Cloisters, Stansted Church)



*Registers*



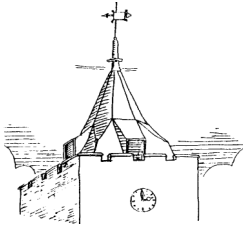
**BAPTISM (Our Welcome)**

20th May     Neil Bragg

**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

14th April    Grace Staple

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on **Saturday, 2nd June at 9.00 am**. We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools, too!

### RE-ORDERING CELEBRATION SERVICE, Sunday 10th June, 10.00 am

There will be a special service to celebrate the re-ordering and redecoration on Sunday, 10th June at 10.00 am when we welcome the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Revd. James Langstaff and others who have played a part in helping us to bring this project to successful completion. The Chancellor of the Diocese, a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and our Architect will also be in attendance. All are welcome at this service. There will be a parish lunch to follow at 12.15 pm - please let the Parish Office know if you would like to come.

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR Saturday 16th June, from 1 pm

The Church Fair will be held on Saturday 16th June on The Green and the surrounding areas from 1.00 pm. The Committee would be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be left in the Church Centre, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so that they can be sorted and priced.

Alternatively, arrangements can be made for

them to be collected.

**Books:** Marianne Bradnock, 01959 928455

**Bottles:** via the Church Office

**Craft:** Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117

**Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves:**  
Susan Reid, 523234; Hilary Fothergill, 524120

**New Gifts:** Mags Southgate, 524720

**Plants:** Sue Stephenson, 523593

**Raffle:** Julie Hill, via the Church Office

**Sweets, small toys or items suitable for children's prizes:** Christeen Malan, 522654

**Teas:** small cakes and fruit cakes to Joan Beacom, 524304

**Toys:** Margie Torry, 524463

**White Elephant:** Heather Stanley, 523194

### A BBQ will be available at lunch time, from 1.00 pm

There will be the usual Children's Art competition with the theme "2018 World Cup" for age groups 7-11 and under 7's. Contact Christeen Malan, 522654. Entry to be in by 1.30 pm. Bring your most beautiful rose by 1.30 pm on the day of the Fair and enter the Single Rose competition (entry 50p), open to all.

Anyone willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Andrew Hill (01732 469538), Margie Torry (524463), or the Parish Church Office (523185). Assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. Help is also required on the day to serve and wash up in the Church Centre. Please contact Joan Beacom, 524304.

Programmes, price £1 will be on sale in all the roads in Otford from the beginning of June.

Enter the Lucky Programme competition by entering your details on the front of the programme and place it in the box inside the Church Centre by 2.30 pm on the day.



### OTFORD JUNIOR CHOIR

The dates for the remainder of this term are: Sunday 10th June and Sunday 15th July. We meet in the Church Centre and each session lasts from 3-4.00 pm. Oh, and we have a drink and biscuits at half time!

We hope to attract young people in the village to 'give it a try'. The age group is settling into the 8-11 range, with most children coming from Otford Primary School, but the word is getting around and children are coming from other parts of Sevenoaks as well.

If you know of young people who are 8 or over who might be interested in singing, boys or girls, singers or tone-deaf growlers, just call me on 01959 523401 or email [cmbishop38@gmail.com](mailto:cmbishop38@gmail.com) Please keep spreading the word!

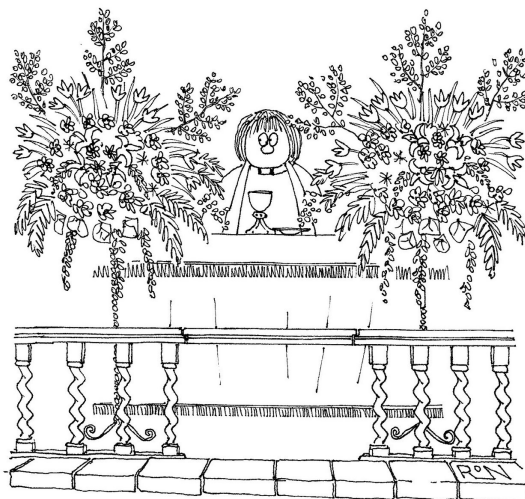
*Chris Bishop*

### ITALIAN POP-UP RESTAURANT

After the success of the Brazilian pop-up restaurant last summer and the Burns Night supper in January we thought we would put on another 'foodie' event, but this time Italian! More information will come out soon but the menu will be such that the starters will be shared platters, there will be a choice from 4 main courses and 4 desserts (choice of food should be made before the night), followed by coffee and tea.

You can book a whole table or ask to join a table. Please save the date now - **21st July 2018**. Proceed from this event will go to general church funds

*Mags Southgate*



*The flower ladies pulled out all the stops*

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### June: Giving encouragement

**Parents' pause for thought:** Read the story about Barnabas on p.14. Try to imagine the ways in which he gave encouragement to the early Church, enabling it to grow, and to Paul. In the latter case, this probably took many forms: helping Paul to discover his gifts of preaching and debating; building him up whenever the response was disappointing; caring for him when he was sick or beaten; listening to his ideas and accompanying him on long journeys.

Take time to think of the people who have encouraged you on your journey of faith and with work/family life. How could you give the same sort of encouragement to the children you know? Here are some ideas that may help all the family to encourage and be encouraged!

**The story of Barnabas:** Read the story on p 14 together as a family. Wonder about it as follows:

In what ways do you think Barnabas encouraged Paul?

What do you think Barnabas said to persuade Paul to go to Antioch?

I wonder when you feel that you need to be encouraged?

How could you encourage people you know?



**Building up and knocking down:**

Play a game of *Jenga* together or build a structure with a pack of cards/Lego. Chat about how our words to other people can either build them up or knock them down.

What sort of comments do family members find to be encouraging? How can we encourage someone new at church or Sunday Club?

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June:** This is the day on which we remember St Barnabas. Challenge everyone in the family to spend it encouraging others at school, work and home. In the evening, chat about how this went and whether you noticed any positive consequences for them – or you!



**Summer holiday alert!**

Holidays are a good time to encourage children to develop their interests or to discover new ones.

Perhaps you could stock up now on a few items, such as art and craft

materials, an Eye-Spy nature book, a children's cookery book, a science kit, etc. You could book a course of sports lessons. Look out for children's competitions to enter as it can be very encouraging to be commended in these!

**Godparents!**

Encourage your godchildren with a book. This might be a children's classic with a Christian character in it (eg Heidi), or a book from a Christian Bookshop (see below) including a big book



of Bible stories. Parents might like to read a Bible story each night before a chapter of the current bedtime storybook.

Here are some books recommended by Christian booksellers:

*For the under 5s*

The "Young David" and the "Young Joseph" series by Fiona Veitch Smith

"Snuggletime Prayers" by Glenys Nellist



*For primary school age*

“Everything a child should know about God”  
by Kenneth N Taylor

“Thoughts to make your heart sing” by Sally  
Lloyd Jones

The “Diary of a Disciple” books (Luke, Peter  
and Paul) by Gemma Willis

*For teenagers*

“Beech Bank Girls”, “The Village” by Eleanor  
Watkins

“Fergus and Flora Mysteries” by Wendy  
Jones

“Destiny’s Rebel” trilogy by Philip S Davies

*For the family*

“The Big Picture Interactive Bible Storybook”  
by the Gospel Project



**On a long walk or car journey:** Help the time to pass by singing like Barnabas and Paul! Why not invest in a modern “Praise” CD such as ‘Kids Praise Party MegaMix’.

**ENCOURAGE!** Write this word in big bubbly letters and colour them in together. What smaller word can you see? Chat about fears and offer each other tips to overcome them. Display on a notice-board during June!

**Connected, Confident Parenting in a digital age:** Our children are growing up with social media, smartphones and selfies. As parents, we can feel discouraged by the associated dangers such as bullying, pornography and the pressure for “likes”. So how can we help them embrace the positive aspects of digital life while navigating the risks?



Care for the Family will be hosting an evening at Tonbridge Baptist Church (TN10 3HZ) on Tuesday 5 June, from 7.30 – 10pm, on this very subject. To book and for more information:

Tel: 029 20181 0800

[cff.org.uk/connected](http://cff.org.uk/connected)

Tickets from £4

**Prayer:** It’s good to show children how to pray *specifically*. Think about the things that members of the family or friends need in order to feel encouraged and to grow as individuals. Pray for God to give them these specific things. For example, “Please help my friend to have the courage to just try eating new food, Please find my brother some new friends at football, Please help my sister to believe she can sing that solo . . .” What would you like to ask for, for yourself?

*Vicki Howie*



## AMAZON CALLING

Margaret Lidbetter



## AMAZON RIVER

The opportunity to travel from the Atlantic estuary of the River Amazon for one thousand miles into the jungle was a chance I couldn't resist. My journey took place in February.

Exploring the flora and fauna, the culture and the people of the local communities was extremely informative and enthralling. We saw first-hand the wildlife and experienced the rainforest trails. We also wandered through markets of traditional local produce, some of which is unknown in the UK, and got an insight into the way of life of the people.

The river varies in width and is joined by other rivers as it reaches the coast. The rainforest

extends to the banks and we could see evidence of how, during the rainy season, the river overflows the banks and submerges the land. The climate ensures that the growth of saplings is rapid and the landscape is lush. I never cease to marvel at the diversity of God's beautiful world.

Along the banks are settlements and the first of these we visited was Santarem, in an area steeped in history and full of wildlife, with a beautiful beach providing opportunities for swimming and canoeing.

It is at this point that the Rivers Amazon and Tapajos meet and flow side by side without

mixing and merging – a sight that has to be seen to be believed. The difference in colour of the water is marked, one clear and the other brown with the distance it has travelled and the debris it has collected on the way. This phenomenon is known as ‘The Meeting of the Waters’.

Our second visit was to Paratins, best known for hosting one of the biggest traditional festivals in Brazil, the Boi Bumba. Although the celebration takes place in June we were able to celebrate the carnival atmosphere with a private theatrical performance. The story, scenery, costumes, music and dancing were memorable.

Our last visit was to Manaus, the capital of Amazonia and at the heart of the wildlife and forest of the Amazon. It was from here that we transferred to a smaller boat to travel further along the river. The infrastructure is almost non-existent and the sort of boat we used was that used by the local people when they want to get about. It is common for them to travel several days because of the distance between settlements and, there being no cabins, they take their hammocks and sling them on hooks in the ceiling. Fortunately we didn’t travel that far! We went as far as a landing stage where



we could transfer to a smaller craft which carried a maximum of ten people so we could have a closer look at the narrow waterways of the river. We encountered caimans, pink dolphins, varied bird and plant life and indigenous Amazon people and their homes.

In Manaus itself we visited the magnificent Opera House, Teatro Amazonas, built in 1896, known as the ‘Opera House in the Jungle’. It’s an elegant building with remarkable acoustics, lavish furnishings and beautiful decorations.

The Amazon River is about four thousand miles long and flows through seven countries. I have seen it in the Andes of Peru and travelled along its final thousand miles in Brazil. The rest is calling!



## IN CONVERSATION WITH ... CLIVE SOUTHGATE

### ... at the core of the life of St Bart's

Born in 1968 at Sevenoaks Hospital, Clive and his older sister Sue had an 'idyllic' childhood. The family lived in Park Hill Road, Otford where Clive's parents created an extremely happy home. Clive recalls that, although he was free to play tennis on the recreation ground or football in The Butts (Otford was much quieter in those days), 'Mum's mafia', which mainly consisted of her WI friends, kept an eye on the youngsters! He is grateful to his parents for the memorable holidays they took together, especially to the Isles of Scilly, a place Clive loves and to which he regularly returns with his own family.

Clive attended Mrs Green's Nursery School in Shoreham and then Otford Primary School where he preferred sport to more academic pursuits. Although a quiet child, encouraged by his mother, he took up table tennis – a game at which he excelled, playing to a high level in the district. When he moved to Wilderness School in 1979, he played squash and tennis too and was awarded school colours in all three sports. Clive also enjoyed acting and participated in HMS Pinafore just before leaving to go to West Kent College to do a three year Business Studies Diploma.

When at Mrs Green's, Clive began a lifelong friendship with Otford resident, Andrew Bratby. In later life each became the other's best man and they are godfathers to each other's children. Andrew introduced Clive, aged eight, to the church choir; Andrew earned 50p for the introduction and Clive earned the same for joining up. In those days the young choristers were paid 2p per choir practice and 3p for a Sunday service with 'pay packets' being distributed monthly by the churchwarden.



Money aside, Clive fell in love with singing (but not doing solos!) and was supported in this activity by his father, a chorister himself in his youth. Clive

still sings in the church choir and is also a member of the award winning 'Top Choir Kent', Cantate.

Growing up Clive enjoyed going to Crusaders and YPF. The leaders of these two groups, Helen and Nigel Cooke and 'Granny' (Anne Fleetwood), played a significant role in his coming to faith in his teens. He taught himself to play the guitar whilst at YPF to accompany worship songs and has continued to play in church ever since – most recently as part of the now 12-strong worship band.

It was after an autumn choir concert in 1985 that Clive met his future wife Mags. Clive had retired to The Horns pub to see a friend who was working at Hildenborough Hall and the friend turned up with a couple of other staff



members, one of whom was Mags. They married in 1991 in St Bart's and had their reception at Graham Chiesman House, the Rochester Diocesan

conference centre where Clive had worked as a general assistant since 1988. The Southgates then became assistant wardens there.

Sadly the centre closed in 1993 leaving them jobless and homeless, so Clive accepted employment as a van driver whilst Mags started her teaching training. Meanwhile Revd David Towne advertised for accommodation in the parish magazine and the Betts responded by offering them the top floor flat of Colet's Well. Clive and Mags will always be grateful to them for their kindness. They stayed there for seven years during which time their two children, Ben and Becca were born. Clive and Mags are 'immensely proud' of their children. Whilst Ben now teaches at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, Becca is reading Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at Canterbury Christ Church University. Both have been very supportive of Clive and Mag's involvement with the church and are active in the church themselves.

Clive admitted that 'life has not always been a bed of roses' – things were tough when they lost their jobs and home and again when, in 1994, Clive had to abandon plans to become a driving instructor on being diagnosed with epilepsy. This led to a crisis of confidence and

Clive spoke of how he came through this thanks to his firm faith, the support of family and friends, and to Mags in particular. He said they pulled through as a team and did the same again later when Mags had a breakdown.

Teamwork is essential to Clive. Not one to seek the limelight, he enjoys being an 'enabler', cooperating with others wherever possible – for example in his role in the Church Office where he has worked alongside Susan Reid for over twenty years. The job offers much variety; although primarily administrative, all sorts of situations arise – from keeping an eye on the builders to lending a sympathetic ear to the bereaved. The job is rewarding with no two days the same – though this can be somewhat frustrating when trying to organise work!

When Clive has spare time, as well as listening to a wide range of music, he enjoys exercising the dog and looks forward to his Tuesday walks with Steve Vigis which (occasionally!) take in a pub. He recently began a new hobby; he hates to see waste so has started to make pot planters and coat racks from discarded materials. At the end of the day he finds reading a thriller successfully sends him to sleep!

*Christeen Malan*



## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

### Guess my name! You can do it!

I was born in Cyprus in the first century - a child with long legs and black hair who grew into the tall young man with the curly beard.

I lived in Jerusalem for some years where I had relatives. You might have heard of my cousin, John Mark. He lived at the house where the disciples felt the power of the Holy Spirit upon them, making them bold as lions to start the Church. But then Saul came to persecute the new "People of the Way" and many fled to Antioch in Syria. The disciples knew me as Joseph of Cyprus. But then they gave me another name that means "Son of Encouragement". The reason? Well, they sent me to Antioch to encourage those first Christians.

Have I lived up to my name? It was easy in Antioch! I felt such joy there, seeing God at work, and I encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

But there was someone else that I encouraged for many years and that was Saul – yes, our persecutor! I'd heard how God had met him on the road to Damascus and that he was a changed man. He was just the brilliant teacher and debater that we needed in Antioch. So I set out to find him in Tarsus, where he worked making tents and stout Cilician cloaks. Saul said he was a bit out of practice at public speaking, so it took some encouraging words to persuade him to come!

Back in Antioch, I put Saul to work at our meetings. He could talk to anyone from the highest to the lowest! So you could say I helped him develop his talent!

Then one day, we knew God wanted us to take the message about Jesus out into the world. In AD47, we set sail for Cyprus where the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paullus, summoned us. I warned Saul that this might be tricky – and I was right! Sergius had a wicked magician called Elymas who tried to disrupt my speech. But Saul called on God and Elymas was blinded for a while. Sergius was amazed and believed!

From then on, Saul took the lead and I was his number two man. We sailed to Attalia, walking to the city of Perga and then up into the mountains, climbing through steep gorges in blistering heat. The rocks tested our muscles and rainstorms left us soaked to the skin. But we encouraged each other by singing! Paul (as he now called himself) fell ill in Pisidian Antioch, and we were arrested, beaten and banished.

We received many a beating and I often urged Paul to take life a bit easier. He would have none of it, though, and I determined to keep at his side. We reached Derbe and then returned by the same route, encouraging the new believers. My name? Barnabas! What's yours?

*Vicki Howie*



## THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

### Fruits on a blue dish Oil-based inks (painting)

A pomegranate could keep me occupied for quite some time as a child, engrossed in flicking out the glistening magenta coloured seeds. The sweet juice contrasting with the bitter bits of skin (and spitting out the gritty seeds) made for a taste sensation that alternated between pleasure and disgust. The enjoyment was definitely more about making a pile of beautiful 'jewels' than in eating them.

I recently bought a book called *Nature and its Symbols*. It shows several paintings, including *Madonna of the Magnificat* by Sandro Botticelli in which a pomegranate is an important component of the composition. Jesus as a child has his hand on the fruit, and so does Mary. The book suggests that it is alluding to the chastity of Mary and Christ's resurrection. Another interpretation associated with the pomegranate which seems more obvious than that one is the idea that a fruit containing many seeds represents the church, uniting in faith many peoples and cultures. Another book in my collection is a hefty *Dictionary of Biblical*

*Imagery*. It states that the word "fruit" appears no less than two hundred times in English translations of the Bible.

Having lived in North Wales for many years, where orchards are a rare sight, I take great delight in seeing Kent's fields of apples, pears and cherries and buying the local produce. Pomegranates have to be bought from the supermarket but I am still fascinated by them and can't resist dedicating some time to studying and drawing their complexity and beauty.

This painting, made a few years ago, wasn't produced with any intention of including hidden meanings, but (according to my book) this is what it might be signifying:

Grapes (the Eucharist), Cherries (the blood of Christ), Peaches (the Trinity, as a peach has three parts, flesh, pit and seed), Pears (sweetness of virtue), Strawberries (Earthly Paradise) and the Lilies (chastity and purity, the Annunciation). Cape Gooseberries aren't mentioned....any suggestions welcome!

Ann Bridges  
Local artist and designer  
[www.ann-bridges.com](http://www.ann-bridges.com)





## IN MEMORIAM



### **Paul Barsby, 1930-2018**

Paul was born on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1930 at Leigh-on-Sea. He was the second in a family of four boys. He was only 9 when the Second World War broke out. The family were not evacuated, but stayed where they were for a while, with Paul's father continuing to commute into London as a Civil Servant. Then Paul's father was posted to Scotland, and Paul attended George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

Upon leaving school, Paul did his National Service with the Middlesex Regiment. He served as a P.T. instructor, based at Catterick. On finishing his National Service Paul got a job in the world of marine insurance. He joined Phoenix Insurance, and he stayed with them for the rest of his working life. As his career progressed he rose to become a senior manager. At the age of 55 he took a severance package from Phoenix, but he still kept up his interest in this area of work, joining an American marine insurance firm and serving as their English director. Paul's work took him to various parts of the globe, including New York, Bermuda, Scandanavia, the Far East and Australia.

It was through Phoenix Insurance that Paul met his wife, Jeanne. They both enjoyed sport, and they met at the Phoenix sports club in Catford. Paul played football and cricket, and Jeanne played hockey and tennis. They got married in June 1953 at Eltham Church and they enjoyed 64 years of marriage together. At first they stayed with Jeanne's parents in Shooters Hill. In 1960 they were blessed with the birth of twin boys, Paul and David. When the boys were just 2 ½ years old the family moved to Green Street Green, on the edge of Orpington. They lived there, on Worlds End Lane, for 10 years, and the boys went to primary school there. The family then moved to Leasons Hill in Chislehurst, where Paul and Jeanne lived for 32 years. Paul would commute into London from Petts Wood station.

Paul and Jeanne came to Otford in 2003 when they were looking to downsize. They were familiar with the village through Jeanne's "Slimnastics" class which she ran in the Methodist Church hall. One of the members of Jeanne's class gave them a tip off that a property in Warham Road would soon be coming on the market, and so they seized the opportunity to purchase it.

In retirement, Paul kept up various interests. Paul was a member of Dartford Golf Club from 1966, and he enjoyed playing a round of golf on Sunday mornings. He and Jeanne were both members of the Otford Society and the Historical Society. Paul was also a livery man, being a member of the Worshipful Company of Coopers in the City of London. Paul was an avid reader, and a regular visitor to the local library. He also took an interest in researching his genealogy. In the year 2000, Paul and Jeanne bought a flat in Hardelet in northern France, and they enjoyed staying there on regular basis.

Over the years, Paul and Jeanne welcomed Beverley and Andrew into the extended family, and they were also blessed with three grandchildren, Jack, Adam and Ruth. Their son, David, moved to Australia over 20 years ago, and Paul and Jeanne went to visit him on 13 different occasions, and they took the opportunity to tour Australia and countries in the Far East on these trips.





## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk) [Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk) <http://michellelowe.yourcllr.com>

Sevenoaks District Council is piloting some schemes where we are working with the voluntary sector to help achieve our health and wellbeing objectives. We were granted an extra £100,000 from the government for our Better Care Fund, which is ring-fenced to be spent on home adaptations to prevent hospital admissions. Working with the voluntary sector we are able to reach different groups to those we would traditionally work with such as older and frail people.

We were delighted to award £40,000 to West Kent Mind to help target the causes of hoarding which has now been recognised as a mental illness. Hoarding can cause much distress to family, friends and neighbours as the hoarding gets so out of control that rats and other vermin can be encouraged, as well as the home becoming a fire risk or falls hazard. Traditionally the Council would clear the home, but because the condition has not been dealt with, the hoarding behaviour patterns simply begin again – possibly at an increased rate as the home clearance can cause distress.

West Kent Mind will use the grant to set up a ‘New Beginnings’ project that will offer 12 weeks of one-to-one and support group sessions, together with a declutter buddy to help clear and re-organise the home. We hope to help nearly 50 people across the District. Hoarding is associated with people over 50 years old with other health problems such as depression, physical illness, memory problems and alcohol and drugs misuse.

We awarded £18,000 to PS Breastfeeding who will complement the Kent County Council Health Visiting Service by providing home visits to families across the District, host

breastfeeding support groups and provide equipment such as baby slings, carriers and pumps. The service will target mums that have less successful breastfeeding rates such as disabled mothers – also identifying home adaptations that might be needed to keep mothers and toddlers safe. This is particularly important in Swanley where we have high rates of under twos visiting A&E.

To help tackle loneliness across the District we are working with Age UK who will fund a paid co-ordinator to arrange ‘pop-up pop-ins’ offering free exercise taster sessions and advice on nutrition, falls prevention and maintaining a healthy lifestyle together with introducing people to nearby volunteering opportunities. The co-ordinator will work with the Council’s One You teams to also identify home adaptations that might be needed. Together this whole package will promote the wellbeing of older people and reduce demand on the NHS and social care.

We have awarded a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who will be able to provide a more holistic advice service to disabled people who may be seeking advice on Blue Badges and/or benefits about home adaptations and other services available to help them live independently.

By working with the voluntary sector we hope to provide even better wellbeing services to our residents and keep you fit, well, healthy and out of hospital!

With best wishes,

Michelle



## OUT AND ABOUT



On 30th June, after 59 years as a barber in Otford, Stan (aged 77) will be putting down his scissors for the last time. On this day, between 10am and 5pm, all are welcome to call in to pass on your good wishes and say goodbye.



**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** will be meeting on the 14th of June at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall and our speaker will be Brian D'Arcy. His subject is "The Tower of London and its prisoners - the famous as well as the infamous."

If you would like anymore information, please contact our President on 01959 524831.



**OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PTFA SUMMER FETE** will take place on Saturday 7th July 2018 from 12pm to 3pm.

Please come and join us for a fun afternoon of music and entertainment, summer shopping, a bbq and beer tent, as well as a raffle and auction. There will also be a miniature garden competition, a large dragon bouncy castle and inflatable slide, face painting, and lots of fun games for the children to play.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL-HARDELLOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our next Social Gathering will be at the Woodman Pub in Otford, 25th June at 7.30pm.

Our French Twins from Harellet will be visiting us for a car-sharing weekend 6th -8th July 2018 and when they arrive we shall offer them a cup of tea and cake at 4pm in the Club Room. Do join us. For further details contact Jane Lawrey via [clerk@otfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@otfordpc.co.uk)

### OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

June 5th - **Peter and Gillian Regan** will be telling us what it is like to have 'A **Plantaholics Garden**'



June 23rd - The **Rose and Summer Show** is the best show to come to if you are a fan of the scented garden. On display will be roses as well as other summer flowers and plants.

Fruit and vegetables, floral arrangements, preserves and cookery, photographic classes and junior classes are included. The show takes place in the OVMH and opens to the public at 2.15pm. Teas will be served until 4pm and there will be a sales table open all afternoon.

### OTFORD BROWNIES, GUIDES AND RANGERS

enjoyed a fabulous bank holiday weekend camp at Cudham and were joined by the Rainbows on the Saturday. There were lots of fun activities with a May Day theme, a great campfire and the weather was perfect!



Our units are always looking for new volunteers and we have immediate vacancies for regular unit helpers to assist our uniformed leaders – particularly for Brownies and Rangers. A unit administrator is also urgently needed for Seal St Lawrence Brownies.

If you would like more information about volunteering with us please email [ggkemsingotforddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:ggkemsingotforddistrict@gmail.com) or, if you read this in time, come and chat to us at the village fete – you will find us serving teas and cake in the village hall. You can also see what we get up to by liking us on Facebook at Girlguiding Knole Division.

## JUNE PUZZLE PAGE

Many of us know the song 'Day by Day' - the folk-rock ballad from the musical *Godspell*. It ran: Day by day, day by day, Oh dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

But did you know that the lyrics are based on the prayer of Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13<sup>th</sup> century? Richard was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, very generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of

his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, the clergy to be chaste, and the laity to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died in 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass!

L	Y	R	S	E	D	A	S	U	R	C	C
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S	E	S	L	R	E	L	T	I	C	D	B
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W	N	O	C	O	M	D	R	O	L	T	P

Day  
Rock  
Ballad  
Musical  
Godspell  
Dear  
Lord  
Three

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nearly

bishop  
sinners  
generous  
famine  
sacraments  
laity  
crusades  
pilgrims  
chalice

## GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MEMBERS OF OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

My 15ft x 40ft plot in Cramptons Road was little more than lawn when I moved in six years ago. With limited space I wanted to make a garden that looked as good as possible for as long as possible and I've come to appreciate the immense potential offered by foliage.

When choosing plants I first and foremost look at their leaves – their unusual form, interesting shape, different colour or elegant habit: well-chosen leaves will put on a display far longer than even the most determined blooming plant. Having a small space has not deterred me from being bold with leaves: *Toona sinensis* is a fast growing, graceful tree that adds an air of exoticism but it can be pollarded and its new leaves are edible! Similarly *paulownia* can be pollarded to create giant leaves that can reach mammoth proportions if just one growing shoot is retained. I love watching the epically proportioned leaves of the rice paper plant, *Tetrapanax papyifera*, and the new leaves of Abyssinian banana continually emerging and developing throughout the season. I've also added unusual evergreens like *Acacia pravissima* and *trochodendron* that add drama and interest in midwinter. If you fancy something a bit more Jurassic look out for *pseudopanax*.

Beneath these giants lies a shade-loving understorey of beautiful and contrasting foliage – *epimedium*, *dicentra*, *pulmonaria*, *oxalis*, *hakonechloa*, *thalictrum* and *aruncus*. *Persicaria 'Purple Fantasy'* is a real eye-catcher and one of my favourites.

In June, the giant fennel, *Ferula communis*, whose stunning and highly textural leaves have been erupting from the border since January, is now attracting a multitude of beneficial insects with a magnificent 8ft flowerspike. Umbellifers, like *ferula*, offer a superb variety of long-lasting, beautifully dissected foliage with the added bonus of

encouraging wildlife – look out especially for *selinum*, *mathiasella* and *angelica*, but this family of plants is huge and includes *astrantia* and *eryngium* whose bracts remain attractive long after flowering.

For me, gardening feels like painting with plants, but here the paint never dries and the pigments can be remixed in infinite new ways. My garden is my plant playground. I enjoy experimenting with plants from all over the world, sourced from interesting plantspeople across the UK. A plant's unfamiliarity, or rarity, adds extra excitement: if it looks good in leaf who knows how it might flower!

Thanks to foliage my garden has become a long-lasting, lush and leafy oasis. Come and discover more lovely leaves when I open for the National Garden Scheme on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July (142 Cramptons Road).

Top tips:

- Never plant plants in isolation. They will always look better combined with others. Perhaps try creating a container of different succulents.
- Lawn is possibly the best evergreen a garden can have for form and structure. Aim to cut it once a week in June and the simple task of trimming the edges will make the garden look immediately smarter.
- Visit plant fairs to uncover a world of amazing unusual plants. The best fairs are held at Great Comp, Great Dixter and Sussex Prairies.

Bennet  
Smith



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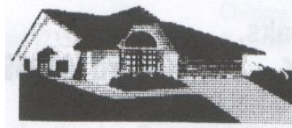
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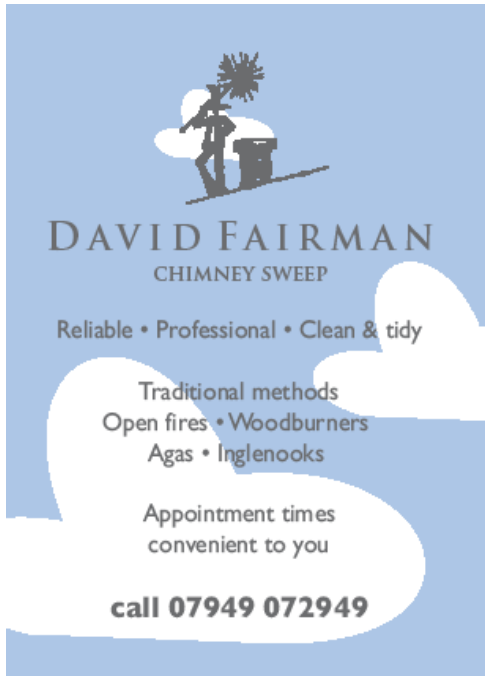
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine in a studio. The text is overlaid on the image, with the studio name at the top and contact information at the bottom.



  
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The advertisement features a tall, ornate antique clock on the left side. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout, providing details about the business's specialties and contact information. A logo for the British Watch and Clockmakers Guild is located at the bottom left.

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## Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Mags Southgate 01959 524720
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing 01959 522327
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed 01959 523439
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Russell Edwards 07933 352044
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:</b>	Kevin Grafton 01732 452117
<b>SACRISTAN:</b>	Tony Grogan 01959 523649

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### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Heather Stanley 01959 523194  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris 01959 522813  
*Min. Sec:* Mark Holmes 01959 522080

### PARISH OFFICE

*Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm:*  
Susan Reid, Clive Southgate  
01959 523185  
Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

### CHURCH HALL

*Manager and Booking Sec:* Robert Hunt 01959 523820

### MAGAZINE

*Editorial team:* 01959 523185  
Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,  
Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam  
*Advertisements:* st.bartholomews@otford.net

### CHOIR

*Choirmaster:* Kevin Grafton 01732 452117  
*Practice night:* Friday 8.00-9.30pm New members  
always welcome

### YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

**'First Steps'** (for parents/carers with pre-school children)  
*Contact:* Najen Harris 01959 522813

### SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

**Infants** (3-7s)  
**Juniors** (8-11s)  
**Seniors** (12-14)

For all groups contact Donna Worssam 01959 523185

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

*Contact:* Dawn Hallam 01959 526865

### OUTREACH

*Chairman of Mission Links:*  
Andrew Hill 01732 469538

### BELLRINGERS

*The Tower Captain:* Bobbie Fairclough 01959 522696  
*Secretary:* Janet Whitehead 01959 524088  
*Practice night:* Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Joan Beacom, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Mark Holmes\*, Margaret Lidbetter\*, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Ben Southgate, Mags Southgate, Heather Stanley

# Ex-Officio (Diocesan Synod) \* Ex-Officio (Deanery Synod)