

St Bartholomew's Church

Otford Parish News



March 2019

www.stbartholomews.co.uk

SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

| March | 8am | 10am | 3pm | 6.30pm |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| 3 Mar Sunday next before Lent | Holy Communion | All Together Worship | - | Choral Evensong |
| 6 Mar Ash Wednesday | - | Holy Communion with imposition of ashes | - | 8pm Service at Otford Methodist Church |
| 10 Mar 1st Sunday of Lent | Holy Communion | Holy Communion | Messy Church | - |
| 17 Mar 2nd Sunday of Lent | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | - | Evensong |
| 24 Mar 3rd Sunday of Lent | Holy Communion (BCP) | Holy Communion | - | - |
| 31 Mar 4th Sunday of Lent | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | - | - |

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.

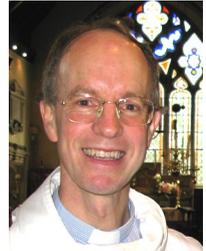
EPIC (for school years 5-7) meets on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 6-8 pm in the Church Centre.

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

The wedding of Kate and James Peake - Cover photo by Phoebe Landa
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VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

11pm on Friday 29th March. That is when Britain is due to leave the European Union. There is a certain resonance that it happens to be at the 11th hour. I find it quite extraordinary that even as I write this article for our March magazine, we still don't know what will happen at the end of March in what will be a major international event. It seems that every day there is a fresh twist in the plot. Last month I reflected on parallels between Brexit and the split from centralised European control under Henry VIII in the turbulent times of the Reformation. This month I want to go back further, to the first generation of the Early Church, 2,000 years ago.



It is remarkable that within just a couple of decades of the birth of the Church there was a huge dispute that went to the very heart of its identity. Its life hung in the balance. The resolution of the dispute would determine the Church's place in the wider world for generations to come.

At stake was the issue of how the Church was to incorporate new believers from a non-Jewish background. This would determine how effective it would be in reaching out to the wider Roman Empire, and beyond.

Christianity began as a reform movement in Palestinian Judaism. Jesus himself was a Jew and at one point he said that his mission was "to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." But at the end of his ministry he gave his disciples the Great Commission, with the imperative of taking the Gospel to the whole world. Paul took this message to heart, reaching out to the Gentiles. Part of his Gospel proclamation was that you didn't have to follow the full initiation rites of Judaism. However, this approach was fiercely contested by a powerful traditionalist group who argued that the Church had to be faithful to its Jewish origins.

In response, Paul spent much of his ministry arguing for a middle way – on the one hand he upheld that you could become a Christian without first having to take all the Jewish ceremonial initiation on board. This did not imply, however, a complete rejection of the Jewish heritage and the Jewish Scriptures, what we now know as the Old Testament. New

believers still had to acknowledge the ways in which God had revealed his purposes in the centuries leading up to the birth of Jesus.

In the New Testament the record of this dispute comes to a head in Acts 15. The opening verses set the scene, with some coming from Judea and saying to the Church in Antioch that the new believers from a Gentile background had to go through the historic initiation rites if they were to be considered properly Christian. Paul and Barnabas sharply disputed this. So they travelled to Jerusalem to make their case.

Interestingly it was Peter, the leader of the traditionalist faction, who spoke up on their behalf. At this point the whole assembly became silent, and then they listened to Paul and Barnabas talk about the evident work of the Spirit amongst the new believers. As a result, the Council of Jerusalem was able to find a middle way. "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." A compromise was reached. New believers did not have to take on the full weight of the Jewish Law, but neither were they to abandon it completely. This simultaneously helped preserve the identity and heritage of the young Christian movement and also released it to become a truly global religion, rather than restricting it to a provincial backwater of the Roman Empire.

I wonder if this cross-party compromise in the Council of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago has any lessons for us today?

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

DIARY FOR MARCH 2019

**Morning Prayer is said on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
each week in Church at 9.00 am**

- 1 2.00 pm World Day of Prayer (Holy Trinity Catholic Church)
- 2 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 3 **Sunday next before Lent: Quinquagesima**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am All Together Worship
 6.30 pm Choral Evensong
- 4 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 5 3.45 pm Magazine Editorial Team (the Vicarage)
- 6 **Ash Wednesday**
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) with the imposition of ashes
 8.00 pm Holy Communion at Otford Methodist Church
- 9 6.30 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 10 **The First Sunday of Lent**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Holy Communion
 3.00 pm Messy Church
 Magazine material for the April edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
 st.bartholomews@otford.net
- 11 12-2.00 pm Soup Lunch (Church Centre)
 8.00 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 12 8.00 pm Lent Course (1) Church Centre
- 13 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards
- 17 **The Second Sunday of Lent**
 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 Lent Course (2) Church Centre
- 20 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 24 **The Third Sunday of Lent**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Holy Communion

- 25 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 26 8.00 pm Lent Course (3) Church Centre
- 27 9.30 am 'First Steps' Easter Service (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards
- 7.45 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)

BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS

Put clocks forward at 2.00 am on Sunday 31st March

31 The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship



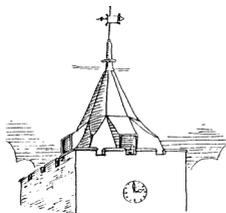
Registers



FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)

- 24th January Edward **Burchell** (aged 89)
- 25th January Arthur **Turner** (aged 98)
- 25th January Doreen Mavis **Chambers** (age 89)
- 28th January Jean Elizabeth Ellen **Currier** (aged 88)

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service, put together by Christians of Slovenia, will be held on **Friday, 1st March at 2.00 pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford**. The theme is 'Come, everything is ready'. The service will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome to this ecumenical event.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The first session for 2019 will take place on **Saturday, 2nd March**. 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!

2019 LENT SERIES

"The Kingdom of God is at hand"

Jesus began his ministry by proclaiming, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." Also, the opening phrases of the Lord's Prayer include the petition, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth..." So what does it mean to pray and work for the Kingdom of God? The Anglican Church has highlighted five key areas which can be summed up with the words: tell; teach; tend; transform; treasure.

In other words: proclaim the Good News; make disciples and nurture their faith; serve those in need; work for social justice; and care for our world.

In our Lent Series for 2019 we'll be focusing on each of these areas of work in turn, looking at the Biblical background and highlighting the work of our Mission Link partners around the world. The sessions will be on five Tuesday evenings, from 8- 9.30 pm in the Church Centre, starting on Tuesday 12th March. Do put these dates in your diary and join us.

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on **Sunday 10th March, 3.00 pm in the Church Centre**. An enjoyable afternoon is promised for all who come. It is particularly suitable for families with children up to the age of 11.

LENT SOUP LUNCH

You are warmly invited to our lunch on **Monday, 11th March from 12-2.00 pm in the Church Centre**.

Do join us for a bowl of homemade soup and bread followed by a light dessert. Our coffee-time interviewee will be *Pat Downing MBE*, and recipient of several other awards for her many years work with West Kent Mind and the Kent Ambulance Service.

Please sign your name on the list at the back of church. Suggested donation of £5.

Look forward to seeing you!

MOTHERING SUNDAY, 31st March

You are warmly invited to our Mothering Sunday services when posies will be offered to ladies in the congregation.

THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box. It communicates the real story of Easter to all generations. The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and

makes a donation to the charity, Traidcraft Exchange, from sales giving at least 10p from the purchase of each 150g egg. Available from Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Waitrose supermarkets. For details see: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT

OTFORD EVENING W.I.



Our March meeting is on the 14th at 7.30pm in the Club Room when our speaker, Tim Pearce, will tell us about the Shops in Sevenoaks, from the old days to 2018.

Visitors are very welcome to join us and if any more information is needed please contact our President on 01959 524831.



9th March 7.30pm Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band and Kemsing Singers

Pamoja Hall, The Space at Sevenoaks School, TN13 1HU.

Kemsing Singers and the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band are presenting a joint concert of lively and popular music to suit all tastes, in aid of The Silas Pullen Fund. Included are compilations from musicals and opera such as Chess, Phantom of the Opera and Verdi choruses and much, much more. Tickets are priced £8.00 (£1.00 for under-18s) and are available from <https://boxoffice.sevenoaksschool.org> 01732 467765. For more information visit our websites. www.stband.co.uk - www.kemsingsingers.com



The next Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association Social Gathering will be at the Woodman Pub in Otford on Monday 4 March at 7.30pm when we shall be

showing the film "Un homme et une Femme" with English subtitles, starring Anouk Aimee, who was married to the late Albert Finney between 1970 and 1978. We shall look forward to seeing as many Otfordians, relations, friends and neighbours as are free to join us.



Cantate, along with period ensemble Vivace!, will be presenting music by Handel and Pachelbel. **Saturday 9th March,**

7.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks.

Handel's Dixit Dominus, a favourite of many, is a setting of the Latin text of Psalm 100. It is both exciting for the audience and challenging for the singers with its majestic fugues, highly layered chorus parts and beautiful solo melodies.

Some lesser known choral works of Pachelbel, Jauchzet dem Herrn, Singet dem Herrn and Was Gott tut, das ist wolgetan will be performed by the choir followed by Vivace! playing Pachelbel's famous Canon in D with its elegant measured chord progressions.

The final piece of the evening, a magnificat, by Pachelbel will be performed by guests soloists Kate Semmens, Jamie Laing, David Bagnell and Alistair Bamford.

Tickets at £15 (£7.50 under 16's) available from Sevenoaks bookshop or online at www.evenbrite.co.uk

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

March: Getting priorities right

Bible story: The Temptation of Jesus
(Luke 4:1-13)

After Jesus had been baptised by John, he knew that he must start the important work God had sent him to do. His time helping Joseph in the carpentry workshop was over. But first, he decided to go somewhere quiet to pray to his Heavenly Father.

Jesus went out on his own into the desert. Great boulders radiated the heat of the sun and there were no trees to provide shade. But he was far from the distractions of work and family and so he could hear what God was saying to him. He spent a long time in this lonely place, with nothing to eat – for he really meant business. What were his priorities to be – what were the important things that he should concentrate on?

Perhaps it was in this harsh place that Jesus realised his life was not going to be easy. He would not be waited on in a fine palace, as earthly kings. He had come to serve his people. He would face rejection and a cruel death. This was all part of God's plan to loose the grip of evil on the world - and he accepted it willingly.



Satan, who was the enemy of everything good, was threatened by this plan. He knew that Jesus was hungry and said to him,

“Since you are the Son of God, why not turn these stones into loaves?”

But Jesus knew that there are more important things in life than food.

“The Bible says that man cannot live on bread alone,” he replied.

Satan tried again. “If you bow down and worship me, I will give you all the kingdoms of the world.”

For a moment, Jesus saw a picture in his mind of dazzling cities. But he answered, “The Bible says that the Lord our God is the only one to be worshipped and obeyed. I will listen to *Him*.”

Satan would not give up.

“Why don’t you impress people by doing something really spectacular? Throw yourself off the top of the Temple! God won’t let you injure yourself.”

Jesus shook his head. “The Bible says it is wrong to put God to the test and then expect him to get you out of trouble.”

Satan recognised Jesus’ determination and left him alone for the time being. And God sent angels to strengthen his Son – the Son whom he loved and with whom he was well pleased.

Just for parents: In the story, Jesus is not so much tempted as sorting his priorities. He rejects the ideas of simply providing people with the material things they crave, or forcing their belief in him with a spectacular display of power.

One of our priorities as parents is to share our faith with our children, helping them to understand who Jesus is and why he came. It’s important to show that we are all on a journey of faith together and that, as adults, we are just as much in need of sorting our priorities as they are! Lent is a good time to make a point of coming closer to God and understanding his exciting plan for each of us. Do come and join us on the Lent Course on six Tuesday nights in the Church Centre in the run up to Easter (see page 6).

Bible story: Read the story together as a family. Here are some conversation starters:

I wonder why Jesus went into the desert?

Where would each of us choose to go to talk to God and think about things?

Do you think it is important to pray before important events/the day ahead?

I wonder what sort of things God wants us to do?

I wonder what things distract each of us?

I wonder if God has an exciting plan for each of us?

I wonder if we could help one another to get our priorities right?



Look it up! Luke 12: 22-32

All of us can be distracted by worries and material needs. But if we do the things God wants us to (ie, we seek the Kingdom of God), God can be trusted to provide our daily needs. Cut out this verse and display it in a prominent place:

✂

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6.33



Let's make pancakes! This year, Shrove Tuesday is on 5th March. Why not make it a family tradition to make pancakes? You can explain that it is the

day before Lent when, traditionally, people used up all the fat in the house – butter, milk, eggs - so that they could come closer to God by giving up these foods. Many people give up something like chocolate to practise self-control. As a family, why not give up something distracting – such as Facebook or video games – in order to make more room for God. Perhaps you could read a Bible story each night or start a family read-aloud of a book such as *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

Lent means lengthen – the days are getting longer. Turn off computer screens and get outside.

Family Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that you want the best for each of us. We are sorry that we sometimes get distracted! As we journey through Lent, please help us to make more time for you. Help us to listen to you and to find out what you want us to do. Let us be your hands and feet in the world. **Amen**



Vicki Howie

A BOOK WHICH INFLUENCED ME...

For my birthday last year I was given a book entitled, "War and Grace", by Don Stephens. My first re-action was to wonder why this choice was made for me. Was it because the Centenary of the First World War was prominent in our minds? As I delved into the book I saw the choice very differently.

This book is a collection of thirteen true stories about people and events connected with the two world wars. They are about men and women from varied backgrounds and nationalities. Each one, in its own way, is moving and inspirational. What did these people have in common? Their experiences of war resulted in the grace of God working on their lives to bring them through their traumas, to trust in God and to express that trust through their service to others.

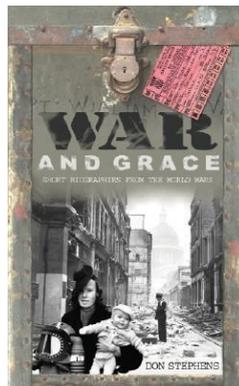
A brief synopsis of the first story in the book is a good example. It tells the story of Louis Zamperini and is entitled, "Trouble, torment and forgiveness". He was brought up in California and in 1936 he was an Olympic runner in the Berlin Games, with every intention of competing in the Games in Japan in 1940. World events prevented that and instead he joined the American Airforce. As a result of heroism in rescuing the crew of a ship crippled by the Japanese he was decorated for gallantry in action.

His plane was shot down in 1943 and he was captured by the Japanese, who starved and ill-treated him for two and a half years. After the war he married Cynthia, but the marriage was troubled by the effects of his imprisonment. He became a drunkard and had serious nightmares. His wife persuaded him to go with her to several Billy Graham events. These had the

effect of bringing him closer to God, resulting in him straightening out his life. In October 1950 he went back to Japan, where war trials were still being held. He managed to go to the prison where his own captors were being held. His intention was, through an interpreter, to explain that, because of his faith, he wanted to forgive them and he also asked them to seek forgiveness themselves. He returned to California with a relieved and happy heart and then he embarked on a life of service to the community and to sharing his faith. He encouraged young athletes and in 1984 he ran with the Olympic torch in Los Angeles and carried the American flag in the Olympic Games of 1996 in Atlanta. He declared that the grace of God brought him through the traumas of his life to these events and opportunities

The stories in this book cannot leave you untouched and unaffected. If you are a Christian they will challenge you about your own commitment. If you are not yet a Christian they will help you see that God takes the initiative in every conversion and is there for those who want Him. I'm waiting for Don Stephens' next book and the inspiration it will bring.

Margaret Lidbetter



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

There will be some urgent tree works taking place in Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow over the coming weeks. Unfortunately, Chalara (Ash Dieback) is having a detrimental impact on the ash population and the Council is noticing a steep decline in the condition of some of the mature ash trees. After speaking with the Forestry Commission and other forestry authorities, it is now recommended that trees in poor condition are felled sooner rather than later. This is due to the way in which Chalara spreads through the tree, making the tree unstable and unsafe during the felling operation.

The Council are only felling the trees that present a significant risk to the public - for example, trees in a poor condition within falling distance of a footpath. The remaining trees will continue to be monitored and action taken if necessary. The space which is created by removing these mature trees will naturally regenerate creating a new habitat for wildlife.

You may not be aware that Southern Water advises and supports people who may struggle to manage their water bills, or who may need additional assistance during service disruptions - for example, as a result of a burst water main. Protecting people in vulnerable circumstances is particularly important during the winter months, when we know they could become more concerned about household bills. Southern Water are working with local authorities to raise awareness of what to do in extreme weather events, such as last year's freeze/thaw, to ensure customers who need the most assistance receive it. For more information visit: southernwater.co.uk/prepare-for-winter.

For information about reduced payment options you can call Southern Water for free on 0800 027 0363, emailing

payless@southernwater.co.uk or visiting www.southernwater.co.uk/difficulty-paying-your-bill.

In case you are unaware, Irene Roy is leading on traffic management issues on behalf of Otford Parish Council. Finding solutions to traffic concerns are already underway and the Parish Council are committed to seeing through proposals to manage congestion, reroute HGVs, resolve nuisance parking and most important of all to slow down traffic and improve pedestrian safety. Residents have said that they would walk and cycle more often if they felt safer on our roads and the Parish Council plans to work with others to take forward plans for new and improved footways to provide safe access to amenities for all residents, especially children, the elderly and the vulnerable.

If we can improve the traffic management of Otford it will bring more vibrancy to the village, helping our local businesses as people walk rather than drive. That in turn will be better for their health and reduce the traffic even further making the village even safer. After nearly 12 years of representing Otford on the District Council I have been well aware of the difficulties of crossing the roads to get to school, walking down the Shoreham Road etc. I hope that this new joint effort between the County, District and Parish Councils will be able to make a difference to traffic management in Otford. I am very grateful to Irene Roy and the Parish Council for all their work on this.

Best wishes,

Michelle



IN CONVERSATION WITH ... LUCY BOOTH

Mother, nurse and volunteer



Born in Evesham, Lucy spent her first eight years in the village of Fladbury at the foot of the Malvern Hills. She and her older sister, Clare,

attended the village primary school where Lucy showed great prowess at sport – winning every race on sport's day! Just before her eighth birthday Lucy's father's job as a structural engineer took the family to live in the village of Escrick, near York, in her parents' home county of Yorkshire. Lucy said it was a beautiful village where the girls were free to lead an outdoor life, involving canoeing, adventures on their bikes, and membership of the Young Farmers. Again, both at primary and secondary school, Lucy excelled at sport including netball, hockey and running. On one occasion she won a 100 metre race in the Gateshead Stadium. Another happy childhood memory is of summer holiday stays with 'Big Grandma' in Harrogate who taught her to sew; a skill for life which enabled Lucy to make her own clothes as a teenager, often using remnants from curtain shops. She also made the bridesmaid dresses for both her and her sister's weddings.

After O and A Levels, Lucy devised a novel way to choose a career. Her first thought was that, to make daily dressing simple, she would like to wear a uniform so she settled on becoming a police officer or a nurse. She then decided between these jobs by 'flipping a coin' – she

would become a nurse. Next she needed to pick where to train so she stabbed a pin into a map on the kitchen table resulting in her applying to Kingston and Esher Nursing College to train as a RGN. Her three years there covered a mixture of classroom and ward learning and, once qualified, she was invited to remain on the orthopaedics and trauma ward of Kingston General Hospital. A year later she moved to Guildford Hospital (orthopaedics), then to Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill where she worked with trauma patients, including dealing with injuries such as stabbings and gunshot wounds. Next she moved to A&E at Lewisham Hospital where she completed further training with the aim of becoming a sister.



It was whilst at King's that Lucy met her future husband. She was sharing a flat with three other nurses and they decided to hold a party. Being short of male company they put up a 'Wanted' poster at the local police station which Jonathan (a police officer) spotted. He told a friend then quickly removed the poster – not wanting too much competition! The story of how Jonathan proposed is also an unusual one. The young couple loved travel and, as part of a six week round the world trip, visited New Zealand. On a 14 hour hike up a volcano on the North Island, Lucy began to suffer from altitude sickness and had to stay behind. When Jonathan descended

to meet her after about three hours, he was accompanied by a German who said 'Good luck with that'. Lucy only discovered what he had



meant when their photos were developed on returning home. There, in one taken at the top of the volcano, she was amazed to see, written with rocks, the words 'LUCY MARRY

ME'. Jonathan then proposed properly and they were married in Escrick in October 1995. Their honeymoon was 'off the beaten track' in Mexico.

In the years before they had children the Booths continued to travel widely (including to China, North America and Chile) whilst also holding down full time jobs. From 1998 Lucy worked as a junior sister in A&E at Maidstone Hospital then, at the start of the new millennium, moved to Bromley Hospital as a senior sister in A&E. By now she had also qualified as an Emergency Nurse Practitioner, enabling her to diagnose and treat certain groups of patients (mainly minor injuries and ailments). On the birth of her first child in 2002, Lucy went part-time and the next year she

moved to the new Princess Royal Hospital at Farnborough where she continues to work part-time, sometimes doing nights.

The Booths moved to Otford in 1999 and their family soon expanded with the birth of Harriet (2002) and twins Martha and George (2006). The children attended Otford Primary School where Lucy volunteered in the library and assisted the PTA in helping to arrange fund raising events. All three children are now at Trinity School and, again, Lucy volunteers in the library. Husband Jonathan has been a cub leader for some 28 years, the last eight at Otford. Not only does Lucy clean the Scout Hut but she has also been on two cub camps a year for the last 25 years, acting as cook and administrator. When she has spare time, Lucy enjoys baking (including for the church), fair weather walking, and being together as a family. She said the Booths are an 'outdoor family' and have enjoyed many cycling holidays to Holland as well as other adventurous trips.

Lucy was brought up in a churchgoing family, was confirmed at thirteen, and began to attend services at St Bartholomew's soon after she moved to the village. She cleans the church on a regular basis, saying she finds the ordered, calm and peaceful environment therapeutic and that it provides her with a good opportunity for quiet prayer.

Christeen Malan





IN MEMORIAM



Diana Arnaud, 1930-2019

Diana was born in Richmond upon Thames on 12th March 1930. Her father Donald was an inventor and businessman who designed and sold printing presses. He died of a stroke when Diana was still young leaving her mother to raise the young family. With limited financial resources they depended on the generosity of family and friends.

With the outbreak of World War 2, Diana and her brother Robert were evacuated to Glansevern Hall near Welshpool in Wales, a Georgian mansion owned by a couple of spinster sisters. This mansion had extensive gardens and grounds and its own lake. While there, she attended the Welsh Girls' School which had itself been evacuated from Ashford in Middlesex to Powis Castle.

Diana returned to Reigate and worked in a stables before training and working as a radiographer taking medical X-rays. She was first the radiographer employed at Dorking hospital where she worked with TB cases. Diana continued working as a radiographer, with time off when the family was young, until she retired in 1985.

Diana liked going to the opera. In the 1950s the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden would give a number of free tickets to London-area hospitals for the use of their staff and Diana took advantage of these. She also enjoyed riding horses and playing tennis and badminton. It was at the badminton club that she met Tony, whom she married in August 1955. They were married for 59 years. Keith was born in 1959 with David and Michael another two and four years apart. The family lived at first in Bickley, near Bromley, but moved to Otford in 1972 where Diana lived in the same house on Bubblestone Road until she had to leave after suffering a stroke last

year. The family grew to include three granddaughters and one grandson. Diana was the communications hub for the extended family.

Over the years she was active in many local organizations. The family played tennis at Otford Tennis Club where Diana particularly liked helping the juniors. She volunteered at Ightham Mote and for a time was the Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Area National Trust Association. She drove people for the blind club, helped out at the Otford Heritage Centre, with the Benevolent Society, did handbell ringing, and helped run the Otford Lunch Club. In her later years she also enjoyed playing bridge with friends. She loved the area and many of her neighbours said that she was the first person to welcome them when they moved in.

Diana's life was one of joyful service. Professionally, at the NHS; as a homemaker for children and grandchildren; as a carer for her husband as he became physically less able; and as a volunteer in many local organizations. It was characteristic of her that she continued serving until she was no longer able. Almost her last words were "I have so much to be grateful for." So do her family and friends.



MISSION MATTERS ... HOSPICES OF HOPE

Mission Update March 2019 – Another busy year

St Bartholomew's Church Otford continues to support Hospices of Hope as a mission partner. The charity based in the village of Otford has, since its beginnings in 1992, grown into the leading hospice care organisation in South East Europe.

A major step along the road to providing hospice care in this part of the world was achieved with the official opening of the new children's respite and therapy centre in Copaceni near Bucharest on the 21st September 2018. This centre is unique in Romania in that it offers therapies to children with life limiting illnesses such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis alongside respite care and support to families. The 12 bedded respite unit will, when fully operational, be able to accommodate 200 children per year. It is anticipated that each year around 300 children will benefit from access to summer camps which will be run at the centre with provision for two thousand outpatient appointments and therapy sessions.

In addition to their work in Romania Hospices of Hope have been working with country partner BELhospice to introduce hospice care in Serbia. Phase 1 of the new BELhospice hospice centre in Serbia has been finalised and it is hoped that patients will be able to start accessing services such as outpatient consultations, day care, home visits and counselling sessions over the next month. Looking forward the centre will be a new base for education and training, in the longer term

the aim is to be able to provide the first inpatient unit in the country.

The charity has successfully secured grant applications to provide medical training, more suitable accommodation and better transport for home care units operating in Moldova. The country has five small hospice organisations in operation and regularly receives donations of medical supplies including much needed stoma bags from Hospices of Hope.

The work of Hospices of Hope is being extended into Albania where it aims to increase services by supporting the existing hospice organisation Ryder Albania. Teams of doctors, nurses and social workers in Tirana and Durres provide care in patient's homes facing challenges in a country where almost a third of the population lives under the poverty line with a struggling state health care system.

In their latest prayer letter Hospices of Hope ask that we continue to pray for the challenges that their teams in Romania, Serbia, Moldova and Albania face throughout the year and to give thanks for their successes and continuing work caring for patients and families needing hospice care in South East Europe.

More information about this organisation's valuable work can be found by popping into the tea rooms in Otford or on line at www.hospicesofhope.co.uk

Anne Stevens



hospicesofhope

NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Singing Superstars at the O2



On Wednesday 30th January, Otford Primary school's Year 5 children travelled to the O2 to take part in the 8000 piece Young Voices choir, the largest in the world! They got to meet some very famous special guests....

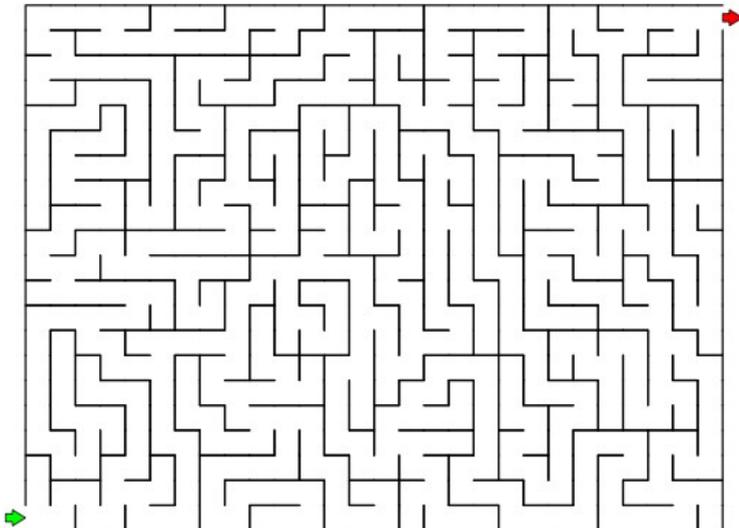
Everyone in Year 5 were buzzing with excitement as the O2 grew ever closer. The rehearsals took approx. 2 hours, then everyone gobbled up their lunch greedily. After the rehearsal, parents from all over poured in to see the talented schools sing. One school was from Luxembourg! But lots of them just wanted to see this year's three special guests: Gold buzzer singer Beau Dermott, Sharlene Hector and lead singer in Spandau Ballet, Tony Hadley!

The first song the mammoth choir sung was 'Thank you for the Days' before going on to sing many more songs before Street dance group Urban Stripes came on. At first they showed some moves to the children, before going on to joining in the parents in 'Move it'. Just then Beau Dermott came on, she sang 'Fight Song' and in the chorus the choir joined in. After that Sharlene Hector joined in and sang 'You Gotta Be' and followed the same routine as Fight Song. Before the finale, onto the stage bounded Tony Hadley. He sang his smash hit 'Gold', before going on to 'Tonight belongs to us'.

Then the finale began. The children sang 'The Greatest Showman' with the special guests joining in on certain songs. Could you imagine a better evening?

By Cleo H

MARCH PUZZLE



RECIPE FOR MARCH

COURGETTE AND MINT PATE

1kg courgettes

50g butter

4 medium eggs

300ml double cream

2tblsp chopped mint

Pinch of cayenne pepper – not too much

Black pepper

This is an adaption of a recipe which used a mixture of herbs and covered the cooled pate with whipped cream and herbs – one that you can tweak to your own preferences!

Grate the courgettes into a colander, cover with a weighted plate and leave for an hour. Strain, rinse well and drain well.

Melt the butter and cook the courgettes very gently until they are soft. Leave to cool.

Heat the oven to 170°, and line a 1.5L loaf tin.

Mix the eggs, cream, courgettes, eggs, mint and seasoning.

Pour the mixture into the tin, cover with foil and stand in a roasting tin. Pour enough cold water into the roasting tin to come half way up.

Bake in the centre of the oven for about 1 ¼ hours until the pate is firm, then leave to cool in the tin.

Hilary Fothergill



OTFORD HERITAGE TRAIL - HISTORIC HOUSES SOUTH OF THE POND



Bubblestone Farm, seen here in the 1700s, was for most of its history only a few feet away from the busy Sevenoaks Road.

Imagine that you stand looking at the Village Green. Five hundred years ago none of these houses would have been here. Instead, the uninterrupted view to the south would have been dominated by the splendid walls, windows, turrets and towers of Otford's magnificent Tudor palace – a home that would house both archbishops and a king.

Bubblestone Farm

Like its neighbours, the original house was entirely timber-framed. It appears to date from the late 1500s so it is likely that it once formed part of the large estate whose wall still adjoins the



A common occurrence – a lorry has shed its load after hitting the corner of Bubblestone Farm only a few feet away from the main road.

house on the right. When the grand home of the estate burnt down in 1740, the cottage is likely to have become an independent property. In the 1700s, though, owners of even humble cottages had their homes clad in brick and tile. Their lovely, often carved, jettied

fronts were lost in the resulting conversion. Inside, however, Bubblestone Farm still retains a fine set of wall posts and ceiling beams with all the typical decorative carving of the period.

Originally called The Corner House, Bubblestone Farm- house was located within a few feet of the main road to Sevenoaks. With the advent of lorries and buses, the side of the house suffered greatly from accidental impacts until the road was re-routed in 1980. The distinctive Tudor wall which leads away from the house had to be breached to allow passage of the new road around the back of the cottage. The wall continues around into the High Street.



The handsome facade of Holmesdale graces this 1950s view across The Pond.

Chantry Cottage

The original, small oak-beamed building was constructed in about 1690. At that time, its windows would have had no glass but just wooden mullions (squared vertical bars) and been shuttered from the inside against the cold. An example of one of these windows still exists in the old rear wall of the cottage.

In 1800 a buttressed extension was built to support the rear wall. Well-built, it has proved safe and sound ever since. It was at this time, like many Otford houses, that its timber-framed walls were overlaid by brickwork and hanging tiles.



An Edwardian postman delivers the mail to Chantry Cottage in 1910.

During Victorian times the house was divided into a pair of cottages with two front doors and a second staircase located to the rear. At one time the right-hand cottage housed the milkman, his wife, two daughters, a son and even a lodger! It must have resulted in dreadfully cramped living conditions throughout the 19th century.

Only in 1910 was Chantry Cottage altered back into the charming single home you see today. It certainly doesn't look its age, yet many of its beams are over 320 years old!

Pond House and Holmesdale

It is believed that the original house was built in the early 1600s as a single property. Given its considerable width, and the fact that it was much altered later, it is possible that it also

combined some industrial purpose, such as a maltings.

In about 1720 the old building, with its wattle and daub walls, was altered into two semi-detached homes. The newly designed front was clad in carefully-laid brick with geometrically spaced Georgian sash windows. This was a period of elegance and today's house reflects this gentility.

In the early 1900s Holmesdale was called Willow Tree House, which then changed to Holmesdale Villa. It was the home of local doctor, Mr. Elliot, who ran his surgery from there. It remained the village surgery until 1968 when the Otford Medical Practice opened in Leonard Avenue.



The area between Chantry Cottage and Holmesdale was once the village pound. Here stray livestock (often causing a nuisance or damage) would be held until their owners could be found... and fined!

With thanks to Rod Shelton, Phil Clucas and Ed Thompson



GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MEMBERS OF OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

As the saying goes, March winds and April showers brings forth May flowers. But with our global climate changes can we rely on this? The 21st March sees the official arrival of spring and your garden opens up to a new season. The garden is beginning to come alive with early daffodils and no English garden should be seen without daffodils which should continue through into April.

Now is the time to give your shrubs a fertilizer dressing and the dividing of border plants can now be done by placing two forks back to back and slowly pushing them apart. Roses can still be pruned, while the sap is rising and remember to cut out all the dead and diseased wood as well as the weak shoots. Also remove all growth that is growing in the wrong direction.

It is also the time to plant those seeds in clean plastic seed trays using either seed or multi-purpose compost. Having planted your seeds, according to the instructions on the packet, label each tray with its name and the date of planting. There is nothing worse than having a tray of seedlings, popping their heads above the soil, and you haven't got a clue as to what the plants are!

Prepare your soil for seed sowing, particularly of vegetables, by breaking it down, raking it over until it becomes crumbly. Seed should be sown when the conditions are moist and as warm as possible with the bonus of rain to come. You can line your seed drills with moist compost to help growth in difficult soils

Many annuals can be planted out of doors but, do not be tempted to do this too early in the month and, if you have a cold garden, then April will be soon enough.

March opens up the doors to many National Trust properties and, if it is not too wet and cold, go along and see what they are doing in their gardens. During the week the gardeners and volunteers can be seen doing all the necessary jobs and most of them are quite willing to answer your questions.

And it was Alan Melville who said 'When you get down to it, as sooner or later you must, gardening is a long-drawn-out war of attrition against the elements, a tripartite agreement involving the animal, insect and bird worlds, and the occasional sheer perversity of Nature.' And I think that we can all agree on that.

Doug Dickerson

We are very grateful to Doug Dickerson and members of the Otford Gardeners' Society for contributing this series of articles over the past year. We hope you have enjoyed them and found them to be useful. The Editors.



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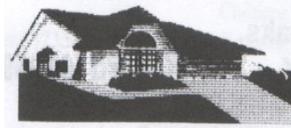
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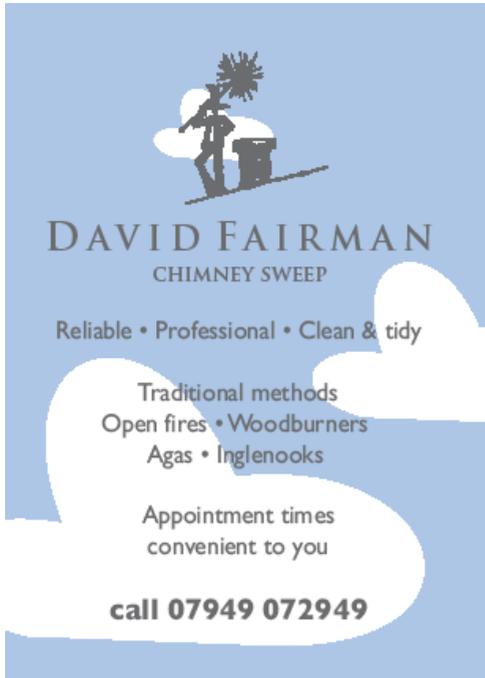
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The advertisement features a tall, ornate wooden grandfather clock on the left. The text is arranged in a column on the right, detailing the business's specialties and contact information. A circular logo for the British Watch and Clockmakers Guild is located at the bottom left of the ad.

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