

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

June	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
4th June Pentecost	Holy Communion	All Together Pentecost Communion	-	Evensong
11th June Trinity Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
18th June 1st Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
25th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-

SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14)

INFANT: 3-7 JUNIOR: 8-11 SENIOR: 12-14

These groups meet in the Church Centre during the 10.00 am service, except on the first Sunday when they meet in Church for All Together Worship.

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.

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

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Thursday 8th June is a date of great significance. The outcome of the General Election will affect the life of our nation for years to come. Currently the election is in the news every day as different parties and politicians set out their vision for the kind of society they would hope to shape. Does the church have any part to play in this?

Alastair Campbell famously intervened in an interview that Tony Blair was giving in 2003 with the statement, "We don't do God." Asking this question the other way round, should the church do politics?

Some would say the answer is clear. The Gospel should not be hijacked to promote one candidate over another and therefore the political neutrality of the pulpit should be preserved. But does this mean we have nothing to say?

Issues which are being hotly debated in the election campaign such as economic justice, education, inequalities in society, dealing with debt and the treatment of refugees, to name just a few, are all found in the pages of the Bible. Is there a place for the contemporary application of ancient Scriptural insights?

Many would say that the church should not be involved in party politics, and yet government is largely conducted through political parties. How do church leaders deal with the conundrum that Christians come to church to hear the Gospel and not a party-political broadcast, whilst recognizing that the Gospel does touch on political and social issues?

It was with such questions in mind that I read with interest the pastoral letter issued by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York addressed to all Anglican parishes and chaplaincies regarding the forthcoming General Election. (You can find it at www.churchofengland.org/media/3977056/

[electionletter_text.pdf](#))

I encourage you to read it for yourself and see what you make of it.

The Christian faith doesn't readily fit on a left-right spectrum, and some have said that this letter lacks bite, coming across as a manifesto for all good causes which centre-left socialists, one-nation Tories and the Lib Dems could all endorse. However, it does highlight some core values. Set against the backdrop of the bruising effects of the Brexit vote last year and the tensions in our society, the Archbishops highlight the qualities of cohesion, courage and stability: cohesion in working for the common good in areas such as housing, health and community development; courage in the face of the challenges of the post-Brexit world; and stability drawing on reconciliation and resilience in the context of great change bringing many unknowns.

Christian involvement in society begins with our vision of what the values of the Kingdom of God, as outlined by Jesus, might look like in practice. Whilst none of the political manifestos offer a complete answer to this, nonetheless we need to play our part by voting on 8th June, and then working alongside our elected politicians for the further embedding of these values in practical policies.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard

DIARY FOR JUNE 2017

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

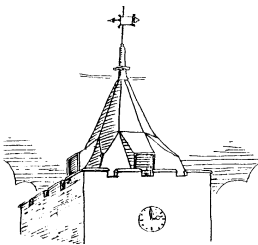
- 3 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 4 **Pentecost: Whit Sunday**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am All Together Communion for Pentecost
 3-4.00 pm Otford Junior Choir (Church Centre)
- 4.15 pm onwards Deanery Picnic Praise at Lullingstone Castle (service at 6.15 pm)**
 6.30 pm Evensong
- 5 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Team (Vicarage)
- 7 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 8 7.30 pm Confirmation Group (The Vicarage)
- 10 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- Magazine material for July/August edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 11 **Trinity Sunday**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Holy Communion
 12 noon Baptism of James Peters
- 12 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 8.00 pm Readers and Revs at Riverside House, Church Street, Shoreham
- 14 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 15 7.30 pm Confirmation Group (The Vicarage)
- 16 6.30 pm Help required to move tables, etc. for the Church Fair
- 17 **2.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (The Green & surrounding areas)**
- 18 **The First Sunday after Trinity - Fathers' Day**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Morning Worship and baptism of Henry Cooper
 6.30 pm Evensong
- 19 7.45 pm Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 21 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
 8.00 pm PCC (Church Centre)

- 22 7.30 pm Confirmation Group (The Vicarage)
- 25 **The Second Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Holy Communion
3-4.00 pm Otford Junior Choir
- 26 7.45 pm Discussion Group at 17 Leonard Avenue
- 28 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)



"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



**ST. BARTS
CHURCH FAIR
Saturday 17th
June at 2pm**

The Church Fair will be held on The Green and

the surrounding areas from 2.00 pm. The Committee would be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of Church or in the Church office, 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, DVDs, CDs: Margie Torry, 524463

White Elephant: Heather Stanley, 523194

New for this year: a BBQ will be available at lunch time, from 1 pm.

There will be the usual Children's Art competition with the theme "Fairy Tales" for age groups 7-11 and under 7s. Contact Christeen Malan, 522654. Bring your most beautiful rose by 2.30 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.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on **Saturday, 3rd 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!

OTFORD JUNIOR CHOIR

A new group of young people was formed last autumn, aged 9 or over, to enjoy some fun learning to sing. It doesn't matter if you can already sing, or not - just come along! The next two dates are **Sundays, 4th and 25th June, 3-4.00 pm in the Church Centre.**

YOUTH WEEKEND AT KENCH HILL: 7th-9th July.

The cost of the weekend will be £40 per child for the whole weekend. If you can only come for the day speak to Mags Southgate, 01959 524720 about day rates. Leaflets about the weekend are available in the Church Centre.



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk <http://michellelowe.yourcllr.com>

On Thursday 4th May Kent went to the polls to elect their new county councillors and Otford elected Roger Gough - the Conservative party candidate and my husband! Otford is now in the new county division of Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley. If you need to contact Roger you can email him at Roger.Gough@kent.gov.uk

The council is working with Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees and local people in Eynsford to try to identify a family and settle them in by the autumn. If you would like to help you can email Refugee.support@Sevenoaks.gov.uk

Michelle Lowe

TEARFUND IN RWANDA

On a recent trip to Rwanda to visit our daughter and family, we went to visit a Tearfund project where we met an amazing woman named Valerie. This is her story.

Valerie was a young single mother with 3 children from different fathers who didn't support her. Her parents died of AIDS when she was young. She still lived in the house she was born in, but it was in a terrible state. She didn't take care of herself or her children and lived an isolated life, feeling ashamed of her situation.

There was a woman called Christine who knew and tried to help Valerie, visiting her and bringing bits of food. Christine was a member of one of the Tearfund Church and Community Mobilisation projects which we visited. These projects are started by local churches, which offer training and support, but not by giving money to people. These groups meet every week to chat, pray and worship. Each group has its own 'savings' scheme to which every member contributes what they can, sometimes as little as 10p per week. This enables the group to help individual members to start up smallholdings or small business projects (like sewing or gardening).

Christine persuaded Valerie to come along to her local community group and Valerie also started going to church. Valerie began saving small amounts of



Christine

money with the groups' savings scheme and before long the group lent her money for some chickens, and then a couple of goats and a pig. We went to visit Valerie at her house and saw her animals and her well-tended little market garden. She had also begun to have repairs and improvements to her house, all as a result of having joined her local community mobilisation group.

As we sat in her small but tidy house I said to her "You will soon be a leader in your community", at which point she disappeared behind a curtain to the adjacent room and reappeared, having changed into a smart uniform! She stood smiling shyly, but proudly, and told us that she was now a community police officer!



Valerie

It was wonderful to see an example of the enormous change for good that Tearfund had enabled through the church, without giving monetary handouts to people. It has given Valerie, and many like her, a sense of self worth through their own efforts. We were heartened to see effective charitable Christian work, with such achievable results.

Linda Lattimer



IN MEMORIAM



Dennis Docking, 1930-2017

Dennis was born in Chadwell Heath in Essex on 21st June 1930, the youngest of four brothers. His father was a provisions dealer who ran a market stall and a shop. After a few years the family moved from Chadwell Heath to Peckham.

Dennis was just 9 years old when the Second World War broke out. From Peckham the family moved to Guildford, but then returned to Dog Kennel Hill in East Dulwich, where Dennis lived until he got married.

Dennis left school at 14 to help out in the family business. He then did his National Service in the army, and served as a chauffeur for army officers. He was stationed in Plumstead, which proved to be very convenient because he was able to go home each night to East Dulwich upon finishing his duty.

Upon finishing his National Service, Dennis returned to work in the family business – the third generation to do so. They ran a shop in Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, and also a stall, selling cooked meats, hams, hocks of bacon and other provisions. Dennis and his brothers were a close family and they met up several times a week.

Dennis met his wife, Maureen, in 1963. She worked in the nearby Chemist. They got married in 1964 at Camberwell Town Hall. They lived above the shop for the first year of their marriage, and then they moved to Eltham where they lived for the next 29 years.

Dennis and Maureen worked long hours in the family business. They would get up around 6 am so that Dennis could go to the Smithfield meat

market in London, and then they would spend all day in the shop, not returning home until 7.30 pm in the evening, having cleaned all the counters ready for the next day. Over the years they developed a core business of faithful customers. They retired in 1990.

Dennis and Maureen moved to Otford in 1996. They bought the plot of land in Coombe Road and designed and had their own bungalow built for them. They were very happy in their home and Dennis enjoyed working in the garden.

Dennis had artistic gifts; he was good at painting and he was a very talented wood carver. Dennis and Maureen went everywhere together, enjoying one another's company.

Dennis had an easy-going personality. Nothing ever bothered him. He was patient and quiet. He never said a bad word about anybody, and he had a dry sense of humour. He had down-to-earth common sense and he was loved very much by his family and friends.

In 2015 Dennis had a stroke, which affected his speech. Maureen continued to care for him at home, with the help of relations. He will be sorely missed and his memory will always be cherished.





IN MEMORIAM



Gwen Delaney, 1928-2017

Gwen was born in Brockley in 1928. Together with her younger brother she lived happily in Brockley until the outbreak of the Second World War, when they were evacuated to Godstone in Surrey which, ironically, was under the flight path to Biggin Hill aerodrome. However, this didn't last for long because Gwen's father's job at the Admiralty took him to Alexandria, north west of Glasgow, where the whole family joined him shortly afterwards.

Gwen originally went to the local grammar school in Brockley and when she moved to Scotland she attended the Vale of Leven Academy, until it was closed because of bombing in the Clydeside area. Like so many others of that generation, her education was badly disrupted by the war so she unofficially joined her father at work during this period. Her parents then gave her permission to leave school, and so Gwen joined the Civil Service. This involved her returning to London, where she went to live with her grandparents. Gwen's grandmother became more like a mother figure to her and consequently they became very close.

Gwen passed her Civil Service exams and started work in the Admiralty. It was here some years later that she met a certain Irishman, John Delaney, who joined the office the same day she was celebrating her engagement to another. Obviously that engagement did not last long. Romance blossomed but John developed TB and was hospitalised for 18 months in a sanatorium at

Benenden. Gwen regularly took the coach down from London at the weekends to visit him. They got married soon after he recovered and within a few years Gwen and John were living in a flat in Westminster and had two children – John in 1952 and Mary in 1955. Gwen gave up work to stay at home and look after the children.

In the sixties, John and Gwen decided to move out of London because they wanted a nicer environment for the children. They first moved to Kemsing, but quite quickly moved again to Otford because it was closer to the station for commuting. By then, Gwen had returned to work at Westminster Bank Head Office. She remained here until she retired. She worked in the investment department at the bank and dealt with stockjobbers and stockbrokers, who were the norm before the Big Bang in the 1980s which brought in electronic trading. Gwen had a wide social circle in the bank, and even after retirement she would regularly meet up with her former colleagues either individually or at the annual bankers' lunch in London.

On her retirement Gwen became more involved with the local community. She enjoyed gardening and took on an allotment in the village, as well as being involved in the local horticultural society. She also joined the local WI. In particular, Gwen enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

June: All about fathers!



Pause for thought: In the well-known parable told on page 14, Jesus tells a story in which a father wholeheartedly welcomes his wandering son back into his family, not with a scolding, but with a hug and a party.

Although Jesus gave no words of explanation to

his audience, it's likely that the story was meant for the ears of the proud Pharisees and strict Jewish leaders who looked down on the less "respectable" people in the crowd and who thought that, like themselves, God would want nothing to do with them. He makes the point that there is more rejoicing in heaven about one lost person who comes back to God than over ninety-nine who don't need to change their ways.

With Father's Day in mind this month (June 18th), what can this story tell us about being a Christian father? Well, it paints a picture of a demonstratively loving father who keeps his faith in his son despite the latter's unkind and reckless behaviour and who quickly forgives. He never gives up on him, for it seems that he is always looking out for him to return.

He doesn't please everyone! But he takes time to reassure his older son and to explain how he feels and why he is celebrating.

The Prodigal (or Lost) Son: Read the Bible story on page 14 out loud while other members of

the family act it out. You could provide a few props such as some coins to jingle in a purse, a toy pig, some sandals.

Wonder about the story, as follows:

I wonder who felt sad in this story

I wonder what the most important part of this story is

I wonder who was the lost son

I wonder how we can stay close to God our Father

Bacon butties for Dad! Give Dad a treat on Father's day. Grill some bacon until it is scrumpy. Warm his favourite type of bread rolls



and butter them. Add the bacon with a dollop of tomato sauce.

For a change, cut some croissant in half and place cut side up on an oven tray. Top each croissant with a slice of ham and a slice of tasty cheese such as Swiss or Gouda. Bake for ten minutes or until the cheese has melted.

Why not serve with a raspberry yoghurt smoothie? Combine 1 cup milk, ½ cup raspberry yoghurt and 1 cup raspberries in a blender or food processor. Blend on high for about 1 minute or until smooth. Pour into a serving glass and add a party straw!

As you prepare this meal, chat about what you think was on the menu at the party in the Bible story!

Make an egg box pig: Tape two egg-box cones together and paint them pink. Make a curly tail with a pipe cleaner or by wrapping a strip of paper tightly around a pencil. Glue on some triangular ears, some legs made from two more cones cut in half, and draw the pig's eyes, nose and mouth.

If children have a piggy bank, use it to talk about spending and saving money. There are lots of ideas on the Internet for making a piggy bank from water bottles. Perhaps you could help older children to open a bank account.

Be demonstrative! How often do we hug our children? On a walk, encourage young children to walk several paces ahead, then run back for a hug and a swing round! Each time they walk a bit further ahead before running back. Now they *walk* back while you *run* to meet them!

Link with the idea that however far we wander from God, he is always looking out for us and hoping to welcome us back home again.

Silly car song: You could adapt the song *S/he'll be coming round the mountain when s/he comes* by adding new verses (Oh, we'll all go out and meet him when he comes . . . Oh, he'll have a brand new tunic when he comes . . . Oh, we'll give a great big party when he comes . . .) Chat

about the father looking out for his wayward son in the story. Who does the father represent?



Challenge to Dads! It's easy to get bogged down trying to provide children with material things when all they want is our time! Put aside some time to play or spend time with them. Plan some summer activities such as camping in the garden, a fishing expedition, cycling, barbequing a meal, etc. Take time to sit and chat with teenagers. "So, how are things . . . ?"

The lost son finger rhyme: If young children know *Two little dicky birds sitting on a wall*, you could adapt it as follows to remind them of the Bible story:

Two boys working on a farm one day, (*wave index fingers*)

One was rude and ran away, (*take one hand behind back*)

He came back (*bring hand back*) and his Daddy said "Hooray", (*thumb up*)

I'm so happy you are home to stay!"

Talk about how happy God is when we love him and stay close to him by doing things that would please him, talking to him every day including saying sorry for anything we have done that would make him sad.



Prayer: Dear God,

Sometimes we do things that make you sad.

Please help us to say 'sorry'.

Thank you that you always forgive us,

And let us start all over again. **Amen**

Vicki Howie

IN CONVERSATION WITH...ANN BRIDGES

Painter and printmaker

Ann, a professional painter, printmaker and model maker, is the eldest daughter of Martin and Margaret Matthews, a locally well-known couple who moved to Otford in 1984. Although Ann only came to live in Otford in 2013 after the death of her father, her association with the village goes back to her teenage years. At that time, thanks to a visit to Ann's school in Rye by an evangelical Christian music team from Hildenborough Hall (now Oak Hall), her family began taking annual holidays at the Hall and, later, her parents and one younger sibling moved to Otford to be able to help support the activities of the Hall. By then Ann had left home and was living near Rochester.

Ann has lived in several places; she spent her early childhood in south east London, then lived in the Sussex countryside (attending Broadoak Brede Primary School and Thomas Peacocke Comprehensive in Rye), before going to Rochester for about eight years. Her next move involved a much longer stay; she was to live in

and near Ruthin in North Wales for twenty five years. There she was able to nurture her artistic talents within the 'intimate and supportive art scene'. As a mature student, from 1995 -1999, Ann studied Illustration at Yale College (Coleg Cambria) and the North Wales College of Art and Design (Glyndwr University). She graduated with First Class honours in Design. She also enjoyed attending the local parish church of St Cynfarch and St Mary, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.

After completing her degree, Ann undertook a two year placement at Chester Zoological Gardens as Artist in Residence; a position which enabled her to have her first studio and which gave her the opportunity to develop and broaden her practice. Over the years Ann has been awarded Arts Council funding for research projects carried out through visual diaries and sketchbooks. Since 1999 she has kept observational diaries and she kindly showed me some of her work. The diaries are in the form of large leather bound books with the entries beautifully handwritten and illustrated with observational drawings and watercolours. In them Ann records her thoughts about daily life: work, people, animals, food, events, - 'all the highs and lows of life'. She is now on volume 42 and estimates that these diaries must contain some 4000 drawings. Each year, for instance, she draws the palm cross and the Remembrance Sunday poppy in different ways – thus helping to illustrate the cycle and rhythm of the seasons. Ann has also done this sort of work commercially; sometimes she creates sketchbooks for people, for example documenting the changes in a much loved garden over the course of a year.

Ann has two main elements to her working life; her time is divided between her studio and her local office where she works for Thinkplay Ltd



Ann Bridges (photo by Robert Greshoff)



(an educational toy construction system). She told me that an ideal day involves spending the morning 'playing' with plastic squares and triangles, followed by an afternoon cutting stencils and mixing inks for a new series of artwork. Ann's father, like his father and grandfather before him, was a watchcase maker and a member of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Ann, who showed a strong interest in drawing and painting from an early age, now has as her studio what was her father's workshop in her parents' garden. Because Ann is a perfectionist and is so dedicated to each piece she produces, she has little time for other interests – though she does enjoy swimming (a recently acquired skill) and seeing her three children and four grandchildren. She also likes to come to services in St Bartholomew's whenever she gets the opportunity.

Ann's art reflects the combination of a keen eye for observational detail with imaginative interpretation. The pieces she showed me, stencil based paintings and original prints, were impressive not only for her acute perception of the natural world (fish, leaves, plants, the beach, trees etc.) but also for the richly pleasing

vibrant colours of the paints employed. Ann described her work as 'a passion'; something which can be experienced in viewing her finished pieces. She recently had an exhibition in Llanrwst, North Wales, and a range of her work is currently on sale at the shop 'Chic et tralala' in Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks. This month South East Open Studios (where artists and craftspeople open their doors to the public) is from 9th – 25th June and Ann's work will be available for viewing on the following Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-5pm, 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th at 58 High Street, Otford (cottage next to the Library and Methodist Church). A visit is highly recommended!

Ann can be contacted on annbridgesart@btinternet.com or 07906 310021

Her website is www.ann-bridges.com

Christeen Malan



ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

The Prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24)

A story to read and act out!

One morning, a boy woke up feeling as angry as a caged lion. He sprang out of bed and got dressed . . .

Then he paced up and down, up and down . . .

Out of the window, he could see his father and his brother working on the farm.

"Hurry up!" they called. "Come and give us a hand!"

The boy didn't want to. So he folded his arms . . . stamped his foot . . . and yelled "No!" . . .

Then he marched outside and spoke unkindly to his father.

"I'm grown up now," he said. "Give me my share of our savings. I'm going to leave home."

Well, the father loved his boy very much. But he let him go.

"Here's your money," he said, sadly.

He held out his arms to give his son a hug, but the boy just walked away, jingling the moneybag . . .

At last he reached a busy town. In the market there were lots of exciting things to buy.

"Hooray!" he said. "I've got all this money to spend! Listen!"

Then he dipped into the bag over . . . and over . . . and over again . . . until it was empty!

Soon the boy's stomach was empty too!

"I'm hungry!" he said. "But I haven't got any money left to buy food. I'd better get a job."

Well, *someone* gave him a job looking after pigs. Pooh! But *no-one* gave him any food.

"I'm so cold and hungry, I could eat the pigs' dinner!" he said. Then he shook his head . . . and muttered, "No more being rude and unkind! I'm going to go home and say sorry to my father. Perhaps he'll give me a job on the farm!"

So the boy turned back towards home. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and RAN to give him a great big hug!

"Oh, Dad," cried the boy. "I'm sorry I made you sad!"

"It's all right!" said his father kindly. "Pooh! You're a bit smelly, though! Lets find you some clean clothes and then we'll have a party!"

When the boy's brother came in from working on the farm, *he* folded his arms . . . and stamped his foot . . . and shouted "No! . . . No party for that lazy boy! *I'm* the one who's been working hard!"

"Oh, don't be like that!" begged their father. "I was so sad when your brother went away. But now we can celebrate his return."

Jesus told this story to show that God celebrates whenever *we* say sorry! HOORAY!

Vicki Howie



MISSION MATTERS... SCRIPTURE UNION

Scripture Union is an international mission movement that was founded over 140 years ago. They work in over 120 countries making God's good news known to children, young people and families and encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. Their goal is that all may come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need.

The Scripture Union story

In June 1867 Josiah Spiers spoke to fifteen children in a drawing room in Islington, London, pioneering a new approach to sharing Christ with children. These meetings grew rapidly and soon the Children's Special Service Mission, or CSSM, was formed, later becoming Scripture Union.

Tom Bishop, was involved in a similar meeting in South London and met Spiers in Spring 1868. They were to work together for the next forty years, establishing a ministry which by 1893 had distributed 13 million children's leaflets in fifty languages all around the world.

Later on in 1868, Spiers went on holiday to Llandudno in North Wales and spontaneously held a children's meeting on the beach. He drew the text 'God is Love' in the sand, invited children to decorate it, and then told them a Bible story. The beach mission was born.

In 1879 CSSM introduced a system of daily Bible reading, the Children's Scripture Union. Initially members received an annual membership card with a list of daily readings and suggestions for prayer. Later, children's magazines were produced with explanatory notes. Booklets of notes were published for troops in the trenches during the Great War from 1914-18 and led to the first issue of

Daily Notes for adults in 1923.

The first Boy's Camp was held in 1892 in Littlehampton. The following year, the Caravan Mission to Village Children (CMVC) was started, using a baker's cart to travel from village to village. The CMVC became part of CSSM, but both names were dropped in the 1960s when Scripture Union became the name of the movement as a whole.

After the second world war, SU developed a new kind of ministry in state schools, the Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF), paving the way for the schools ministry which is so significant today.

Pioneering and developing ministry has always been a feature of Scripture Union's ministry, and it continues today, via websites and related digital ministries such as [WordLive](#), [LightLive](#) and [SchoolsLive](#). The context may change but the need of children and young people remains the same.

As a church we use Scripture Union resources in our children's work, adults use Bible reading notes and members of the congregation have been involved in Beach missions.

Over the summer please pray:

For the children and young people who attend holidays and beach missions. Pray that all those involved in preparing Bible reading guides will be inspired and able to help readers engage with the text in life-changing ways

For those SU partners working in schools, that they would make good contacts and build meaningful relationships with young people in their school environments

A WALK THROUGH OTFORD (PART ONE)

The Archbishop's Palace



Built by Archbishop Warham in 1514-1518.

The main palace complex lies beneath the homes of Bubblestone Road where parts of the palace still show as walls facing the pavement. This site once contained a great hall as well as its own chapel. The Palace Field that we see today is about half of the original Great Courtyard (4.5 acres), the largest in Europe at that time.

The Tower, the range of three cottages (once the western wall) and the right-hand-side of the great gatehouse are all that remain today. Though the tower is 3 stories high, the gatehouse would have been a storey higher, we are told.

The area between the tower and the little stream was once an intricate knot garden, copied by Wolsey when he built Hampton Court.

Pond House and Holmesdale

These were first built as a single timber-framed residence in the 16th century.



Only in the early 18th century was the front re-designed and the house divided into two attractive Georgian homes.

Holmesdale was the Doctor's surgery for many years.

Bubblestone Farm

Apart from its tile-hung exterior, this timber-framed house is little altered from the original farm house of the 16-17th century.

The main road once ran from the pond across the Green and exited just to the left of the cottage which caused it considerable damage until the road was re-routed.



Chantry Cottage (on Palace Approach)



Once an 18th century pair of small, timber-framed cottages, their structure also incorporates a smaller 16-17th century cottage. Attractive tiles hang on its southern (far) end.

Originally another pair of cottages stood opposite.

The Chantry (Beside the church)



This is among the oldest surviving buildings in the parish.

The main structure dates from the 16-17th century.

It was built as a first-storey court-house, with a 'cage' and market place located in its undercroft (for centuries Otford was the centre of a vast parish extending beyond Sevenoaks). The house was misnamed as it has never been used by a chantry priest.

In the 1800's it was temporarily adapted into two cottages (*Church Gate cottages*)

Colets Well (The big house facing the pond)



The house was built in 1790 by James Martyr to replace a very large and ornate Tudor house known as *Collettyswell* and then *Malt House*.

At one point in the 1800's, the ground floor was adapted as a milking parlour and dairy!

Its cellars have a stream flowing through them. The wall between the house and the church is late Tudor, as is the wall-door facing Station Road.

Rod Shelton

Copyright. Stanhope Publishing. 2017 Rod is in production of a new book, 'Otford, heritage village' from which this information is taken.

OUT AND ABOUT...



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

The Rose and Summer show,

Saturday 24th June 2.15 – 4.15,
brings together the beautiful

flowers and tasty fruit and vegetables from the early summer garden. Also featured are flower arrangements, cookery and photographic classes. Admission is 50p and homemade teas are available until 4pm.



OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The PTFA Summer Fete will take place on Saturday 1st July 2017 from 12pm to 3pm.

There will be lots of fun things to enjoy including bouncy castles and an assault course, music and entertainment, Summer shopping, bbq, a beer tent, miniature garden competition, face painting, silent auction, a raffle and lots of fun games for the children to play.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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OTFORD QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th July. Doors

open at 19:00, supper served at 19:30. Hospices of

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For information on this or any of our events please see our website

www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/2017-calendar/

or contact Rebekah on 01959 515110 or email events@hospicesofhope.co.uk



OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our French Twins are arriving in Otford on Friday 19 May at about 5pm on a car-sharing weekend. Do join us for a cup of tea in the Club Room of the Village Hall.

We shall look forward to seeing you at our next Social Gathering which will be Cheese Tasting at The Woodman on Monday 19 June 2017 from 7.30pm.

This year's coach trip to Hardelot, between Boulogne and Le Touquet, will be on Saturday 2 September 2017 when you will have the opportunity to explore the seaside resort and beach area, to challenge our Twins in a game of petanque, to visit the Biscuit factory and children will be able to take part in Les Boucles d'Hardelot (running races: aged 5-7 one kilometer, aged 8-11 two kilometers, aged 12-15 three kilometers, and adults 10 kilometres). Do let us know if there is something else you would like to do.

Only £40 per adult (plus £5 membership if you have not yet paid for 2017) children free. Please contact Mrs Jane Lawrey via the Otford Parish Council Office for an Application Form as soon as possible to be sure of a seat on the coach clerk@otfordpc.co.uk



OTFORD EVENING WI Our June meeting is on the 8th at 7.30pm, in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall when our speaker this month is Terence Wheeler.

His subject is "Those Were The Days" - an illustrated indulgence in 1950's nostalgia. Visitors are most welcome and if you need any more information, please contact 01959 524831.

PUZZLE PAGE

June brings us Trinity Sunday, when the Church celebrates the wonderful truth that we live in a family relationship with God; a relationship based on three Persons in one God.

Here, in Jesus' own words, is spelt out very simply how men and women can actually know the God of all the universe: "And **I** will ask the **Father**, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever -

the **Spirit** of truth... "**I** will not leave you as orphans; **I** will come to you" (*John 14: 16-18*)

So the Way to God is: AUTHORISED by the loving plan of the Father; ACHIEVED by the mediation at the Cross of Jesus the Son; and ACTIVATED by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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Trinity

Sunday

Church

Celebrates

Truth

Family

Relationship

one

God

Three

Persons

Father

Son

Holy

Spirit

Jesus

Counsellor

Orphans

Loving

mediation

indwelling

CAKES FOR ST BART'S FAIR

St Bart's fair is on 17th June and the cake stall is always looking for cakes to sell. Here are a couple of recipes, supplied by Susan Reid, for cakes which always sell well.

ECONOMICAL LIGHT FRUIT CAKE

Cooking time: 1 hour or 1-1/4 hours
2 lb. loaf tin or 7" cake tin

Oven temperature: 350-375°F, Gas mark 4,
150-160°C (centre of oven)

4 oz. (100g) margarine
4 oz. (100g) castor sugar
2 eggs
8 oz. (225g) self-raising flour
9 oz. (250g) mixed dried fruit
approx.. 6 tablesp. milk to mix
To decorate: 1-2 blanched shredded almonds
(optional)

Cream margarine and sugar, add eggs, flour,
stir in fruit and add enough milk to make a slow
dropping consistency.

Put into a greased and floured tin, top with
almonds if desired.

Bake for time and temperature given. Test
before removing from the oven, the cake
should have shrunk away from the sides of the
tin, feel firm to touch and if a warm fine skewer
is inserted it should come away clean. Leave to
cool in tin.



CRUNCHY TOP LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE

Makes 1 x 7" (18cm) cake or 2 x 1lb. (450 g)
loaves

4 oz. (100g) soft margarine
6 oz. (175g) caster sugar
6 oz. (175g) self-raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 size 2 eggs
4 tablespoons milk
finely grated rind of 1 lemon

Crunchy topping: juice of 1 lemon, 4 oz. (100g)
caster or gran. sugar

Pre-heat oven to 180°C/350°F/gas 4. Lightly
grease and base line tin(s) with greased
greaseproof paper. Measure all the
ingredients for the cake into a large bowl and
beat well for about 2 minutes until smooth and
well blended. Turn the mixture into the
prepared tin(s) and level the surface.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 35-40
minutes (7" cake) or 30 minutes (2x1lb tins) or
until the cake(s) has(have) shrunk slightly from
the sides of the tin and springs back when the
surface is lightly pressed with a finger.

Whilst the cake(s) is(are) baking, make the
crunchy topping. Measure the lemon juice and
sugar into a bowl and stir until blended. When
the cake comes out of the oven, spread the
lemon mixture over the top (whilst still hot),
then leave in the tin(s) to cool. Turn out and
remove the paper once cold.

(If the 7" cake has sunk disastrously in the
middle, cut this out, fill with soft fruits and
whipped cream, and serve as a dessert!)

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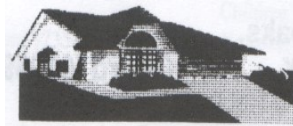
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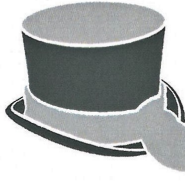
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