

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

July/August	8.00am	10.00am		6.30pm
2 July – 6 August	Holy Communion	Sunday Club Celebration Service – All Together Worship	-	Evensong
9 July – 13 August	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
16 July – 20 August	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Messy Church – -	Evensong
23 July – 27 August	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
30 July	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	-

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



“Careless theology costs lives.” This was one of the memorable sayings of my tutor in Old Testament Studies when I was training for ordination. He should know: he was Irish by background and grew up in Belfast during the Troubles.

It is a great irony (tragedy, even) that followers of the one who taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers” and the one who followed the path of non-violent resistance to its ultimate conclusion, have been involved in such violence and deep-seated division. I am not saying that religion is entirely to blame. In the case of Northern Ireland there is a complex mix of history, politics and cultural forces. But nonetheless, religion has had a part to play.

In the last few weeks, attacks in Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge / Borough Market, and Finsbury Park have shocked our nation. In response there have been marches and vigils for peace attended by Christians and Muslims alike. But I found the comment of Archbishop Justin Welby in a BBC interview to be both honest and thought-provoking: “Stating that Islamist-inspired terrorism has nothing to do with Islam makes as little sense as suggesting that the Srebrenica atrocity during the Balkan Wars had nothing to do with Christianity.”

He went on to observe that religions can inspire enormous heroism, courage and beauty, but they can also have their dark side as well. In our own history, the Reformation led to a growth in Biblical literacy and participative worship in English, yet those turbulent decades in the 1500s also saw significant violence and

destruction. This was also repeated in the Cromwellian era.

For the three Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - ancient scriptural passages when taken out of context can be used as texts of terror. This is where careful theology is so important. We need to beware of any interpretations of scripture which lead to oppressive, prejudiced or violent outcomes. Rather, we need to hold on to the vision of God’s loving purposes for the whole of humanity, especially as revealed in the self-giving love of Christ.

After the attack in Borough Market the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said of the terrorists, “Your perverse ideology has nothing to do with the true values of Islam” and this was echoed by the Muslim Council of Britain which stated, “Their indefensible actions are completely at odds with the lofty teachings of Islam.” In this light, Islam is part of the solution rather than part of the problem. It is vital for people of all religious backgrounds to look honestly at their inheritance of faith and to disown all interpretations which undermine human flourishing. In Proverbs 8:30-31 we read that wisdom is God’s delight, “rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.” May we seek after such wisdom.

Your friend and Vicar, Richard

DIARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 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**

- 1 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 2 **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Sunday Club Celebration Service
12.30 pm Parish BBQ (Vicarage garden)
6.30 pm Evensong
- 3 7.45 pm Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)
8.00 pm Fair Committee ('Burway', Sevenoaks Road)
- 5 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
11.00 am 'First Steps' Summer Praise Service (St. Bartholomew's)
followed by Teddy Bears' Picnic
- 7-9 Church Youth Weekend at Kench Hill
- 8 2.00 pm Wedding of Christopher Cox and Aimee Knight
- 9 **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism of Phoebe Moyce
- 10 7.45 pm Cameo Party (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 12 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 13 7.15 pm Men's Group walk (starting at the Church Car Park)
- 16 **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)
10.00 am Morning Worship
3.00 pm Messy Church (Church Centre)
6.30 pm Evensong
- 17 12-2 pm Lunch (Church Centre)
7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 19 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
12 noon Wedding of Nick Shemmonds and Katie Lambert
8.00 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)
- 22&23 2 -5 pm Open Gardens (at the Bishop's and Reynolds' homes, 12 & 18 the Butts)
- 23 **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 4

- 10.00 am Holy Communion**
 24 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
 26 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 29 1.30 pm Wedding of Oliver Davies and Hannah Lovell

30 The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
10.00 am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism of Shannon Chilman
 31 7.45 pm Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)

AUGUST

- 2 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed) coffee afterwards
 5 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Dennis Mihill)**
10.00 am All Together Worship
6.30 pm Evensong
 7 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
 9 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson)
 12 4.00 pm Wedding of Steve Pockett and Mandy Wilkinson

13 The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Johnson)**
10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Johnson)
 14 7.45 pm Cameo (2A Bubblestone Road)
 16 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall) coffee afterwards
20 8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Dennis Mihill)
10.00 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Evensong
 21 7.45 pm Cameo (Patchers Cottage, High Street)
 23 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 25 2.00 pm Wedding of Paul Appleton and Lydia Kettle

27 The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)**
10.00 am Holy Communion
12 noon Baptism of Jaxon Pullen
 30 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
 7.30 pm Worship Advisory Group (The Vicarage)



Registers



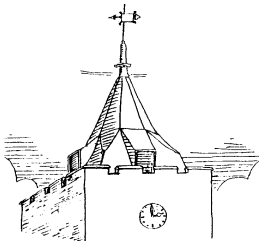
BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

11th June	James William Peters
18th June	Henry Jacob Cooper
9th July	Phoebe Betty Moyce
30th July	Shannon Elizabeth Chilman

WEDDINGS (Our Congratulations)

8th July	Christopher Peter Cox and Aimee Knight
19th July	Duncan Nicholas Shemmonds and Katie Jacqueline Lambert
29th July	Oliver Clive Maynard Davies and Hannah May Lovell
12th August	Steven William Pockett and Amanda Catherine Wilkinson

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturdays, 1st July and 5th August. Anyone able to support the regular team will be most welcome from 9.00 am together with any useful tools.

SUNDAY CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE

This takes place on Sunday, 2nd July at the 10.00 am service when the three Sunday Club groups will be contributing to different parts of the service. There will continue to be basic

provision for children on all the Sundays throughout the summer weeks.

PARISH SUMMER BBQ AND BRING & SHARE LUNCH

You are warmly invited to our parish summer BBQ in the Vicarage garden from 12.30 pm onwards. The burgers and sausages will be provided and the rest will be on a bring and share basis (and please bring your own drinks). We invite those with the surnames A-K to bring salads and savouries and those with the surnames L-Z to bring a pudding. Do come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a relaxed afternoon as the summer holidays approach.

**THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE & HIKE
Saturday, 9th September**

This will be held between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm. Potential sponsors will be most welcome. We are looking for a rota of people to welcome visiting cyclists and walkers to sign them in. If you can spare an hour or two, please contact the Church Office on 01959 523185. The money we raise is divided between Friends of Kent Churches and our parish.

OTFORD OPEN GARDENS



The Bishops and Reynolds will be opening their gardens on 22nd and 23rd July in aid of St Bartholomew's Church Funds.

Their gardens at 12 and 18 The Butts will be open on both days from 2pm until 5pm. The price per person is £5 to include one cream tea and entrance to both gardens.

Teas will be at number 18 on Saturday, and number 12 on Sunday.

There will also be cakes, plants and craft mini-stalls.

For safety reasons, all children must be accompanied by an adult. There are ponds in both gardens.



A BARN DANCE to raise Church funds will be held on Saturday 30th September at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

There will be a hot supper but bring your own drinks and glasses.

Cost £10 per adult £5 per child or £30 per family.

All welcome.

BRASILIAN POP-UP RESTAURANT Saturday 2nd September in aid of church funds.



6.30pm: canapés
7.00pm: sit-down 2-course meal followed by coffee and sweets

Bring your own drinks

Minimum suggested donation of £20 per person

Book a table of 4/6 by contacting the church office st.bartholomews@otford.net or 01959 523185 (Mon-Fri 9am-12noon)

CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Simmons and Jenny Cunningham on being confirmed. The service took place on Sunday 25th June and was conducted by the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff.



A WEEK IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Each year I'm privileged to do a week's residential chaplaincy at Westminster Abbey. (This stems from a long-standing connection between the Abbey and St. Bart's, with the Abbey being the Patron of St. Bart's, meaning that they are the ones who officially present the candidate at the time of the appointment of each new Vicar.) Over the years it is a ministry that I have really come to appreciate.

For centuries the Abbey, with its close connection to the Royal Family, Parliament and London, has been at the heart of the nation, both geographically and spiritually. Its story goes back to 960 AD when Dunstan, the bishop of London at the time, brought a group of twelve Benedictine monks from Glastonbury to found a monastery at Westminster. (Having visited the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey just after Easter this year it is interesting to observe that there is no such thing as a spiritual vacuum, when reflecting on the contemporary spirituality that is evident at Glastonbury.)

When serving as Duty Chaplain, my day begins with Morning Prayer at 7.30 am. This is a quiet and reflective service before the rush of the day presses in. Thousands of visitors come to the Abbey each day, and the role of the chaplain is to be available for anyone who wants to talk with a minister about matters on their heart. It is a privilege to share in people's lives this way and conversations touch on such topics as seeking guidance over a particular decision, worry about health issues, working through bereavement, concern for a relative, struggles with faith, or simply seeking openness to God.

The day finishes with Evensong in the Quire. The Abbey Choir has a world-class reputation and I find the beauty of the music and the historic liturgy to be really uplifting.

There's always a lot going on at the Abbey, and as Chaplain I have the privilege of being able to share in this. Sometimes it involves meeting foreign dignitaries, or a visit by a member of the Royal Family. This year there was a wonderful performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor - it was so good to hear it in an ecclesiastical setting as opposed to just a concert hall. If you have not listened to it before, it is a truly moving piece.

Each hour, on the hour, I also say a short prayer from the pulpit, as a reminder of the Abbey's prime purpose as a place of prayer and worship and not just a tourist destination. Here is one which I commend to you, a prayer by St. Benedict himself, which speaks of a fulfilling approach to life: "Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."



Outside the chaplain's flat in Little Cloister

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS - ROGER GOUGH

I am delighted to have been elected in May as the Kent County Councillor for the area that includes Otford, a new County Council Division with the slightly clunky name of Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley.

I have for some years been the County Councillor for the Darent Valley Division, but that did not go any further south than Shoreham. So Otford is new to me as a local representative – though since I live in the Otford Hills, it's far from unknown. I very much look forward to working with the Parish Council and residents on local issues, and already a number of Highways concerns, as well as the plans emanating from Sevenoaks Town Council, have been raised with me.

In addition to being your local County Councillor, I also serve in KCC's Cabinet, with responsibility for education and children's services (including social services). The big task in education has been to provide places for the growing school age population – first in primary schools, now increasingly in secondary schools too. We have met this successfully, both through the expansion of existing schools (including Otford Primary a few years ago) and increasingly through the creation of new schools. In Sevenoaks, we worked successfully with Trinity School to ensure that extra places were available in this popular school, at least for this year, and the Weald of Kent girls' grammar school annex will open its doors in September. We are keen to find a grammar solution for boys in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area as well.

Standards in Kent schools have been on the up, with over 90% of our schools with an Ofsted judgement rated good or outstanding. We have also been working to deliver improvements in children's services, and



underwent an Ofsted inspection recently. The results of the inspection were not yet published at the time of writing, but should be so by the time you read this article.

The County Council has faced, and will continue to face tough financial pressures. Income has been going down (with reduced government grant) while demand for services, especially social care (which has been very much in the news of late) is going up. The Council has delivered more than half a billion pounds in savings since 2010. We seek to do this while both protecting vulnerable people who use our services and not putting too much strain on the services (such as road maintenance or grass cutting on highway verges) that make a difference to everyone's daily life and amenity. This difficult challenge will remain with us for some years to come.

I look forward to working with the Otford community. I can be reached on 01959 525109, or by email on roger.gough@kent.gov.uk I also write a blog (www.roger-gough.blogspot.co.uk) on what I am doing in the Division, and am on Twitter @rogergough2

Roger

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

July/August: Let's get creative!

Pause for thought: Take time to read the story on page 14 and the Creation story in Genesis 1-2:3 on which it is based. The Bible story, written over two thousand years ago, is not meant to tell us *how* the world was made – scientists do not know for certain today. In fact, the writer probably believed that the earth was a flat disc mounted on pillars, with water beneath and above the great dome of the sky. What interested him was not how this happened but why – and he makes it clear that it was at the will of God and not by accident.

The writer was a devout member of a community which saw the seventh day not only as a day of rest from work, but as one on which to gather for worship, pray and seek the will of God – in other words a chance for recreation in a profound way. In this great hymn of Creation, he sees the working week as a reflection of the great creative acts of God who, on the seventh day, rests and refreshes himself, content with a job well done!

The Bible passage describes man in a privileged position, able to run the world but accountable to its Creator. He is made in God's image and is therefore capable of great things, with the freedom to respond to God.

The summer holidays are a great opportunity for us to delight in the natural world around us and to encourage our children to do the same. We can help them to create memories and family traditions that will give them pleasure in years to come and which they in turn may introduce to their own families!

The Creation story: Read the story on page 14 out loud while other members of the family do the mimes. Wonder about it together, as follows:

I wonder if you could leave out anything that God made and it would make no difference to the world

I wonder which part of the story you like the best

I wonder how we can look after God's world

I wonder why God rested after all his work

Recreation for Mums and Dads! As a busy parent, it's easy to feel we are simply "Emma's Mum" or "Ben's Dad"! The more relaxed summer months may be a

good time to resume an enjoyable interest or therapeutic hobby dropped through lack of time. Arm yourself with the right equipment (water-colours, walking map, maintained bike, yoga mat, etc) and put aside some time to "recreate" your own identity! If personal prayer time has been short, perhaps now is the time to refresh it!

Recreation for kids! During the summer holidays, encourage children to find new hobbies for relaxation both now and for their future benefit. For inspiration, you could:

Visit a craft store such as Hobbycraft at Pembury for ideas and supplies

Visit Sevenoaks Bookshop or a library. Search for books that inspire, for example a book on how to draw/make origami animals or a storybook about an animal by Michael Morpurgo



Invest in a book of 365 poems for children and start reading one every day

Have a look in the supermarket for “creation-themed” sugar cake decorations, such as stars, butterflies, carrots (for carrot cake!)

On a car journey: On a long car journey, play the alphabet game, with each person naming something that God has made starting with A,B,C, etc. For example, Alligator, Berries, Corn, Daisy . . . You could do the same thing with names of people and countries, for example, Andrew, Belgium, Christopher, Denmark . . .



Put on a good show! Perhaps children could get together with friends to perform the Creation story on p 14. Instead (or as well as) the mimes, they could draw and paint stars, animals, sea-creatures etc as props to be brought out of a box at the appropriate moments in the story. They could have some regular craft and rehearsal sessions.

Why not perform this to family and friends? Everyone could bring some themed refreshments (star biscuits, butterfly cakes, tuna rolls, etc) to serve afterwards. You could ask for donations to a favourite charity or towards the Mission of St Bart’s!



Plants: Give children a small bed or container to dig over or look after during the summer. If you have a flower press, experiment to see

which flowers press the best. Alternatively, wrap them in tissue and put between the pages of a heavy book. Once pressed, use them to make greetings cards.

Visit a garden centre to plant up a herb pot or small alpine garden in a container. (You can walk the nature trail at the Main Road branch of Coolings at Knockholt.)

The National Trust: Look out for some fun family days out at our many NT local properties. At Emmetts Garden, there’s a family trail from Sat 1 Jul – Sun 3 Sep (10am-4pm) and there’s a performance of *Wind in the Willows* on Thurs 31 Aug at 4pm. At Chartwell, there’s a “Winston and other animals” family trail over the summer and at Sheffield Park and Garden you can enjoy a night under canvas at a wild camping weekend (Fri 7 and Sat 8 Jul). Cook on the campfire and enjoy a spot of stargazing.

For these and other events, visit nationaltrust.org.uk/southeastevents

Fabulous Fruit Lollies!
Make some refreshing fruit lollies! Put 50g (2 oz) each of raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and



blackberries into a saucepan together with 1 ½ tablespoons icing sugar (sieved). Cook over a gentle heat for a short while until the fruit is soft. Puree and sieve, then stir in one 150g (5 oz) pot raspberry yoghurt. Pour into 4 ice-lolly moulds and freeze.

Prayer: In the story of Creation, God rested on the seventh day. As a way of making Sunday special, have a time of family prayer and thanksgiving for the summer holidays. Talk about the things that each person has enjoyed over the past week before each one says a simple one-line prayer thanking God. Finish by thanking God for our wonderful world and for giving us the gift of time to enjoy it.

Vicki Howie

IN CONVERSATION WITH COLIN DEANE

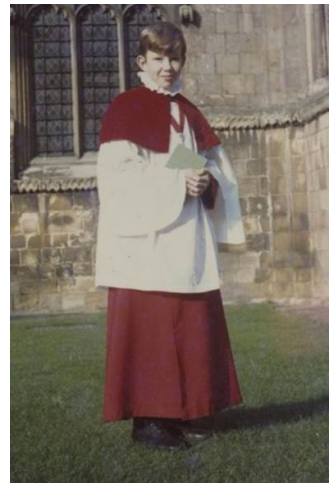
Colin and his wife Anne have lived in Otford since 1996. As well as being known to many of you through church, some of you may remember Colin from the five years that he served on the parish council where he played a role in getting the traffic islands approved on Station Road and at the river.

Professionally, Colin is Director of Medical Engineering and Physics at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London and has responsibility for around a hundred staff. In typically unassuming fashion he told me that the longer the title, the less important you are! He was also President of the British Medical Ultrasound Society from 2010 – 2012 and has written two books and many chapters/papers on the subject of ultrasound and its use in vascular diagnosis.

Colin was born in Glasgow; while his father originated from Northern Ireland, his mother came from Campbeltown on the Kintyre peninsula. His parents met at Glasgow University where his father lectured in Music and where his mother had just completed a degree in French and German. Although they were not a churchgoing family, Colin's grandfather had been a canon in the Church of Ireland. When Colin was a year and a half old the family moved to Melbourne so his father could take up a teaching position at the university. One of his earliest memories is of being observed at play by psychology students in special rooms in the university kindergarten. The journey to Australia was undertaken by boat and Colin well remembers the return trip some five years later when, together with a

friend, he had the freedom to go wherever he liked on the vessel – a freedom which would be unimaginable nowadays. He was greatly impressed by the places he saw such as Singapore, Bombay and the Suez Canal.

Aged eight, Colin's first experience of Christian life came when he was sent as a boarder to a state cathedral choir school – Southwell Minster Grammar in Nottinghamshire. The school, which traces its origins back to the 10th century, is one of the oldest in England. Here, having never before attended church, Colin was suddenly singing six services a week. He spoke of it as being a life of contrasts; outside the Minster there was a touch of 'Lord of the Flies' in the relationships between the small boys, some of whom came from very difficult backgrounds, whereas in the Minster they would be models of good behaviour awed by their environment and the magnificent music which engrossed them as they sang. Some of this music was inevitably sombre; Colin remembers being struck by words such as Greene's, 'Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days, that I may be certified how long I have to live', based on Psalm 39 but slightly odd for 10 year-olds to be singing.



Colin as a choirboy

Despite a certain amount of bullying amongst the boys, Colin regarded his time at school as 'another adventure' after Australia. He stayed there until he was eighteen, passing A Levels in Maths, Music, Geography and Physics before proceeding to do a five year sandwich course with an Engineering degree at Southampton University. As part of his work experience he tested ejection seats but, rather than seeking permanent employment in that field, joined the MOD and transferred to London as a civil servant. It was at this time that he met his wife to be, Anne, a teacher. After four years Colin left the MOD to do a PhD in Medical Engineering and Physics at King's College, London, looking at blood flow. There then followed a thoroughly enjoyable year when Colin, Anne, and the first two of their three sons went to Philadelphia where Colin had been accepted as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Radiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Then, in 1996, the family moved to Otford, with its easy train access to King's at Denmark Hill, and the third of their three sons was born.

Colin now does more management and teaching than before. He enjoys the teaching which mainly relates to postgraduates, medics, radiographers and obstetricians. He also still runs a clinical service of vascular ultrasound and enjoys the patient contact saying how grounding and humbling it can be to see the resilient way in which some people deal with adversity. King's serves all equally; he remembers an occasion when there was a prisoner from Brixton prison in chains sitting alongside a member of the House of Lords in the waiting area, both waiting patiently for their turn without pulling rank. King's is also a

centre of research; Colin has a particular interest in stroke prevention in children with sickle cell disease.

Despite the well-publicised challenges facing the NHS, Colin considers it a privilege to work there with dedicated men and women, of all races and religions, who strive so hard for a common cause. However he did admit that he can occasionally feel as if he is drowning in emails and that he would 'go nuts' without the release of being able to listen to music. He described Radio 3 as 'a lifesaver'.

Colin began attending St Bart's about four years ago having previously gone to the Methodist Church. Favourite church music composers include Herbert Howells and Ralph Vaughan Williams.



Colin and Ann in their garden

Christeen Malan

ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

The Story of Creation (Based on Genesis 1-2:3)

A story poem to read aloud, mime and join in the repetitions!

In the beginning, there was nothing. (*Show empty hands*) So God made the heavens and the earth. "Let there be light!" said God. And light appeared!

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the land. But there was nothing growing on it. "Let all kinds of plants grow on the earth!" said God. And they did! There were trees and bushes, fruit and vegetables and colourful flowers. (*Mime growing up, spreading branches*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the sky. But there was nothing shining in it! "Let there be lights in the sky!" said God. And there were! There were brilliant suns, glowing moons, spinning planets and twinkling stars. (*Wiggle fingers like twinkling stars, spin like planets*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the sea. But there was nothing swimming in it. "Let the sea be filled with all sorts of sea creatures!" said God. And it was! There were crabs and dolphins, turtles, fish and sea-horses all swimming through the water. (*Mime swimming, diving, floating*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the air. But there was nothing flying through it. "Let there be birds!" said God. And

there were! The air was filled with birds. There were swallows and parrots, eagles and owls all flying and swooping and hovering (*mime flying, swooping, hovering*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the jungle. He made forests, fields and gardens. But there was nothing moving through it. "Let there be animals!" said God. And there were! There were big animals and tiny creatures. There were wild animals and friendly pets. (*Mime crawling, galloping, stalking, trotting*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

So God made the world. But there was no-one to look after it. No-one special to share all its joys. "Let there be a man and a woman!" said God. And there were! And soon the world was filled with families - Mums and Dads, boys and girls, Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles. They sowed seeds, they made music, sang and danced, they made clay pots and carved wood . . . (*mime different activities*) . . . and God was very pleased - especially when they made time to walk and talk with him!

"That's WONDERFUL!" said God. "That's REALLY wonderful!"

And God was so pleased with all that he had made, that he stopped work for a rest and to bless and enjoy it all!

Vicki Howie



THE BIG CHURCH DAY OUT 2017

Sun, music, the South Downs, a little rain and thousands of people – it must be BCDO again! We made our pilgrimage to the Wiston House estate, near Worthing for the annual Big Church Day Out, for the 9th year, looking forward to fellowship and worship with Christians from all denominations and from all over Europe – it is amazing how inclusive BCDO is. At our pitch for the main stage (there are five music stages on the site) we had a big group of Roman Catholics in front of us and an equally big group of Baptists behind us.

This year's highlights for us were to be able to worship with Stuart Townend (composer of "In Christ Alone"), dance a jig to The Abrahms (who some of us went to see at Rochester Cathedral on Bank Holiday Monday and again in London on the Wednesday!), enjoy the wonderful sound of the King's Chamber Orchestra, laugh out loud with comedians Tim Vine and John Archer at an After Hours session, as well as worship with the never to be missed Rend Collective.

Each year there is a specific focus for giving. This year it was for enabling farmers in Malawi to farm more sustainably as once again there has been poor harvests due to climate change.

Enough money was pledged to help 17000 people through Tearfund projects.

Each year we go thinking it can't be as good as the year before and each year we are not disappointed – with the range of music, activities for all ages, a yummy range of food and lovely stalls to browse it is impossible to do everything, even over 2 days. It was great this year to share the experience with the Holmes family for the first time, along with Lottie and James Wall, Russell and his mum and all the other friends we meet during the weekend. We are already looking forward to next year and, as it will be the 10th anniversary, we wonder what joys will await us.

If you would like to know more do look at the website: www.bigchurchdayout.com . Some of us camp from the Friday evening to Monday morning but others just come for a day or even both days travelling to and from site as it is only an hour's drive away. Maybe next year you would like to join us, so do speak to Mags or any of the others from church who have been before. It really is a heavenly experience!

Mags Southgate



A WALK THROUGH OTFORD (PART TWO)

The Village Pond



The earliest reference to this pond is on a map dated 1769.

It is the only listed pond in England, continually fed by a stream emanating from the spring at Friar's Pool, higher up Station Road.

For many centuries, the pond provided the main source of water for the villagers and their livestock. The parish council continue to pay for the feeding of its ducks!

In 1974 the village fought against Kent County Council who wanted to tarmac it over.

The village poorhouse (Numbers 20-24 The High Street)



This row is distinguished by its attractive mansard roof with its two dormer windows.

When the Poor Law reforms were introduced in 1830, it was closed down.

In 1835 it was sub-divided into 3 cottages. In the 1930's the shops were introduced.

Park Lane (also known as Cow Lane)

It was so-named as the bridle path to Henry VIII's *New Park* which stood in the Otford hills.

It is thought that it was previously a major route up the valley, linking the villas and farms, used by traders and soldiers travelling to the Roman hub of Dartford.



Forge House Restaurant



Formerly this was three timber-framed, 17th century cottages.

New Forge House

This was the site of the village forge. It is featured in a Victorian oil painting by Karl von Weber, titled, 'Cast a shoe'. The forge was demolished in the 1960s.

The High Street

Formally called *The Strete* – this was an ancient East-West trackway to Winchester. It was termed *The Pilgrims Way* by a romantic Victorian map maker.



The continual overflow from the pond used to run in an open culvert in front of all the cottages, each of which had a bridge fronting its front door.



The Corner House (Previously called Mount View)

Beneath the Victorian bricks stands a timber-framed farm house. It was built in 1740 to replace an earlier building which burnt down. Its high wall

once stretched right across the Sevenoaks Road. You can see the remains beside the Green.

Within its deeds, the Rector of Shoreham is still permitted to rest here before taking a service at St. Bartholomew's!

The Old Church Hall



Designed by Edward Lutyens (brother of the then vicar) in the early 1920s.

The hall was built on the site of the original Bull Inn which then moved across the road into *Morys House*

The Crown Pub (Now undergoing refurbishment)



Outwardly the building is little changed since 18th century. Previously it comprised two cottages (the later veranda and raised floor permitted the publican to introduce a shallow cellar).

The Millennium Mosaic was designed by Oliver Budd in 2000. Earlier articles have recounted its story.



Rod Shelton

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Rod is in production of a new book, *'Otford, heritage village'* on which this article is based.

OUT AND ABOUT...



OTFORD EVENING WI

Our next meeting is on the 13th of July and our speaker is retired crime scene investigator, John Yarrow.

We meet in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month and visitors are very welcome. If any further information is required please contact our President on 01959 524831.

On the 10th of August our speaker will be Glen Jones who will talk about Kent winners of the Victoria Cross - Kentish Valour.

OTFORD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT

GROUP (OMPPG) are still urgently seeking a 32" PC Monitor for displaying patient information in the Surgery Waiting Room. Can anyone help. Are you replacing a monitor that still has some useful life. Please contact the Chairman, Ken Cardinal 07905 730572 or email otfordppg@gmail.com.



OTFORD GARDNERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 5th September at 8pm
Paul Harrison will 'Bring on the Hot Winter Pots' in a practical demonstration. Admission, which includes refreshments, is £1 for visitors.

Saturday 9th September 2.15pm – 4.15pm
The Autumn Flower and Craft Show is the final show of the year and on display will be the best of the season's flowers fruit and vegetables. There will also be cookery, photographic and flower arrangement classes as well as handicrafts and art classes. Admission is 50p and homemade teas are available until 4pm.

HOSPICES OF HOPE Saturday 8th July Otford Quiz Night . Doors open at 19:00, supper served at 19:30. £12.00 per person to include a light supper. Hospices of Hope Tearoom, 11a High Street, Otford, Kent, TN14 5PG



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For information on this event please contact Rebekah on

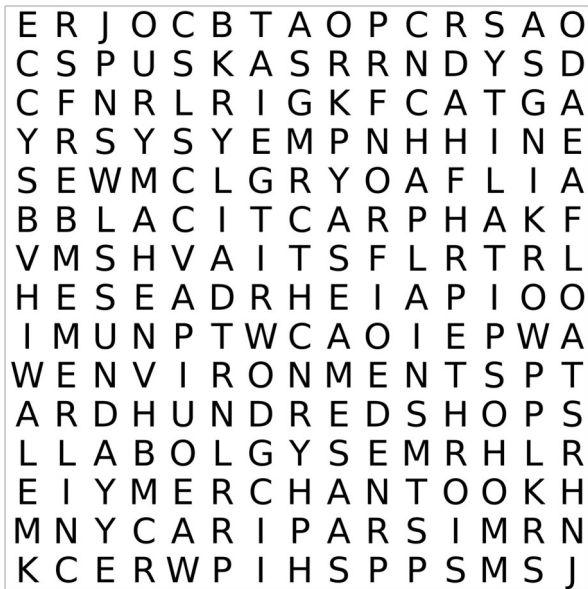
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PUZZLE PAGE

9th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).



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BEACOM FAMILY FAVOURITES

Broccoli and Boursin Soup

We had this at the Mid May Lunch and it was delicious. (Ed.)

Ingredients

12 oz / 300g broccoli

1 large onion

Knob of butter

750 ml / 1 and half pints water

1 chicken or vegetable stock cube

1 box Boursin cheese with garlic and herbs

Seasoning if required (I don't use any)

Method

Gently sweat the onion in the butter for about 4 mins Add to a large saucepan with water, stock cube and broccoli and bring to the boil.

Simmer until cooked.

Using a hand blender or liquidiser whizz until smooth.

Re heat then remove from heat and add 100g / 4oz of the cheese.

Whizz again and serve with extra cheese crumbled on the top.

If you need to reheat any leftovers do so slowly and stir continuously.

Joan Beacom



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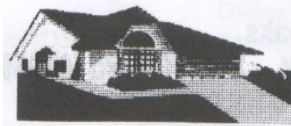
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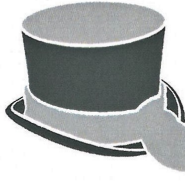
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