

# St Bartholomew's Church, Oxford Parish News



April 2018 [www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk) £1

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

April	8am	10am		6.30pm
1 April Easter Day	Holy Communion	Holy Communion (in Village Hall)	-	Festal Evensong
8 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
15 April 3rd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
22 April 4th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion		-
29 April 5th Sunday of Easter	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 Hall.

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

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

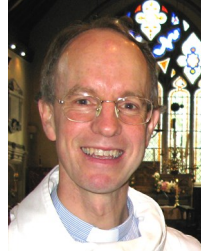
If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact the Church Office 01959 523185.

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

Cover photo by Richard Worssam: The wedding of Lisa and Nick  
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## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

“Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist.” So wrote Professor Stephen Hawking, who died just a couple of weeks ago on 14th March. He was one of the most famous modern scientists. His book *A Brief History of Time* sold over 25 million copies worldwide and was translated into 40 languages. The focus of his work was on cosmology and mathematical physics, and he was an expert on black holes, quantum gravity and the expansion of the universe.



I remember watching the film “The Theory of Everything” in 2014, and one of the things that came across clearly was Hawking’s determination to continue his research despite the devastating onset of ALS, a type of motor neurone disease. One of his famous quotations is, “My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.”

Stephen Hawking had no expectation of an afterlife and he clearly stated his atheism. However, at the end of *A Brief History of Time* he did leave a tantalizing question hanging in the air, “What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe...Why does the universe go to all the bother of existing?”

This question straddles the boundary of science and theology. Indeed, everyone who takes Hawking’s advice to look up at the stars may be open to a sense of wonder that life exists at all, and that we have consciousness which allows us even to reflect on this question.

Hawking was a Fellow of the Royal Society. One of his colleagues, Martin Rees, a former President of the Royal Society and currently the Astronomer Royal, has also written about the extraordinary vistas that cosmology opens up for us. Indeed, he encourages us to move beyond simply thinking about one universe and instead to be open to the idea of a multiverse. In his book *Our Cosmic Habitat* he has written, “The multiverse concept is already part of empirical science: we may already have intimations of other universes...In an infinite ensemble, the existences of some universes that

are seemingly fine-tuned to harbour life would occasion no surprise: our own cosmic habitat would plainly belong to this unusual subset. Our entire universe is a fertile oasis within the multiverse.” (p. xvii)

Christians, in thinking about earth and heaven, have long held that this universe, of which we are a part, is not the sum total of existence. Here we draw close to the wonder and mystery of the Easter message of the Resurrection. An insight which I have found helpful is that resurrection is not the same as resuscitation. It is a different realm of existence, but nonetheless real.

The Gospel writers struggled with how to communicate that which is essentially beyond description. So we have accounts of Jesus appearing to the disciples in the Upper Room or on the Emmaus Road, or by the Sea of Galilee - he was recognisable, though not always immediately. He was clearly more than flesh and blood, as seen in his ability to appear in the Upper Room even though the door was locked.

The Easter message is that in Jesus we have a glimpse into the wider overlapping reality of heaven which goes beyond our known universe. This might sound speculative, but for me the most convincing evidence of the truth of Easter is how the disciples’ experience of their encounter with the Risen Lord transformed their lives. It changed their grief and bewilderment into joy and courage.

May the joy and wonder of Easter fill our lives, too.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

## DIARY FOR APRIL 2018

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

**1      EASTER DAY**

**8.00 am      Easter Communion**

**10.00 am      All Together Easter Holy Communion (Otford Village Memorial Hall)**

**6.30 pm      Festal Evensong for Easter**

2      7.45 pm      CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

4      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) Revd. Chris Reed

7      9.00 am      Churchyard Working Party

**8      The Second Sunday of Easter**

**8.00 am      Holy Communion (Revd. Dennis Mihill)**

**10.00 am      Holy Communion (Revd. Dennis Mihill)**

9      7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

10      **Magazine material for the May edition by today, please, to the  
Church Office, [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)**

11      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

12      3.30 pm      Magazine Editorial Meeting

14      1.00 pm      Wedding of Anthony Thew and Samantha Marshall

6.00 pm      EPIC (Church Centre)

**15      The Third Sunday of Easter**

**8.00 am      Holy Communion**

**10.00 am      Morning Worship**

**6.30 pm      Evensong**

16      Homegroup holiday to the Lake District

18      9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)

19      8.00 pm      Readers and Revs (Riverside House, Church Street, Shoreham)

21      10.00 am      Sunday Club Leaders' Meeting (The Vicarage)

3.30 pm      Wedding of James Peake and Kate Alban-Davies

7.30 pm      Concert by VOCE (in Church)

**22      The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**8.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.00 am      Holy Communion**

**11.45 am**      **APCM**  
**1.00 pm**      **Parish Lunch (Church Centre)**

23      7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)  
         8.00 pm      St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee ('Burway', Sevenoaks Road)

25      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards  
         7.45 pm      PCC meeting (Church Centre)  
         8.00 pm      Fabric Committee (Church Centre)

**29      The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
         **8.00 am      Holy Communion**  
         **10.00 am      Morning Worship**

30      7.45 pm      CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)



*Registers*

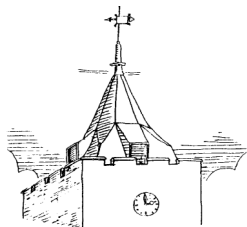


**FUNERALS (Our Sympathy)**

1st February      Annie **Smith** (aged 74)

27th February      Gladys **Young** (aged 84)

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on **Saturday, 7th April 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!

**EASTER DAY, 1st April.** There will be services of Holy Communion at 8.00 am in the Church Centre and 10.00 am in the **Village Hall**. At 6.30 pm there will be a service of Evensong in the Church Centre. Do join us!

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM will be held after the morning service on Sunday, 22nd April at 11.45 am in the Church. This will be followed by a parish lunch at 1.00 pm. At this meeting we will be presenting the Annual Report and Accounts and also electing new members of the PCC. We do hope you will join us as we look back with thanksgiving and forward with hope.

### VOCE CONCERT : PILGRIMAGE

**Saturday 21st April, St Bart's Church 7.30pm**

We are delighted to welcome back this group of former choral scholars (including choir member Mark Holmes) from Trinity College, Cambridge and friends. They will sing music ranging from the sixteenth century composer Allegri to a modern close-harmony arrangement of John Brown's Body, and a selection of classic hymns of pilgrimage. As well as music performed by the full choir there will be items by a smaller ensemble - with string accompaniment, and an organ solo.

Tickets at £15 are available from the Church Office, 01959 523185 (mornings only), and include refreshments.

Do come with your friends to hear this talented choir on a Spring evening in our newly refurbished church!

### COMMEMORATION OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES

The annual service to commemorate departed loved ones will take place in church on Sunday, 6th May at 3.00 pm.

### CIVIC SERVICE

The date of the annual Civic Service is on Sunday, 13th May, 10.00 am at St. Bartholomew's Church. We warmly invite you to join us at this service.

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

This will take place on **Saturday, 16th June from 2.00 pm** on and around The Green. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be with us, if you can.



### AN EVENING WITH TERRY WAITE

*A celebratory event on Saturday 19th May at 6.30pm.*

To mark the completion of our reordering and redecoration of St Bartholomew's, we will be welcoming Terry to St Bart's, Otford where he will be in conversation with former BBC broadcaster, Nick Page. This will be followed by a reception with canapés, and Terry's books will be available to be bought - and signed.

Tickets for this evening - £20 - are now available from the church office 01959 523185 (mornings only) and Joan Beacom 01959 524304.

## REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM

### Former broadcaster Nick Page reflects on the evangelist's humility

I was ten years old. I remember going several times to Harringay Arena to hear Billy Graham. My parents had signed up as counsellors to those who “came forward” at the services. Even at that age I was engrossed by his preaching.

My keenness to attend was not because I felt any spiritual need. I assumed I was on the home team and it was “they” who needed to respond to the invitation. I was brought up in a Christian home, attended church several times a week. I was happy to add to my theoretical knowledge of the faith from Dr Graham’s clear teaching peppered with the phrase “the Bible says...”

Even hearing such vivid phrases as, “If you were born in a garage, it wouldn’t make you a car”, didn’t puncture my carapace of self-sufficiency. That happened during a conversation after one meeting, and I prayed that night for God to take over my life - sixty-four years ago this month.

One of the recurring words in tributes to Billy Graham is “humble”. Strange, for someone who preached (by the BBC’s estimate) to 215 million people in person, plus countless others by radio and TV. Difficult, for a man who was the confidante of each US president.

As a sceptical journalist, I might have taken that humility with a pinch of salt, had I not had opportunities to meet him. On one occasion he agreed to be a guest on my BBC Radio 2 programme, which we broadcast live that day from a studio we set up in his hotel.

Representing a very mixed audience I needed to include tough questions about his ministry. He not only accepted that, but seemed to relish being able to give answers to them.

Yet for me the most vivid illustration of his humility was a meeting of mission volunteers. We crowded into a hotel ballroom, for a final briefing and prayer meeting. All seats were taken, with people sitting on the floor. Billy Graham arrived near the end, made his way towards the front, and squatted on the carpet. He was quite natural about it - but it caused consternation! The meeting couldn’t continue until he took a seat offered to him.

He knew his success was dependent entirely on his trust in God. If he began to believe his own publicity - his effectiveness would evaporate.

He wasn’t a great theologian - he didn’t pretend to be. In the early days he had occasionally been naive in his politics - his humility enabled him to correct those errors. He was what he asked to be put on his gravestone - a preacher. One who preached not only from the pulpit, but by his Christlike character.

*Nick Page*



## TERRY WAITE

### Always in demand as lecturer, writer and broadcaster, we look forward to his visit to St Bart's in May

Terry Waite was born in Cheshire in 1939 and studied Theology and Social Science both in London and in the USA. On leaving college he was appointed as Education Advisor to the Anglican Bishop of Bristol, and remained in that post until he moved to East Africa in 1969. In Uganda he worked as Provincial Training Adviser to the first African Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and in that capacity travelled extensively throughout East Africa. Together with his wife Frances and their four children, he witnessed the Amin coup in Uganda and both he and his wife narrowly escaped death on several occasions. From his office in Kampala he founded the Southern Sudan Project and was responsible for developing programmes of aid and development for this war-torn region.

In 1972 he responded to an invitation to work as an International Consultant to a Roman Catholic Medical Order and moved with his family to live in Rome. From this base he travelled extensively throughout Asia, Africa, North and South America and Europe both conducting and advising on a broad range of development issues connected with health and education.

In 1980 he moved to Lambeth Palace to join the Archbishop's Private Staff. In his capacity as Advisor to the Archbishop he again travelled extensively and had responsibility for the Archbishop's diplomatic and ecclesiastical exchanges. He accompanied him on a historic visit to China and had responsibility for travels to many different countries.

In the early 1980s he successfully negotiated the release of several hostages from Iran bringing

him to public attention. Similarly, in 1983 he successfully negotiated with Colonel Ghadafi for the release of British hostages held in Libya. In January 1987, while negotiating for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, he himself was taken captive and remained in captivity for 1,763 days, the first four years of which were spent in total solitary confinement.

Following his release in November 1991, he was elected a Fellow Commoner at Trinity Hall, Cambridge where he wrote his first book *Taken on Trust*, which quickly became an international best-seller. Following his experience as a captive, he decided to focus on study, writing, lecturing and humanitarian activities. Later works are *Footfalls in Memory* (1995), *Travels with a Primate* (2000), a humorous account of his journeys with Archbishop Runcie, *The Voyage of the Golden Handshake* (2015), a comic novel, **Out of the Silence** (2016), a book of memories, poems and reflections, and *Solitude* (2017). He has also contributed articles to many journals and periodicals.

Since his release he has been in constant demand as a lecturer, writer and broadcaster in many different countries. With his unique experience and ability to communicate clearly and with good humour, we look forward to welcoming him on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (see p.6).



Photo by Gemma Levine



## MISSION MATTERS ... WORLD WIDE SILVER LINING

Magnet School near Nairobi continues to provide education, welfare and to some orphaned students a home. Despite education services improving in Kenya and being provided for 'free', for some this is still not accessible as uniforms, school equipment and food need to be purchased.

There are now some 300 young people attending Magnet with new intakes having taken place in January (see photo). Feeding this number of students plus staff is a continual challenge and food prices often fluctuate wildly most recently due to drought. The school has some livestock, including chickens, and some vegetables are grown on site. Bishop Jeremiah is very resourceful and often has foreign students and members of supportive churches in the U.S. staying at his home. Sixth Form students from Kings Rochester had the 'African experience' last summer and helped with maintenance work at the school and interacting with the students and seeing local attractions.

A percentage of St Bartholomew's Re-ordering Appeal is to be tithed to WWSL and Magnet School. Bishop Jeremiah has earmarked improved sanitation as a priority as currently the students have very basic 'long drop toilets' and use buckets to wash themselves. Whilst there is no mains sewage Jeremiah hopes to purchase and fit a 'bio digester' to deal with this. By using solar power this could also reduce the cost of power.

WWSL also support a Christian Masai School and community project (MAPED) in Tanzania . We originally funded the school building which also doubles up as the Church. More recently we funded one of the teachers to attend a

teaching degree course at Arusha University. The community of around 1,000 live in a very isolated area, so teachers must come from their own community especially as the Masai language is not used in state schools. The pupils learn Swahili and English as well as the national curriculum. The school is now registered with the government education service. However this does not provide funding, so the community self fund and seek support from churches and contacts they have made whilst their choir has been on tour .

For more information and photos of both projects please visit our website:

[www.worldwidesilverlining.org.uk](http://www.worldwidesilverlining.org.uk)

We have a Virgin donation page on :

<https://>

[virginmoneygiving.com>worldwidesilverlining](https://virginmoneygiving.com>worldwidesilverlining)

*Andrew Hill  
(Trustee and Hon. Treasurer)*



*Some of the new intake of students at Magnet School*

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### April: Meals with a meaning



#### Parents' pause for thought:

Take time to read the Bible story on p.14, and in the Bible. When Jesus ate his last supper with his disciples, he changed the old Jewish Passover into a meal with special significance that

Christians still celebrate today.

Soon after eating this meal, Jesus was betrayed into the hands of his enemies by Judas, a disciple who was supposed to be a good friend. He was brought before the High Priests, who were disturbed by his popularity, interrogated by Pilate and condemned to a humiliating death on the cross by the same people who had cheered his arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, just a few days earlier. At the Last Supper, Jesus asked his disciples to eat bread and to drink wine, and to continue this ritual in order to remember his body broken for us and his blood poured out for us on Good Friday; to remember that he died for each one of us so that, despite our failings, we can enjoy a close relationship with God and live life in the hope of heaven.

Think about taking communion at church and the way in which you feel this brings you closer to Jesus. Be prepared to share this with the children in your life so that, the next time they attend a communion service, it will have more meaning for them. Encourage them to listen to the words being spoken by the Celebrant (telling the story of the Last Supper) and to look for the bread (wafers) and the cup of wine. This may be easier when our new stage is completed and the communion table can be brought forward to a position more at the heart of the congregation.

The disciples ate and drank as Jesus asked them to do. But there were many things they did not yet understand. It was only after they had seen the risen Christ that they began to realise that Jesus had given his life willingly on the cross and that this was all part of God's plan to bring forgiveness and new life to all people who trust in him.

**The Last Supper:** Read the story on p.14 together, perhaps using the props to help bring it alive. Chat about the story making sure that the youngest have a chance to contribute.

What's your favourite part of this story?

I wonder why this story is called "The Last Supper?"

What do you think was going to happen to Jesus?

Do you think people still remember Jesus with bread and wine today?

#### Setting the table:

Before family meals, ask children to take turns to set the table.

Alternatively, ask them to do so in

readiness for a visit by special guests such as visiting grandparents. Encourage them to take care over making the table look attractive, perhaps with a jug of flowers, candles, homemade name cards, place settings, etc. Fold napkins in different ways. Put mobile devices away for the meal to encourage conversation. Link all this with the story of Peter and John getting the meal ready for Jesus and the disciples.



*Easter decorations:* Break some eggs in half, saving the insides for cooking. Clean the shells. Decorate the insides and outsides of the shells with poster paints or felt-tip pens. Glue a small toy chick in the shells. You could make one for each guest!



*Easter cards:* Your family will really appreciate a homemade card. Fold some card in half. Starting near the top of the fold, draw a large oval egg shape, finishing near the bottom of the fold. Cut out the egg shape, through

both layers of card, but don't cut along the fold! Decorate the egg with crayons, felt-tips, paints or stickers. Write an Easter greeting inside!

*Easter Grace:* One, two, three four five, My friend Jesus is alive, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Died for us and rose again/ Thanks for special meals, Amen

*Meaningful Meals:* Chat together about any special/celebration meals that you regularly eat together as a family, eg a birthday tea or a dinner on the last night of a holiday. What is everyone's favourite and why? Are there any food items that always form part of the celebration, or perhaps a favourite restaurant/picnic place? Could you introduce some new celebration meals that might become a tradition in your family – eg Friday night is Pizza night? Traditions build happy memories and strong families!

*Family Quiz:* Many meals and food items have a special meaning. Can you say what the following food helps us to celebrate and/or remember?

*Hot cross buns*

*Simmnel cake* (what are the decorations on the top and why are there eleven of them?)

*Easter egg* (an egg makes us think of new life – why do we think particularly of this at Easter?)

*Communion bread and wine*

**Washing your feet!** If you are supervising bath time, helping with shoelaces or footcare, remind children that before the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. They had all arrived in the upstairs room of the house in Jerusalem, no doubt hot and dusty. They probably wore open-toed sandals. But there was no servant to wash everyone's feet and perhaps the disciples weren't keen to volunteer! (This job was usually given to the least important member of the household.) Jesus loved his disciples, and though he was their Lord and Master, he wanted to show that he was willing to serve them in this lowly task. It was then that he gave them a new commandment. Can you try to memorise it?

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. *John 13:34-35*

**A world famous painting:** Can you find a painting called *The Last Supper* on the internet? Try the website: [www.milan-museum.com](http://www.milan-museum.com)

What do you think of it?

Where in the world can it be found?

How big is it?

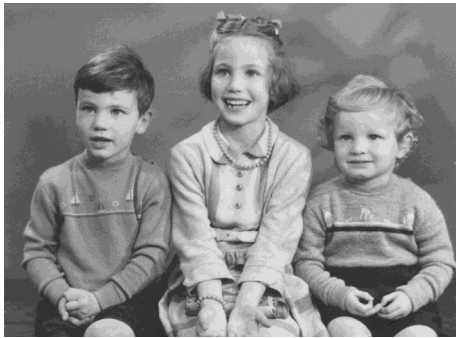
If you research further, can you find a picture of *The Last Supper* made in salt? In which country can that be found?

*Vicki Howie*

## IN CONVERSATION WITH ... ED THOMPSON

### The Otford boy who became a local historian

Ed was born in 1955 a year or two after his parents moved from Streatham to one of the newly built houses in Tudor Crescent. Whilst his father commuted to London, his mother looked after home and children – Ed was the middle



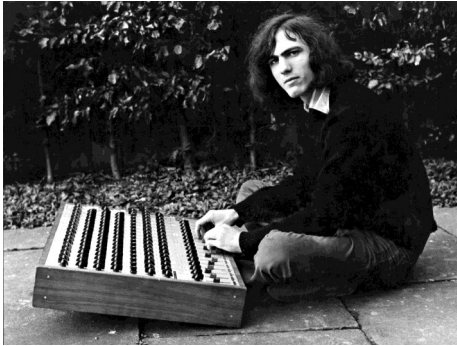
*Ed, Dee and Jeremy (1958)*

child of three. Ed told me that there was a great sense of camaraderie in the Crescent in those days and that he and his siblings had many friends to call upon. He recalls his childhood as having been happy and adventurous. Memorable activities included organising 'fetes' in his garden to raise money for a missionary aunt in India, selling wares from the wall in front of his house and digging a huge tunnel in the back garden with his younger brother after they had watched the film, *The Great Escape!* Ed was a practically minded boy and, from the age of eight, loved nothing more than buying an old radio from a jumble sale to dismantle and reconfigure as an amplifier – a skill that carried through into work choices and hobbies later in life. Nowadays Ed buys vintage sound equipment and restores it to its former glory.

Ed also enjoyed attending Otford Scouts and rose to become a Patrol Leader. Another interest was railways and, perhaps more than the family holiday destinations, Ed recalls the excitement of the steam train journey to get there, especially if he was allowed up onto the footplate. When the stations started being modernised in the mid-60s, Ed and a friend began salvaging memorabilia; amongst his collection he has the Otford sign from the old signal box. Again this interest has persisted into adulthood; both via his photo collection (see below) and through his former involvement with the Kent and East Sussex Railway (e.g. helping to restore old signals) – voluntary work he hopes to resume when he retires.

Schooling for Ed seems to have been less significant than his hobbies! Having attended primary school in Sevenoaks, at 11 he joined Wildernesse School but admits that he preferred hands on tasks, such as helping with the lighting for plays, to academic work or sport. One of his fondest memories of school is when, in the first year of the sixth form, the pupils had access to two back rooms where they could listen to the pop music of the moment such as Jimi Hendrix! Ed loved pop music from an early age and had become a great fan of pirate radio stations; at the age of 12 he had set up his own radio station with a friend; each boy's bedroom was converted into a studio and the station was named Radio Otford. In the 1970s Ed was involved in the Christian music scene, using his PA system with artists such as Graham Kendrick and Cliff Richard, in both local and national venues including Central Hall Westminster and the Albert Hall. Ed also constructed a home recording studio.

Ed's first job was with Post Office Telephones on their youth training scheme where he enjoyed the technical work. Two years later Ed was tempted away when a friend started a business in a cow shed in Tonbridge building amplifying equipment for pop groups and



*Ed at mixer (1973)*

theatres. From Ed's perspective, but much to his parents' dismay, this was too exciting an opportunity to miss. After a few years there he joined Trans World Radio, an evangelical Christian broadcasting organisation, because he now wanted to operate the sound equipment rather than build it. Amongst the programmes they made was Justyn Time with Justyn Rees. Rees then invited Ed to work with him at Hildenborough Hall (now Oak Hall), Otford, from where he was running a mission to young people in London called New Heart for the Nation. As a 'technical man' doing the 'nuts and bolts in the background', one of Ed's roles was to make recordings for radio of speakers at the mission.

For the last twenty years Ed has worked at Walthamstow Hall as an IT technician; a job which has allowed him time for his keen interest in local history. On the committee of the Otford and District Historical Society since 1988, Ed's fascination with this subject began when the canopy of Otford Station was pulled down; he was so incensed that he began to collect photos to preserve memories of the

station and village, and later of Sevenoaks and surrounding area. In time, working with Phil Clucas, a graphic designer, the pair drew on these photos to produce a well-received series of books on the theme of 'The Past in Pictures'. Allied to the books, Ed gives illustrated talks about local history.

Christened by Revd. Elder and confirmed by Revd. Bunch, Ed has a long association with St Bartholomew's. He attended both Sunday school and Pathfinders and was also a server. For a while as a teenager he preferred to attend St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, because of its lively youth group, but he later returned to our church. When Ed's first marriage, which produced his 'three lovely children' broke down, he said he spent ten years in 'the wilderness', before meeting Brenda Hambrook which eventually led to the couple getting married in St Bart's in 2016. The Thompsons now mainly attend the Sunday evening service which prepares them for the week ahead.

*Christeen Malan*



*Ed and Brenda's wedding day (2016)*

## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

### The last supper (Based on Luke 22:7-22)

*For an interactive story, you will need: some herbs; a tablecloth; a breadbasket with flatbreads; a jug of red juice; cups.*

"I can't wait for our special supper tonight!" said Dan, dancing about with excitement.

"Not long now!" replied Mum as she chopped sweet-smelling herbs. *(Smell the herbs.)*

Today was the Passover Celebration. Later, Dan would share a special meal of roast lamb and flatbreads with his family. But the best part would be when Dad told them the Passover story again. It was all about the time when God rescued their ancestors from Egypt and took them to a land of their own. *What's your favourite celebration meal?*

Now two men were at the door. It was Peter and John, Jesus' friends! Dan had met them the other day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a little donkey.

"Hello!" they greeted Dad. "Jesus wants to know, where is the guest room that you are going to lend him and his disciples for the Passover meal, please?" *Where do you think it was?*

"I'll show you!" cried Dan. "Follow me!"

He led them up some stone steps on the outside of the house that went up to the flat roof. But now he stopped at a door on the first level.

"Here you are! The room's all ready for you!"

The two men looked in at the large room with its long table and nodded approvingly.

"Thank you, Dan. We'd better get ready for the meal. Can you lend us a hand?" *(Set the table with the items.)*

After supper with his family, Dan went up to peep around the door of the guest room. Jesus was sitting between his disciples at the table.

"My friends, I've been looking forward so much to eating this last supper with you," he said. Dan was puzzled. Was Jesus going away again so soon?

Jesus took the wine, thanked God for it, and shared it among his friends. *(Pour juice into everyone's cup.)*

Then he took some bread, thanked God for it, broke it and gave it to them, saying: "This bread is like my body which will be broken for you. Please do this to remember me." *(Break some bread and give everyone a piece to eat.)*

Next, Jesus took the wine and said: "This wine is like my blood, which will be poured out for you. Please do this to remember me." *(Ask everyone to drink their 'wine'.)*

Dan thought Jesus looked very sad as he looked around at his friends. "One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies," he said.

Dan shivered. Surely nobody would want to hurt Jesus, would they? He went back down to join his family, wondering what was going to happen next.

Vicki Howie



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

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

Early March was a time of celebration for Sevenoaks District Council when we received external recognition for our pioneering work, proving that we are on the right track, by winning two awards.

Sevenoaks District Council is not a complacent council. We are always pushing the boundaries to see how much more we can do to make Sevenoaks a better place to live and work. The first award was for the Council's Democratic Services team which won the National Association of Civic Officers: Civic Office of the Year award. This was for our role in supporting the Council's Chairman. When SDC was formed in 1974 we chose not to be a Borough Council and have a mayor, but to be a District Council and have a chairman. The roles are actually the same.

The chairman does a vital job of supporting more than 300 community groups, volunteers and residents throughout the year and they could not give that support to the District without the work of the Democratic Services team behind the scenes. Most councils have dedicated staff to support their chairman or mayor, but due to our efficiency savings this work is carried out by Democratic Services who have to produce all the agendas and minutes for all the Council's meetings as well.

The second award was iESE's (the Improvement and Efficient Social Enterprise) Transforming Health and Social Care award. In the words of iESE it was for: 'leading a collaborative approach to public health. Developing new ways of working and pioneering the role of district councils in joining up across the health service and local government. Sevenoaks has shaped a holistic

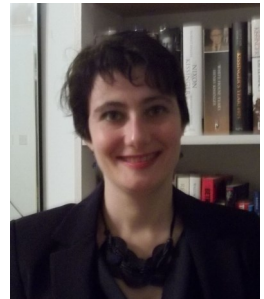
service that addresses prevention as well as a joined-up response to hospital discharge and the non-medical factors underlying GP attendance.'

In last month's parish magazine I wrote in detail about our health work and we achieved this award for all we are doing. We are one of the first district councils in the country to be using our functions holistically and for the benefit of promoting the wellbeing of our residents; also for working with the NHS to deal with the non-medical reasons why people visit GPs and end up in hospital. Examples include: anxiety caused by debt, asthma caused by damp housing, identifying people likely to fall and preventing falls, a range of symptoms caused by loneliness, lack of exercise and poor diet.

Our One You advisors and Super HEROs are able to look at a person's complex needs and link into whichever public services they need to help them. For example, rather than receive an inhaler for asthma, our One You advisors can work with the Council's private sector housing team to improve conditions in the home – dealing with the source of the problem head on.

With best wishes,

Michelle



## THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

### The Visitation

#### Luca della Robbia (1445)

This sculpture was my chosen subject to study for an afternoon as part of the regular Royal Drawing School public course that I attend once a week.

Originally made in glazed terracotta, it was cast in plaster in 1883. It is in the Cast Court Room in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Mary is greeting Elizabeth in their shared knowledge of being 'with child'. The sculptor portrays a tender scene, but clearly shows the differences between them, contrasting youth with older age and defining their religious status and relationship through height and stature. It brought to mind the visual imagery contained in the following lines from the hymn *O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness* by John SB Monsell (1811-1875):

*'Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on His heart He will bear it for thee'.*

The hymn writer, like the sculptor, is using visual language to give emphasis to a statement. He could have written 'At His feet lay thy burden of carefulness, on His heart He will bear it for thee' but by using the words 'Low' and 'High' it has the effect of capturing our imagination and emotions. I feel moved by the phrase '*High on His heart*' as it suggests an intimate and chosen place of priority.

My drawing was recently on display in an exhibition of artworks on the walls of St Stephen's Church, Walbrook. This is a particularly beautiful church, where worshippers gather round a central altar designed by sculptor Henry Moore.

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







## IN MEMORIAM



### **Gladys Young, 1933 - 2018**

Gladys was born on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1933 in Dundee. She was the third in a family of five children, with three sisters and one brother. During the war years the family stayed in Dundee.

After leaving school, Gladys trained as an accounts clerk. In 1960 Gladys began a new chapter in her life when she and her older sister, Sheila, moved to Washington D.C. in the United States. Her oldest sister, Helen, had moved there a couple of years before and had encouraged both Gladys and Sheila to come out. They had already had a taste of America in the late 1950s when all three of them drove across the States in an open-top convertible. Gladys got a job as an accounts assistant in the South African Embassy in Washington D.C., while her sister, Sheila, got a job as teacher in Fairfax Virginia.

Another chapter in Gladys's life began when she met her husband, Stanley, at an embassy party in Washington. Stanley worked at the British Embassy, and in due course rose to become the British Vice Consul. They got married in 1966 in Silver Spring Maryland and continued each working at their embassy. The next chapter in family life began with the birth of their son, Alastair, in 1970.

Sadly, Gladys and Stanley separated in 1984. Gladys returned to the UK with Alastair, who was then 14. Gladys's sisters, Helen and Sheila, had already returned to England some years prior to this. Helen had moved here to Otford, and Sheila had moved to West Kingsdown.

When Gladys returned she initially lived with her sister, Helen. Then Sheila sold her house in West Kingsdown and together Gladys and Sheila bought their house in Well Road in 1986, just round the corner from Helen who lived in Sidney Gardens. This was to be Gladys's home for the rest of her life.

Gladys successfully got a transfer from her job with the South African embassy in Washington to the South African embassy in London, and she continued working there as an accounts clerk for the rest of her career. Latterly she worked part-time, and she retired fully in early 2000.

On her retirement, Gladys was able to spend more time in her garden in which she found much satisfaction. Gladys was also a member of the W.I. She also enjoyed outings up to London, for example, looking at the different fashion styles in the Kings Road. Latterly, Gladys spent more time looking after her sister, Sheila. Sadly, Sheila died suddenly in August 2015, and this came as a real shock to Gladys.

Gladys stayed at home until October last year when she had to go into hospital. Here she picked up an infection from which she never fully recovered. She will be much missed by family and friends.

## OUT AND ABOUT



### VILLAGE FETE

This year's village fete will be on Monday, 28th May 2018. Fete open 11 am - 4 pm, £1.50 entry (11 and under free)

Car park, subject to space, £2 plus entry fee. There is a logo competition for this year's fete - go to the fete website to find out more [www.villagefete.otford.info](http://www.villagefete.otford.info)



### OTFORD EVENING W.I.

April the 12th is our Birthday Meeting when we celebrate with a hot supper and a talk by Jonathan Fryer on 'The Humorous Side of Being an Actor'. We meet as usual in the Main Hall of the Memorial Hall at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Tickets available from Chris Bourne on 01959 522485.



### OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 1st May, 8pm in Otford Village Hall. Hilary Newman a horticulturist of some repute, will talk about 'The ABC of Pruning'.

This evening is likely to prove very instructive.



### OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th April. Francine Payne will give a talk entitled

*Joyce Green and the Rover Hospitals*. You can find out more about Joyce Green and Dartford Hospital Histories by looking at Francine's website at [http://  
dartfordhospitalhistories.org.uk/](http://dartfordhospitalhistories.org.uk/)

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## APRIL PUZZLE PAGE

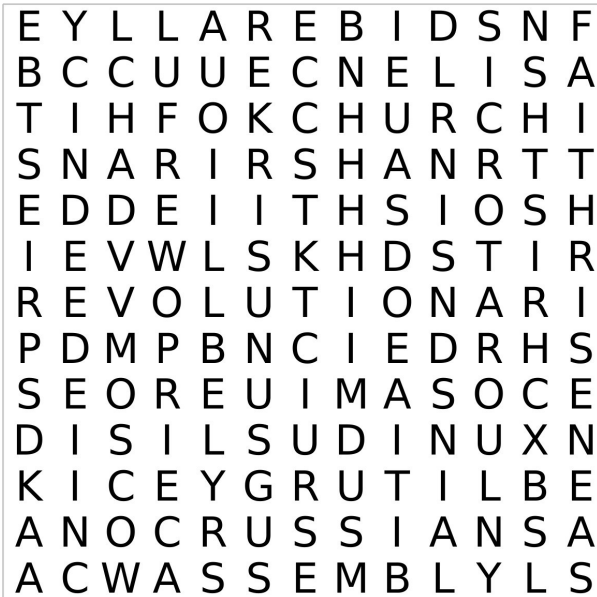
### Easter Faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church politely asked if he could speak. Bukharin shrugged and made way for him. The priest stood next to Bukharin, facing

the people, and raised his arms. He spoke just three words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for the atheist politician, who had no response to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?



Russian  
Revolution  
Rally  
Kiev  
Powerful  
Orator  
Bukharin  
Moscow  
Demolished

Christian  
Faith  
Argument  
Abuse  
Ridicule  
Silence  
Priest  
Orthodox  
Church

Christ  
Is  
Risen  
Assembly  
Indeed  
Ancient  
liturgy

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

### Glorious Gardens – a new series of articles provided by members of Otford Gardeners' Society

Like most home owners we started gardening out of necessity. When we moved into our new home, we needed to have a garden that was easy to work, as this could only be done at week-ends. But we knew almost nothing about gardening until we discovered the Otford Gardeners' Society. Here there were members with a vast knowledge of all aspects of gardening in flowers, fruit and vegetables, who were generous in passing on their knowledge. Also there were and are meetings with speakers on all sorts of gardening subjects as well as flower shows. (see page 18)

In our garden there were already a number of shrubs and an apology for a rockery that needed sorting out. But where to start? Both our front and back gardens were very square grass areas and so our first job was to make curved borders, as we just hate straight-edged lawns. It is amazing the difference this makes to a garden.

Even though we are now in April there are still lots of seeds that can be sown directly into the garden among which are calendula and nasturtium. Other seeds can be grown in seed trays, using the best compost you can afford. Before you buy your seed packets just read the notes on the back as they will tell you everything that you need to know. Where it mentions propagators, these are clear seed tray covers that will keep your seeds warm and at an even temperature.

A greenhouse is not a necessity but it does give you lots of options, particularly in growing seeds. A heated greenhouse is a plus but you can still grow seeds under cover without it. If you do not have a greenhouse then place your trays, with propagators, on a windowsill where you can watch your seedlings grow. Once your seedlings have got to the stage where they can be handled, and don't be afraid of handling the leaf between finger and thumb, ensure that you have a good root and transplant them, about an inch or two apart, into another seed tray for growing on to the stage where they can be planted out in the garden.

Sowing seeds is a bit like gambling, you don't always get the results that you want. But when you get it right, what a delight it is to have a garden full of colour done by your own hands.

**A tip for the month. Daffodils and narcissus are coming to an end of their beauty. Don't cut the leaves back, just nip off the dead flower heads and leave the leaves to die naturally. You will then ensure that you have further blooms for next year.**

*Doug and Sheila Dickerson*



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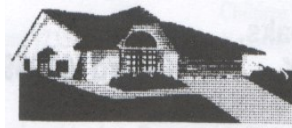
Meetings: Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. or Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15 p.m.

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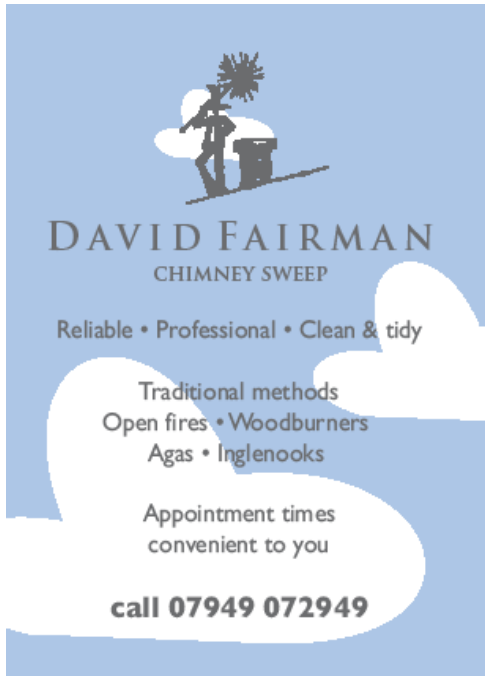
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine. She is lying on her back with her legs raised and feet on the machine's rollers, holding a small ball with both hands above her head. Other reformer machines and people are visible in the background, suggesting a studio setting.



  
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Martin Deadman



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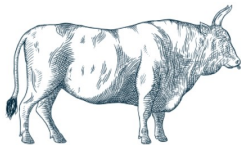
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## Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

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

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### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Janet Hunt 01959 523820  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris 01959 522813  
*Hon. Sec:* Joan Beacom 01959 524304

### PARISH OFFICE

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

### CHURCH HALL

*Manager and Booking Sec:* Robert Hunt 01959 523820

### MAGAZINE

*Editorial team:* 01959 523185  
Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,  
Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam  
*Advertisements:* Deborah Vigis 01959 523331  
st.bartholomews@otford.net

### CHOIR

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

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### SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

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**Juniors** (8-11s)  
**Seniors** (12-14)

For all groups contact Donna Worssam 01959 523185

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

*Contact:* Dawn Hallam 01959 526865

### OUTREACH

*Chairman of Mission Links:*  
Andrew Hill 01732 469538

### BELLRINGERS

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

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Margaret Lidbetter\* and Russell Edwards, Samantha Barnett, Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane,, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes\*, Janet Hunt, Mike Jones, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Mags Southgate, Mark Tierney,

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