

St Bartholomew's Church

Otford Parish News



November 2018

www.stbartholomews.co.uk

£1

SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
4th November All Saints Sunday	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
11th November 3rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	Remembrance Service	-	-
18th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
25th November Sunday next before Advent Christ the King	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	Messy Church	-

SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14) INFANT: 3-7

JUNIOR: 8-11

SENIOR: 12-14

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

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

Cover photo by Richard Worssam

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VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

As the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War draws close, we are reminded of the sheer horror of the slaughter on the battlefields and the depth of the suffering, both military and civilian, of millions upon millions of men, women and children, in unimaginable physical and mental anguish.

Since the summer we have seen Ring of Remembrance around Otford Pond (depicted in the background of our cover photo), recalling 39 men connected with Otford who died in the First World War, each life representing a tragic loss, with the pain of bereavement rippling across the whole parish.

This month I want to focus on the lives of two others also with a connection to Otford. The first is Christopher Chavasse. He served as Bishop of Rochester for twenty years (from 1940-1960) and over this period he came to Otford on numerous occasions as indicated in our Confirmation Service register. He was also one of the founders of Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, and many children from Otford have attended this school over the years.

Christopher was the son of the second Bishop of Liverpool. He studied at Trinity College, Oxford, and then trained for ordination. He was a talented sportsman in both lacrosse and athletics, and in 1908 he competed in the British Team in the London Olympics, running in the 400m race. He was 30 when the First World War broke out and he volunteered as an Army Chaplain.

Christopher showed great bravery and courage, and in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross. His citation read: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. His fearlessness and untiring efforts in attending to the wounded were magnificent. Although continually under fire, he volunteered on every possible occasion to search for and bring in the wounded. No danger appeared to be too great for him to face, and he inspired others to greater effort by his splendid example." He was also awarded the Croix de

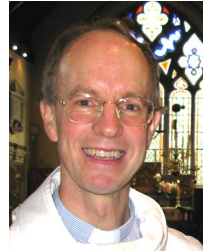
Guerre by the Republic of France "for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign."

Christopher had a twin brother, Noel. The two shared much of their early years together, both going to school in Liverpool, then studying in Oxford, and both competing in the 1908 Olympics. Noel graduated with a First Class degree and went on to train as a doctor.

In the Great War, Noel served as a medical officer with the Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the Liverpool Scottish Regiment. He is one of only three people to have been awarded the Victoria Cross twice, and he was the most highly decorated British Officer of the First World War. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1915. He was then awarded his first VC in 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. His battalion suffered huge casualties, and he put himself at immense risk to find the dying and wounded and bring them back to the British lines. In August 1917, during the Battle of Passchendaele, he was seriously wounded by a shell splinter while helping wounded men who lay stricken on the battlefield. Despite his own suffering he continued in this work, but he died of his injuries two days later.

With no thought for himself, he gave his life whilst rescuing many who would otherwise have died. For this he was posthumously awarded his second Victoria Cross. There are echoes here of the one who, 2000 years ago, endured the victorious cross for the sake of all humankind.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*



DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2018

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

- 1 7.30 pm Shoreham Deanery Synod (Church of the Good Shepherd, Borough Green)
3 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
 3.00 pm Christmas Pudding making (Church Centre)

4 The Fourth Sunday before Advent: All Saints Sunday (Trinity 23)

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All Together Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

5 7.45 pm CAMEO (70 High Street)

6 12.30 pm Interment of the ashes of Audrey Thomas

7 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Trinity 23) refreshments afterwards

10 **Magazine material for the December edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net**

 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

 6.30 pm Readings and Reflections on Remembrance (in Church)

11 The Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday (Trinity 24)

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Remembrance Sunday Service

10.50 am Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial

12 12-2.00 pm Soup Lunch (Speaker: Heather Stanley, Church Treasurer)

 7.45 pm CAMEO (31 Well Road)

13 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Team (Vicarage)

 8.00 pm Church Hall Options Appraisal Team (Vicarage)

 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

14 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP Trinity 24)

17 10.30 am Church Hall Options Appraisal Open Morning (Church Hall)

18 The Second Sunday before Advent (Trinity 25)

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship (Speaker: Kirstin Stevenson, Bible Society)

6.30 pm Evensong

19 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

 8.00 pm Fair Committee (Heritage Centre)

21 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP Trinity 25) refreshments afterwards

 7.45 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

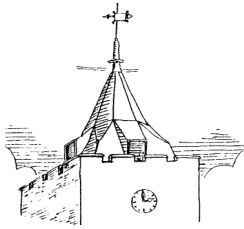
24 10-12 noon **Christmas Market** (Church Centre)

- 25 **Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King**
8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
10.00 am **Holy Communion**
3.00 pm **Messy Church (Church Centre)**
- 26 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
27 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
28 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday, 3rd November. A reminder that the last Churchyard Working party of the year will take place on Saturday, 3rd November between 9.00-11.30 am . Anyone able to support the regular team will be most welcome, together with any useful tools.



MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday 25th November, 3pm in the Church

Centre. This is suitable for families with children up to the age of 11. Do come along for some messy fun!

CHRISTMAS PUDDING WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd November 3pm
Church Centre £10



Do join us for a festive couple of hours making two Christmas puddings - one to take home and the other to donate to the

Christmas market. All are welcome! Dads and sons, mums and daughters, grandparents with grandchildren, come with a friend or on your own to meet others! Afternoon tea provided! Sign up sheet in church or ring Joan Beacom on 524304. If possible, bring a 1-pint pudding dish. Handout available when you reserve your place/s.

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

This will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday, 24th November from 10.00-12 noon. Stalls will include: gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; cakes; bulbs (the growing kind!); Christmas sweets and chocolates and a herb and spice craft stall. A super Christmas raffle is also planned. Coffee, tea and soft drinks, together with Christmas biscuits, stollen and mince pies will be on sale for you to enjoy while you chat with friends. Stock for the stalls is now urgently required and may be left at the Church Office or at any church service. Please put this date in your diary and come and enjoy a happy time with your family and friends, joining together in support of our church work.

NOVEMBER SOUP LUNCH

The guest for our coffee-time interview, at the November Soup Lunch, is Heather Stanley. At St Bart's we know her as the mastermind of our reordering project, and our new Church Treasurer. We'll find out more about how, as a structural engineer, she has been project manager on many far larger-scale, and even high-rise constructions.

Do join us on Monday 12th November (12-2pm) - in the Church Centre - and enjoy the delicious homemade soups and bread, with a light dessert, in very congenial company. Suggested donation £5. There is a list to sign up on, at the back of church.

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, ASSISI & RAVENNA

21st-29th October 2019

The Vicar, together with the Revd. Andrew Procter, will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Ravenna from 21st - 29th October

2019. We will begin with 4 nights in Rome, focusing on Peter and Paul whose final days were lived here. We will then have two nights in Assisi, home of St. Francis, set amidst the tranquillity of the Umbrian countryside. We will finish in Ravenna, capital of the western Roman Empire in the 5th century and featuring some magnificent Byzantine mosaics. The cost of this 9-day pilgrimage is £1,895 and this includes flights, accommodation with breakfasts and suppers, and all travel with our own guide and all entrance fees. Brochures are available on the information stand in the main entrance to the church.

ST BART'S CHURCH HALL APPRAISAL

A recent survey of the Church Hall has shown that it is in need of major refurbishment both internally and externally. We have therefore embarked on a consultation process as to its future, as sadly the church doesn't have the required funds and is an infrequent user of the hall. The first phase was with the church members and the users of the hall. This took place over the summer and ended with a presentation on 1st September of their unattributed comments and our initial thoughts. Two broad options emerged from this phase: renovation of the hall or converting it into social housing. There are no plans to sell the hall.

We would also like to hear from the wider village community as to your views on the future of the hall. Here are some questions you might want to consider. If you feel that the hall could be refurbished, what facilities would make the hall an attractive place for the village and how might this be financed in these straitened times? If on the other hand, you favour social housing, who should this target and again, how might we finance these options?

You can make your comments via a dedicated email address;

churchhallconsultation@otford.net; or you can fill in a response form on the church website: www.StBartholomews.co.uk. The consultation period finishes on the 3rd November. The replies will be collated for an open meeting on the 17th November in the Church Hall between 10.30 -12.00 noon.

The goal is to find a long-term viable solution that brings benefit to the community and that fulfils the original covenant for the hall.

Church Hall Options Appraisal Team

CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE

You are warmly invited to this special service to mark the beginning of Advent on Sunday, 2nd December at 6.30 pm. The candlelight of the chandeliers provides a memorable setting for the theme of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is the Light of the World.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This popular service will be held at 4.00 pm on Sunday, 9th December.

TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE

This will be held on Friday, 14th December, starting in St. Bartholomew's Church at 7 pm. Followed by the switching on of the lights on the tree on The Green. All are welcome and labels to remember those who have died may be obtained from the Parish Office in the High Street, or from the Hospice in the Weald. Donations will support the work of the Hospice.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will be held in Church on Sunday, 16th December at **7.00 pm**. £5 on the door (children free).

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...



November: We will remember them

The story of the poppy:

Millions of people wear a red poppy at this time of year. It is an outward sign that they want to remember those who gave their lives or have been harmed fighting for their country in wartime.

But why choose a poppy? During the First World War (1914-1918), many brutal battles took place on the Western Front in France and Belgium. The land, once fertile farmland, became a barren, muddy wasteland, scarred by war. Only the red Flanders poppies sprang up - in their thousands - despite the destruction going on all around them. They must have seemed like a sign of hope.

In May 1915, a young Canadian soldier, Lt Col John McCrae, who had just buried a fellow soldier and friend, gazed at the carpet of poppies. As he sat in the back of a field ambulance, he scribbled a poem, which he called, *In Flanders' Fields*. It began:

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

It took him just twenty minutes to write. He was not pleased with his poem and crumpled the paper. But the other soldiers admired it and encouraged him to submit it for publication. It was first published in *Punch Magazine* on 8th December 1915.

Sadly, John McCrae died of pneumonia in January 1918. But in November of that year, a young woman named Moina Michael, at work in New York, read the poem in a magazine. In what she later described as 'a spiritual experience', she was transfixed by the last verse:

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.*

It was as if she heard the voices of those fallen soldiers calling to her. Vowing to 'keep the faith' with those who had died, she campaigned in the USA to have the poppy recognized as a national emblem of Remembrance. It took time, but she succeeded.

A French woman, Madame Guerin, began to sell silk poppies in America in order to raise money for places in France that had been damaged in the war. In 1921, she persuaded the newly formed British Legion to sell them too and the proceeds helped ex-servicemen.

In 1922, Major George Howson set up a Poppy Factory to make and sell poppies in Britain. He used a simple poppy design so that men with one hand could assemble them. Today the Poppy Factory together with the Legion's warehouse at nearby Aylesford produce millions of poppies and wreaths. They have now helped over 1,000 war veterans back into civilian work!

Parents' pause for thought: If we want to live in peace, we need to help each new generation to understand the horror of war. The BBC has a very good website written for schools with

plenty of child-friendly material. The Remembrance Day Service around the memorial on the Green is a moving experience in which children can 'catch' our respect for those who gave their lives in the laying of wreaths, the sounding of the trumpet, and the two-minutes of silence.

The poppy story: Wear your poppies as you read the story opposite together.

How do you think the soldiers felt when they saw the poppies growing?

What do you think of the first verse of the poem? Read it again.

Do you ever hear birdsong? Can you imagine that sound being drowned out by the noise of guns?

Have you ever tried to write a poem? Were you pleased with it?

I wonder what would have happened if John McCrae had thrown his poem away.

I wonder why it is important to keep remembering the war and those who gave their lives? What about men and women serving in the Forces today – do you think we remember and help them enough?

Do you know . . .

- a) How many fighting men were killed during WW1?
- b) How many horses from all sides died?
- c) Which animals were taken from zoos/circuses to pull heavy guns?
- d) Exactly when did WW1 end?
- e) What was the original name for Jelly Babies?

Book Club

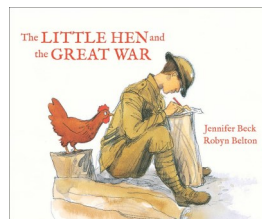
Where the Poppies Now Grow by Hilary Robinson (4-11yrs)

The Little Hen and the Great War by Jennifer Beck (5-8yrs)

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo (10yrs + and see film)

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo (9-12yrs)

WW1 songs: Listen to *It's a long way to Tipperary* and *Keep the home fires burning* on the computer. Can you sing or hum them on a journey?



Vicki Howie

Here's a Bible verse to try to remember:

"Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13

Answers: a) over 9 million (750,000 British) b) 8 million c) elephants d) 11am on 11/11/1918 e) Peace Babies

WORLD WAR 1 CATERING

In thinking about the cookery page for this month's magazine, it seemed appropriate to reflect on the catering during World War 1. The research was fascinating!

Specimen Diets were quite surprising. One was as follows:

Breakfast: Tea and bread/fried steak and onions

Dinner: Roast mutton and gravy/fried potatoes/baked apples

Tea: Tea, bread and margarine, Welsh Rarebit

Supper: Lentil soup, bread.

Many would like that today! Tea was inconsistent however, some of the alternatives to Welsh Rarebit included just celery or lettuce. Generally, it was surprising how hearty the menus were, and, indeed, it was stated that the army diet was an improvement on the diet of many who lived below the poverty line.

However, the standard of cooking was poor – the Army Catering Corps did not exist and very few men had even basic cooking skills. Also, as the war progressed, supply lines were interrupted, flour shortage led to bread being made from turnip flour and fresh meat was frequently unavailable. These inexperienced cooks needed to create meals in very poor conditions and with very large quantities required. Recipes for the main meal for 100 men might include 60-70 pounds of meat, 5 pounds of potatoes and 50 pounds of vegetables.

Rations for men in the front line trenches included tins of Maconochie's stew, a standard part of rations since the Boer War, which included carrots, turnips, potatoes and some meat. It was not popular. One description was *"warmed in the tin, Maconochie was edible; cold it was a mankiller"*!

Men with colds beware! A suggested cold remedy was Onion Porridge in which onion was boiled in water with some butter and salt, thickened and re-boiled to be served before going to bed!

I tried out a very simple dish which was recommended as suitable for cooking in a camp kettle, mess-tin or empty beef tin. It was for "Tomato Cheese" and just involved layering slices of tomato which were seasoned with salt and pepper with a mixture of grated strong (mature) cheese and breadcrumbs. The top layer is of the cheese/breadcrumb mixture and is to be dotted with whatever fat was available, butter if possible otherwise margarine or dripping.

The nearest I could provide for authenticity was an enamel pie dish! For such a simple dish it tasted good and I would quite happily use it as an accompaniment to fish.



The U.S. Army had its own cookery manual, which reflected more cultural influences and included recipes for Chilli con Carne, and Beef a la Mode, as well as recipes which would have been more familiar to the British Tommy. A surprisingly interesting part of the manual included detailed instructions for catering on the march or in permanent camp, with extremely precise packing instructions. All quite an eye-opener.

Hilary Fothergill

MISSION MATTERS ...



As you know the St Bartholomew's Church Reordering Appeal was successful and the new interior of the church is complete . If you haven't yet visited then please do so to appreciate the changes to the interior layout and redecoration plus new heating system. You may not be aware that the PCC took the decision to tithe all new funds raised to support a mission partner.

Worldwide Silver Lining was chosen as they have a direct link with a charity school in Kenya, (Magnet High School) who were in need of a new sanitation system.

The children had previously been using pit latrines which were both unhygienic and smelly. The long term plan is to build two toilet blocks , one for boys and one for girls, with the installation of a bio-digester to deal with waste. Initially the project was delayed by flooding during the rainy season but once the ground dried, materials were ordered and work commenced. Local labour was used as well as staff and older pupils from the school to keep the cost down.

As can be seen above the boys block is now nearly finished with flushing toilets and separate urinals. The bio-digester is installed and a 'grey water system' to re use water for flushing. Bishop Kibobi of Magnet School hopes to construct the girls block once further funding is in place through Worldwide Silver Lining and other partners. Everyone at the school is very appreciative of the kindness and generosity in the name of our Lord God which has enabled this project to become reality and make such a fundamental improvement to the lives of the students .

Thank you so much to all who contributed .

Andrew Hill

Chair of St Bartholomew's Mission Links

IN CONVERSATION WITH PHIL CLUCAS

Otford Ring of Remembrance

Marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War, from May of this year Otford residents and visitors to the village have been drawn by the impressive display of poppies around the pond linked by a red cord symbolising unity and comradeship. Pausing



The Ring of Remembrance 2018

awhile beneath the flagpole they have been able to read profiles of each of the thirty nine soldiers and sailors from Otford who lost their lives in the First World War. These men, who gave their lives for our freedom, were aged from 16 to 47 and would have represented a significant number of the working men of the village; in the 1911 census the population of Otford was 821 according to Clarke and Stoyal in their book, 'Otford in Kent. A History'. Coming from all walks of life, everyone would have known someone who died, whether a relative or friend. Amongst those commemorated is Lieutenant Cyril Lutyens (aged 20) of the Coldstream Guards who was nephew to both a former Vicar of Otford, Revd. William Lutyens,

and to his famous architect brother, Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Phil Clucas, who initiated and designed the Ring of Remembrance, told me that the first seeds of the idea were sown in his mind a few years back when he was looking at a photo from 1901 on the wall of the Parish Office. The photo was entitled 'The Bull Field Hop Garden' and, amongst the group of hop-pickers in the scene, there were three young lads who, by the time the war commenced in 1914, would have been of fighting age. This led Phil to reflect on the



The Bull Field hop garden

huge contrast the boys would have experienced between their quiet village life and the horrors of the battlefield. A further stimulus to the project came from the Village Fete; alongside Phil's other roles - as a parish councillor and as a committee member of the Otford and District Historical Society - he is also on the Village Fete Committee. When the Fete decided to take the centenary of the ending of World War 1 as its 2018 theme, Phil began to collaborate with Jackie Howe, who was already researching the lives of the Otford servicemen who died, and together they worked on plans for the Ring of Remembrance.



He married his wife, Christine, in 1977 (the Revd Bunch officiated) and the couple have three children, Douglas, Jack and Hazel, and five grandchildren.

The Ring of Remembrance, which has received widespread praise, will remain in place until just after Remembrance Sunday.

Christeen Malan

I asked Phil how the stunning poppies had been made. He said that it had taken several attempts to get it right but that each poppy was created from a plastic bottle. Both the top end and the bottom end of the bottle were used in making a flower and the process involved cutting, bending and burning the plastic into shape. Burnt fingers were a continual hazard and Phil kept a bucket of water to hand. The poppies, which each took about 30 minutes to form, were then spray painted red with a touch of black at their centres. Phil described the transformation of the old bottles as 'upcycling'! The project was financed by Fine and Country estate agents and by the Parish Council.

Phil has lived in Otford since 1976 and was born and grew up in the St John's area of Sevenoaks. After attending Tunbridge Wells Grammar School, he went to Maidstone Art College and then to Croydon College of Art. He spent ten years working for Colour Library Books and Quadrillion Publishing as Design Director, before leaving to become self employed as a freelance book designer and writer. He specialises in English history and countryside matters and the shelves in his study give evidence to an admirable range of his own publications. Alongside Ed Thompson he has also worked on several local history books, including the popular 'Past in Pictures' series.



Photos courtesy of Phil Clucas

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

Soldier, Soldier

Original Print by Ann Bridges

During this season of Remembrance I have the opportunity to show some pictures in an exhibition called 'Beyond War-Visualising Peace' at The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge in Canterbury. The show is on until 10th February.

I have based a series of artworks on a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson called *Looking Forward* from *A Child's Garden of Verses*.

'When I am grown to man's estate
I shall be very proud and great,
And tell the other girls and boys
Not to meddle with my toys.'

Toy soldiers are a poignant reminder of just how young the men were who fought in the First World War, barely out of their own childhoods.

My original intention was to create a row of soldiers, standing in line. I started by drawing

them on card to make simple separate printing plates. This became too fiddly so I linked them together to keep them exactly in place for the hand printing process.

Interestingly, because of this decision, the finished picture became an image that looks less about war through the ages and more about the possibility of peace. The soldiers are rooted to the spot and their weapons are impossible to use.

Each year, in November, I draw a poppy in my sketchbook. This year I intend to draw the poppies that are around the village pond as a reminder of this temporary memorial.

I shall also be out and about in the High Street taking part in *Meet the Makers* day on Saturday 1st December. I shall be delighted to show you the drawings.

Ann Bridges
Local painter/printmaker
www.ann-bridges.com



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

As I write this month's article I have just come back from the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities conference in Belfast, where I was selected to give a presentation about Sevenoaks District Council's "Health in all Policies" approach to creating environments conducive to wellbeing.

Many cities and council areas from across the world were very interested in what we are doing in Sevenoaks and have asked for more information about our public health work. Some have promised to come and visit us to find out how to do it in practice. I believe this is a huge accolade for what we are doing – to believe that in certain areas of public health we are leading the world.

While I was there I also learned a lot from other places and will be working out how we can incorporate that into our health work – to make Sevenoaks an even better place to live, work and play.

The World Health Organisation believe there are six 'Ps' towards good health:

Peace: It was interesting being in Northern Ireland as we discussed peace in the aftermath of the troubles. Although peace has been restored to the province there are still undercurrents and these have been made worse by Brexit with Unionists fearing a united Ireland as a result, and nationalists seeing one much sooner than they had ever thought possible.

Peace is more than an absence of war, and there is much more we can do in Sevenoaks around supporting victims of domestic abuse and bullying, victims of crime, promoting social justice etc.

Planet: Protect the environment in which we live so that our health can flourish. This will very much be a big part of our new Local Plan

and Corporate Plan that are currently in their draft phases.

Place: To design places where people live that improve health and wellbeing and this is very much our "Health in all Policies" approach of getting Housing, Planning, Environmental Health, Licensing, Economic Development and Community Safety all working together towards this one goal.

People: Focussing on investing in people to improve equity and inclusion through enhanced empowerment. We consult on all our major strategies: Local Plan, Community Plan, and the Housing Strategy. We are currently consulting on an economic development strategy if you would like to take part.

Participation: Ensuring the participation of all individuals and communities in the decisions that affect them. The Council also supported democracy week in July – encouraging people in our schools to vote and have their say.

Prosperity: Striving for enhanced community prosperity and strengthened assets through values-based governance of goods and services – these are goals that our economic development team try to achieve

It was a really interesting few days and I hope that we can strengthen our new Corporate Plan as a result to make Sevenoaks District even healthier! And if you know of a community champion who is helping to make Otford, the district or Kent a better place please nominate them for the Council's Community and Voluntary awards. Closing date is 5pm on Friday 14th December: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20026/your_community/321/community_and_voluntary_awards

With best wishes, Michelle Lowe



IN MEMORIAM



Grace Staple, 1927 - 2018

Grace was born on 8th December 1927 on the outskirts of Norwich. She was the second in a family of three children, with an older and a younger brother. Her father was an accountant, and in the later 1930s the family moved to Bexley with her father's job. They stayed in Bexley throughout the war.

On leaving school, Grace qualified as a typist. She did temping for various firms in London before she was employed by Standard Telephones. It was here that she met her husband, James. (He had grown up in Boulogne with an English father and a French mother, and during the war he had suffered internment by the Germans.) Grace caught James' eye, and he bought her an ice cream, though he got a friend to give it to her. They soon started dating. They liked to visit Lyons tea houses together.

Grace and James got married in 1950 in Bexley. At first they rented a flat in Hatherley Road in Sidcup. Then they bought a house in New Eltham. Grace continued working until starting a family. Alan was born in 1960 and Laura in 1964. As the family grew up they enjoyed holidays on the Kent coast, at Hythe and Deal.

Grace and James moved to Tudor Drive, Otford in 1992. Laura had already moved to the village in 1990, and Otford presented the perfect combination of being close to family and the grandsons, proximity to the countryside, but also ease of access to London. When Laura had to go back to work, Grace would look after her grandsons James and Alex for two or three days a week, collecting them from school and teaching them about cookery, gardening and chess and always giving them encouragement.

Towards the end of the nineties her husband James became ill. Grace took care of him at home for as long as she could, until the last six months. He died in December 1999.

In 2003 there was another development in family life when Laura moved from Otford to join her partner Fran in Ireland. Grace would come to visit from time to time, and she took pride in seeing her grandsons grow up.

At home, Grace loved her garden, looking after it right to the end. She also helped her son Alan with his garden in Dartford. She enjoyed visiting garden centres. Grace would walk everywhere round the village, even to Sainsburys to do her shopping. She was always willing to help others, and she never wanted to be a bother to anyone.

Her grandsons summed Grace up by saying, "She enjoyed making sure her family was happy and she gave an unwavering love that will remain with us in our hearts."

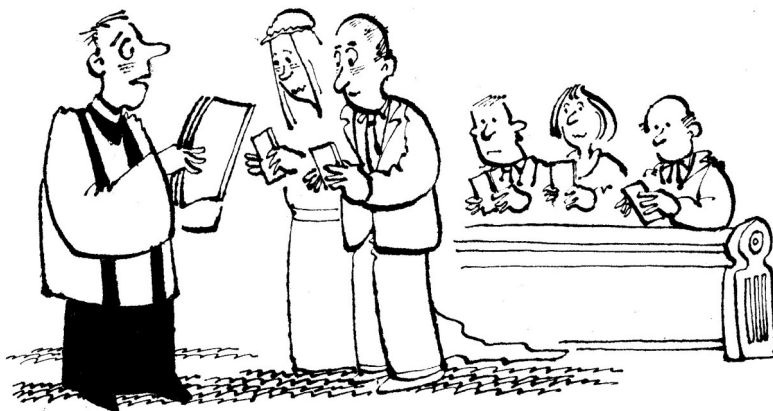


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN A DIGITAL AGE

Every month the Church of England reaches 1.2 million people online and it has been devoting considerable attention to developing its digital presence. The latest development is a new way of interacting with Alexa. This digital assistant is now found in nearly a quarter of all UK households. With Alexa devices you can now explore a whole range of Christian issues. By beginning with the verbal command, 'Alexa, ask the Church of England...' you can ask such questions as: 'What does it mean to believe in God?' or 'How do I become a Christian?' The answers are drawn from material prepared by the Church of England in its *Pilgrim* discipleship course. You can also ask more practical questions such as 'Where is my nearest church?' and this links in to material on the website 'A Church Near You'. St. Bart's is listed on 'A Church Near You' and our entry includes details of our Christmas services.

In addition, Alexa can access further helpful information regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is also a source for prayers in the morning, evening and at night, together with grace before meals.

Alongside the Alexa functionality, the Church of England has produced a range of apps for smart phones and tablets to support prayer, worship and Bible study. For example, there is a 'Reflections for Daily Prayer' app which features a short commentary each day on one of the Bible passages from the daily lectionary. There is also a 'Daily Prayer' app which gives you access to the order of service for Morning Prayer, and also Evening and Night Prayer, together with the psalms, canticles and Bible readings. If you want to try these apps for yourself you can find them at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/download-church-england-apps>



...er, if I could just tear you away from your mobile phones for a moment...

OUT AND ABOUT



REFLECTIONS

To mark the end of the 'Otford Ring of Remembrance' (the 39 names, citations and poppies around the pond), you are invited to an hour of reflection in which we remember the men of Otford who gave their lives in The Great War.

It will be held between 6.30pm and 7.30pm at **St. Bartholomew's Parish Church on 10th November**, the evening before Armistice Day.

There will be readings of prose and poetry from the period; and recollections, both poignant and uplifting, on the lives of the Otford Fallen and the village they would have known and loved. At the end a bugler will sound 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

Admission is free, but if you wish, there will be an opportunity to donate to the following charities: The British Legion, SSAFA and ABF (The Soldiers' Charity).



OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL-HARDELLOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Following our two very successful car-sharing visits to Otford and Windsor and to Hardelet and St Omer we are now looking forward to a French film with English sub-titles on Monday 29th October and a fun and games evening on Monday 26th November, both at the Woodman Pub at 7.30pm. On 26th November please bring any games, nibbles with a French connection and invite your friends and neighbours to give them a free taste of our Twinning Association - perhaps they will want to return in the New Year and become members. For further information please contact Jane Lawrey via The Parish Council (clerk@otfordpc.co.uk)



OTFORD EVENING W.I.

The speaker at our meeting on Thursday 8th November at 7.30pm in the Club Room is Augusta Cook-Overy. Her subject is "How not to be Scammed" and she replaces Sheila Boyd who unfortunately has had to cancel.

Please join us if you are interested and more information can be obtained from our President on 01959 524831.

SATURDAY THE 1ST OF DECEMBER IS 'MEET THE MAKER DAY' IN OTFORD.

It is your chance to discover and celebrate the unique talents we are lucky enough to have within Otford's shops.

Come and meet Bill Skinner ... the man behind the name and see how his wonderful jewellery is created from initial design to finished piece. Pop in to see our amazing florist Denise Thompson to get a better understanding of the art of floristry.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a diverse range of independent shops and this is your opportunity to get a sneak peek behind the scenes. Those involved are:

Otford Interiors (upholstery)	Howlers
Denise Thompson	The Studio
Sally's Cake Emporium	Hall & Co
Bill Skinner	

Mille Fleurs are offering pre booked 45 min millinery tasters throughout the day.

To book, email millefleurshats@gmail.com or call in at the shop .

Do follow the event on our Facebook page @Obviously Otford and visit the village on 1st Dec (there will be signs in the participating shops' windows).

Ann Bridges will be the event's Artist in Residence, recording the day's activities in a series of sketchbook drawings.

NOVEMBER PUZZLE

For Britain, the First World War began on 4th August 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. At the start, the British Government asked for 100,000 volunteers to join the Army. 750,000 applied in the very first month. An estimated 250,000 British boys lied about their age in order to join up. The youngest caught was just 12 - he was sent home. Average life expectancy in

the trenches was just six weeks. In all, 65 million men from 30 countries fought in the First World War. More than nine million fighting men were killed during the conflict, a third of them through disease. At least 750,000 of these were British. The Victoria Cross, the highest military award, was awarded 628 times in the First World War.



First
World
War
August
November
volunteers
join
army
lied

order
youngest
average
life
expectancy
trenches
six
weeks
million

countries
fighting
killed
conflict
disease
victoria
cross

GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MEMBERS OF OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

I was brought up in a small country town in sub-tropical Queensland, Eastern Australia. Because of the water shortage flower gardening was not a great feature of our town. A near neighbour had roses but, because of the climate, it had a bud one day, full blown flower the next and by evening it had lost almost all its petals. It was quite a surprise to me when I came to England to see a rose bud developing to a flower which remained for several days.

Unfortunately, Grandpa liked his veggies, so our front yard was full of silverbeet, which is similar to chard, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and a chilli bush. We also had three Seville orange trees and one lemon tree plus grape vines. Though I tried to grow sweet peas, for some reason they did not survive!

Since I bought my house in Otford, I have had to learn all about gardening, though deep digging was already ingrained into me. Initially I planted lots of ground cover, as I knew that with my work I was not going to have a lot of time for gardening. However, the slugs and snails loved it! I also planted mainly for winter colour and then found summer was not very colourful, apart from variegated leaves on various shrubs.

Over the years, as my neighbours trees have grown, I have passed from a sunny garden to mostly shade. My front garden is the only fully sunny spot and I try to find plants which flower all summer and give a continuous display. Working in the front garden also means meeting the neighbours and many stop to talk. I am pleased to say that more people in my road are planting up their front gardens.

My favourite flowers are fuchsias, violas and begonias. Seeing bulbs flowering in early spring is also a joy! Unfortunately, because of my clay soil, not a lot of bulbs survive for many years.

As far as my lawn is concerned the following saying applies – if dandelions were garden flowers my lawn would win the prize.

Denise Barrett



Tips for the month

Now is the time to be planting shrubs and all sorts of hardwood plants, making sure that your site for the plants has been well prepared. Add a light dressing of bonemeal over the whole area and fork it in to the top four or five inches of soil. Hardwood cuttings of shrubs, including roses, can be placed in a trench in a sheltered spot, lining the bottom with sand. Now is also a good time to prune climbing roses.

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Easton Electrical	25	Gardening	
Chaili Plumbing	24	Gardens of England	32
Paul Tapper	23	Health	
Painting and Decorating	39	Pilates	26
Clean Gutter Company	36	Hair and Beauty	
Towns Bathrooms	29	Fiona - Freelance Stylist	22
Cars & Bikes		Halls for Hire	
Express Factors (car spares)	35	Otford Church Hall	27
Palmar Motorcycles (bike spares)	35	Hotel	
Sevenoaks MOT Station	33	The Bull Hotel, Wrotham	34
Chimney Sweep		Leisure	
David Fairman	26	Darenth Valley Golf Club	36
Computers		Oil Suppliers	
Need help with your computer (Prosphero)	32	Spar Oil Services	28
Disco and Lighting		Printing Services	
Silver Pines Sound and Light	37	Silver Pines Services	37
Domestic Appliance Repairs		Scouts	
Trevor's Domestic Repairs	24	15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scouts	22
Education		Taxi	
Russell House School	30	Space Travel	37
St Michael's School	30	Timber Treatment	
Estate Agent		Gulliver Timber Treatment	38
Ibbett Mosely	31	Treework	
Fine & Country	31	Down to Earth	38
		Watch and Clock	
		MJ Leach	26

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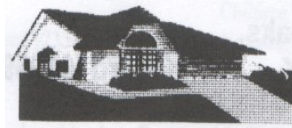
Meetings: Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. or Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15 p.m.

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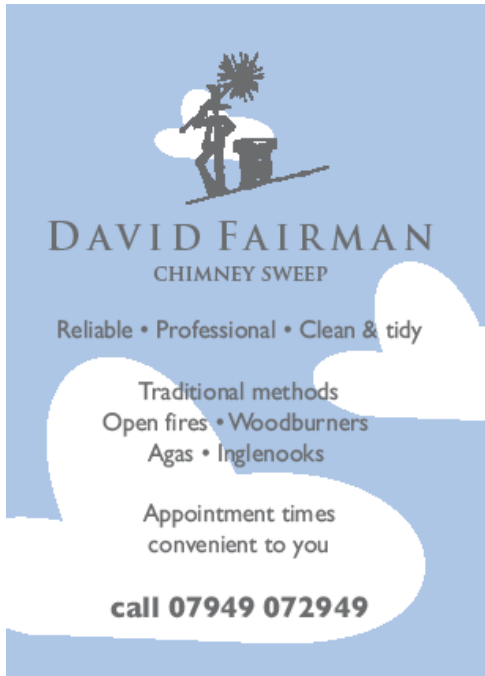
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine. She is lying on her back with her legs raised and feet on the machine's rollers, and her arms are extended upwards holding a small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




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The advertisement has a light blue background with a white cloud-like shape at the bottom. The logo shows a silhouette of a chimney sweep with a broom and a bucket, standing next to a chimney.

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The advertisement features a tall, ornate wooden grandfather clock with a white face and Roman numerals. Below the clock is the circular logo of the British Watch and Clockmakers Guild, which includes a watch and a clock.

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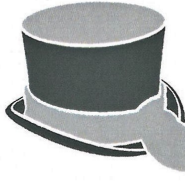
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Manager and Booking Sec: Robert Hunt 01959 523820

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