

# St Bartholomew's Church

## Otford Parish News

December 2018

[www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)

£1



## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

| December                                  | 8am                          | 10am                                     |                        | 6.30pm                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 December<br>Advent Sunday               | Holy Communion               | Morning Worship                          | -                      | Advent Carol Service                                 |
| 9 December<br>2nd Sunday in Advent        | Holy Communion               | Holy Communion                           | Christingle<br>4.00pm  | -                                                    |
| 16 December<br>3rd Sunday in Advent       | Holy Communion               | Nativity Play and YPF Presentation       | -                      | Choir Concert 7.00pm                                 |
| 23 December<br>4th Sunday in Advent       | Holy Communion (BCP)         | Holy Communion                           | -                      | Nine Lessons and Carols                              |
| 24 December<br>Christmas Eve              | -                            | -                                        | Crib Service<br>4.00pm | Midnight Communion<br>11.30pm<br>(carols at 11.10pm) |
| 25 December<br>Christmas Day              | Christmas Communion (9.00am) | Christmas All Together Worship (10.30am) | -                      | -                                                    |
| 30 December<br>1st Sunday after Christmas |                              | Holy Communion                           |                        |                                                      |

**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.

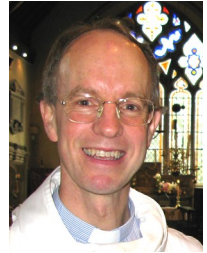
**HOLY COMMUNION** Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

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  
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 12 Volume 88

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



We are living in turbulent political times. The vicissitudes of the unfolding Brexit drama fill our news everyday. Since the announcement of the withdrawal agreement, the focus of the media's spotlight has shifted from the reaction of ministers, to the plotting of Brexiteer MPs, to the pressures faced by Theresa May, to the meeting of European leaders, to the tactics of the Democratic Unionist Party, and no doubt there'll have been other twists and turns by the time you read this article. At the heart of this passionate debate are competing visions for the future of our country.

The Christmas story is also set in turbulent political times. The Romans gained control of Palestine in 63 BC and their military occupation of the region served as a backdrop to the ministry of Jesus. There were different views about how to respond to this situation. The Herodians emphasized collaboration with the occupying power. The Zealots, drawing inspiration from the Maccabees who had wrested control from the Greek empire in an earlier era, wanted to confront the Roman empire, by force if necessary.

St. Luke sets the birth of Jesus clearly within a political context. He writes about the decree issued by the Emperor Augustus for a census to be taken. He adds the detail that this was to be held when Quirinius was governor of Syria. As a consequence Joseph and Mary have to travel to Bethlehem, the ancestral village of the famous Israelite king, David, who had ruled Palestine one thousand years before.

In Matthew's Gospel the clash of competing kingdoms is highlighted right at the outset with visit of the wise men and their question, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?" This question is met by a backlash of violence unleashed by King Herod as he sought to neutralise any threat to his own kingdom.

The theme of the coming kingdom is reflected throughout the ministry of Jesus, at the beginning, middle and end. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' opening proclamation is: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come

near." In the course of his ministry, Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, with the petition, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." At the end of his earthly life Jesus was confronted by Pilate who engaged in a dialogue with him about kingship and the Kingdom, and the nature of truth. A principal reason why the Romans executed Jesus was because they were uneasy about his teaching regarding the Kingdom of God, and the perceived threat to the power of Caesar.

However, the resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that the Kingdom of God cannot be held back. Two thousand years later we can ask, "Where is the power of the Roman empire now?", and yet the work of the Church stretches around the globe.

Jesus often spoke about the Kingdom of God, in parables or directly, highlighting its qualities and its characteristics. He set out a vision of compassion, justice, truth and love which has inspired Christians over the centuries. We are still far short of this ideal. In each generation the Church has to continue its efforts to work for the Kingdom of God in a wide range of different social, cultural and political contexts.

This is as much of a challenge as it ever was. If we are truly to take the Lord's Prayer to heart, then a good starting place is to let the values and vision of the Kingdom of God be at work in our own hearts and lives. I wish you a Happy Christmas, with all that this wish entails.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

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

### 2 Advent Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Advent Carol Service by candlelight

3 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

5 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

7 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Meeting (The Vicarage)

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

9.00 am Christingle-making (Church Centre)

6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

### 9 The Second Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Christingle

10 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

11 6.30 pm Otford School Carol Service (in Church)

12 9.30 am 'First Steps' Christmas Service (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)

7.45 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)

13 6.30 pm Russell House School Carol Service (in Church)

14 7.00 pm Tree of Light Service (St. Bartholomew's Church and then The Green)

### 16 The Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am YPF Christmas Presentation and Sunday Club Nativity Play

7.00 pm Choir Christmas Concert (in Church)

17 7.45 pm Christmas Social (17 Leonard Avenue)

19 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

### 23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion

6.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight  
followed by refreshments in the Church Centre



- 24 **Christmas Eve**  
4.00 pm **Crib Service**  
11.10 pm **Carols followed by**  
11.30 pm **Midnight Choral Christmas Communion**
- 25 **Christmas Day**  
9.00 am **Holy Communion**  
10.30 am **All Together Christmas Worship**
- 29 10-12.30 pm **Crib Trail**
- 30 **The First Sunday after Christmas**  
10.00 am **Holy Communion**



## *Registers*



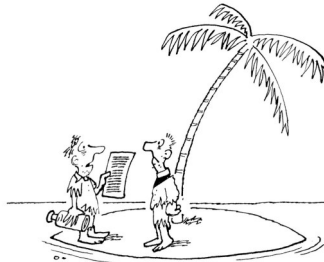
### **Baptism (Our Welcome)**

28th October Henry **Simmons**

28th October Thomas **Simmons**

### **Funeral (Our Sympathy)**

11th October Pamela Mary **Wright** (aged 88)

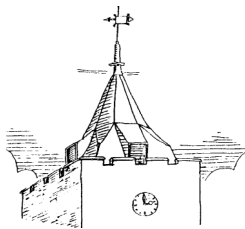


It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers Christmas party?

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Thank you for your subscription to our magazine!

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD BANK

“Thank you to the congregation of St. Bartholomew’s Church for their generous donation to our Food bank. We really value your continuing support throughout the year, which is always a welcome boost to our stores. We continue to support local families who are struggling to make ends meet and rely on the generosity of our regular donors, so would like to pass on our sincere thanks and appreciation.” (Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, Sevenoaks)

### ADVENT TRAVELLERS

During Advent we are running the Advent Travellers scheme, whereby members of the congregation play host to the crib figures of Mary and Joseph for one night as they travel around the village before returning to church on Christmas Eve.

### CANDLELIT ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

This will be held on **Sunday, 2nd December at 6.30 pm**. You are warmly invited to this special service to mark the beginning of Advent. 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**. Bring your friends, too!

### SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES

We look forward to welcoming local schools to church for their carol services; Otford Primary School on Tuesday, 11th December at 6.30 pm and Russell House School on Thursday, 13th December at 6.30 pm.

### TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE

This will be held on **Friday, 14th December, starting in St. Bartholomew’s Church at 7.00 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.

### YPF CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION AND SUNDAY CLUB NATIVITY PLAY

This will be on **Sunday, 16th December at the 10.00 am service**. The Young People’s Fellowship will be contributing to a Christmas presentation and the Sunday Club will be performing a traditional nativity play.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our church choir's annual Christmas concert takes place in church at **7.00 p.m. on Sunday 16th December**. There will be carols old and new, from England and across Europe, and your favourites to join in. After decades at the same price, we have decided that we really must increase this, but it will still be excellent value at £7 (children free).

## CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

### Wednesday 19th December, 8 pm

In the midst of the busy-ness of Christmas preparations and activities, you are invited to step aside from all this and enjoy an hour of peaceful reflection on the wonder of the Christmas story. With the benefit of our new facilities in church, we'll be dwelling on the experiences of the different people involved in the first Christmas as interpreted by artists over the centuries while listening to accompanying music. This will be time for our own thoughts and reflections as we ponder in quietness the heart of the Christmas message. Come and be refreshed in peace and wonder!

## SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

This popular choral service will be held on **Sunday, 23rd December at 6.30 pm in Church**, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE DATES

Do make sure you have these dates and times in your diaries!

|                  |                                                                          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2nd Dec.</b>  | Candlelit Advent Carol Service<br>6.30 pm                                |
| <b>9th Dec.</b>  | Christingle, 4.00 pm                                                     |
| <b>16th Dec.</b> | YPF Christmas presentation and<br>Sunday Club Nativity play,<br>10.00 am |
| <b>23rd Dec.</b> | Service of Nine Lessons and<br>Carols by candlelight, 6.30 pm            |

**Christmas Eve:** Crib Service, 4.00 pm

Midnight Communion 11.30 pm  
with carols from 11.10 pm

**Christmas Day:** Christmas Communion 9.00 am  
All Together Christmas Worship  
10.30 am

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SOUP LUNCH - 21st January, 12 noon

The first Soup Lunch of 2019 will take place on Monday 21st January when our coffee-time interviewee will be Detective Chief Inspector Michael Coltham who was responsible for the policing of our district. Do save the date and come and join us!

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### December

#### Advent calendar puzzle



On 1<sup>st</sup> December, the postman brought an Advent calendar for Tom and Rosie from their Godmother, Auntie Emily. On the front was a snowy

picture of Father Christmas, his sleigh heaped with parcels. If you looked closely, there were twenty-three little doors to open. And for Christmas Eve on 24<sup>th</sup> there were two bigger doors.

On the back of the calendar, Auntie Emily had written a strange poem. It said:

*What is Advent all about,  
Open the doors and you'll find out,  
The answer lies in a bed of hay,  
A message will help you on your way!*

Tom looked for door one. Ah, there it was, hidden under one of Santa's sacks. Rosie lifted the flap. Underneath was a dazzling angel. All of a sudden, the angel flapped his wings and flew out of the calendar into the room.

"Don't be afraid!" said the angel.

*"I bring you joyful news today,  
Someone special is on their way!"*

Then the angel returned to the calendar.

"Wow! That must be the message!" said Tom. "Someone special is coming. Who could that be? Perhaps we'll find out tomorrow."

The next day, Tom opened door two. Underneath was a Christmas tree in a red pot.

"Can you tell us who is on their way?" asked Tom.

"A tree can't tell us," said Rosie. "We'll have to wait until there's a picture of a person."

But for the next five days, there were only pictures of toys and sweets. Then on 8<sup>th</sup> December, the children opened the door to find a picture of a girl smiling. To their amazement, the girl clapped her hands and danced right out of the calendar.

"I'm Mary!" she said.

*"An angel brought me news of joy,  
I'm going to have a baby boy!"*

Then she danced back into the calendar.

"So a *baby* is on his way," said Rosie. "But babies don't lie in hay."

"Animals sometimes do," said Tom. "So perhaps we need to look for a picture with an animal in it."

But for the next few days, the doors opened to reveal a cracker, balloons and Christmas decorations – no animals.

At last, on 15<sup>th</sup> December, Tom lifted the flap and saw a shepherd holding a lamb. Suddenly the shepherd hurried out of the calendar.

"I'm off to Bethlehem!" he cried.

*"Dazzling angels came to say,  
We'll find the babe in a bed of hay."*

Then he disappeared back into the calendar.

"He must be going to see Mary's baby," said Rosie. "But why would he be lying in hay?"

"And what's so special about him?" asked Tom. "It's a mystery!"



The children couldn't wait to open more doors. They found a Christmas pudding, a robin, a snowman, and a stocking, but no more clues about the baby. Then on 20 December, the door opened to reveal a wise man. He was pointing at a shiny star. Suddenly the star slid out of the calendar into the room. The wise man followed it.

*"This star will show us where to bring  
Our presents for the baby King,"*

said the wise man. Then he followed the star back into the calendar.

"Aha, the baby is special because he's a king!" cried Tom. "But what sort of a king lies in a bed of hay?"

There were only three doors left until Christmas. The children opened them to find a snowflake, a plate of jelly and a teddy. They woke early on Christmas Eve, eager to see the last picture.

"Ready?" asked Rosie. "One, two, three, open!"

The doors opened onto a starlit stable with an ox and an ass. A small crowd was gathered around a manger full of hay. The children recognized Mary in the middle, and there was the shepherd with his lamb and the wise man with a precious gift. Suddenly the little group beckoned to Rosie and Tom.

"Come and see baby Jesus!" they said.

The children peeped into the manger. A tiny baby gazed up at them.

"There was no room for us to stay at the inn," explained Mary.

"Jesus is God's very own Son!" whispered the shepherds.

"He's the king of kings," said the wise men.

Then everyone fell silent again, admiring the baby.

Tom and Rosie wrote to Auntie Emily:

*You asked us what Advent is all about,  
So we opened the doors & then we found out!  
God's own Son is on his way,  
Born for us on Christmas Day!  
Thank you for sending us the calendar!  
With love, from Rosie and Tom xx*

**Parent's pause for thought:** In all the Christmas rush, take time to read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family. Let's help our children to look for signs of the nativity story in amongst all the Christmas trimmings!

Here are some ideas:

Look out for nativity Christmas cards received amongst all the seasonal ones;

Look out for stars and angels if you go to 'see the lights' in town;

Go to a carol service, go carol singing or sing carols on a journey;

Start a tradition of setting up a nativity scene together and do come to the Crib Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm!



**Prayer:** Dear God, This is a very exciting time of year when we are looking forward to . . . Please help us to remember that Christmas is really all about the birth of Jesus – the baby who lay in the manger. **Amen**

*Vicki Howie*

## EASY TABLE ARRANGEMENT FOR CHRISTMAS

Courtesy of Denise Thompson –  
Designer Florist Ltd

### Components

Container, terracotta pot, basket or ceramic bowl

Cling Film or a plastic bag

Wet oasis, round or brick

Candle

Candle holder

Foliage: blue pine, conifer, holly, berried ivy and/or euonymus

Pine cones and florist's wire

### Method

Take your container and, if it is not fully waterproof, line it with cling film/a plastic bag

Cut and insert a piece of oasis to fit snugly inside the container

Push the candle holder, with the candle, into the centre of the oasis ensuring it is firmly in place (diagram 1)

Add the foliage (blue pine) – it is important to strip the bottom leaves off the stems before pushing them into the oasis to a depth of about 1cm (diagram 2)

Fill the gaps in the arrangement with holly, berried ivy or euonymus (diagram 3)

Loop the wire around an area towards the base of the pine cones then wind the two ends of the wire together to create one stem and insert this into the oasis (diagram 4)

**Warning: Do not light the candle** - it is for decoration only as blue pine is highly flammable

All the components are available to buy from Denise's shop - 9, High Street, Otford

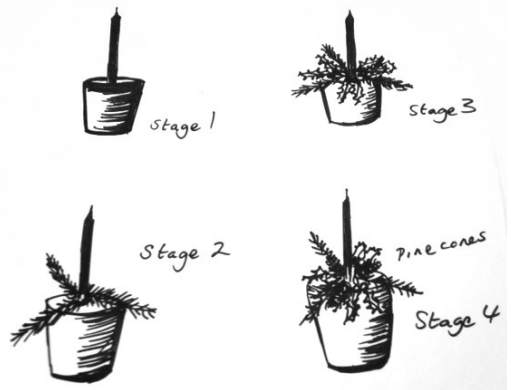
**Book now for two classes which Denise is running in December –**

Christmas Wreath Workshop, Shoreham Village Hall, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm

Christmas Mantle/Table Arrangement Workshop, OVMH, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm

Each event costs £40 and includes materials and light refreshments but you will need to bring your own secateurs and strong scissors

Contact Denise Thompson 01959 525009



## MISSION MATTERS ... CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society announces the 50th Anniversary Christingle campaign to support young people who feel alone.

For many young people, Christmas is a special time celebrated with friends and family. But for some it can be a lonely day - filled with abuse and neglect like any other. The Children's Society has launched its #Christingle50 campaign - supporting vulnerable young people through raising funds at Christingle events and a collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music. A young composer studying at the academy has produced the campaign song 'Light A Candle'.

The Children's Society reports that 200,000 young people aged 10 to 17 in the UK are experiencing emotional neglect on a regular basis, unable to turn to their parents if they had a problem or were upset. Some children facing emotional neglect are also struggling with other difficulties at home that create far from a picture of a happy Christmas. The charity found that:

*11% of 10 to 17 year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also do not have their own bed (either sharing a bed or did not have a bed at all)*

*21% 10 to 17 year-olds experiencing emotional neglect had also been homeless in the last 5 years*

*20% of 10 to 17 year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also lived in a household that had used a food bank in the last 5 years.*

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society explains: "The children we support deal with huge issues in their daily

lives. Sadly, Christmas Day for them is no different and for many it simply amplifies the challenges they face. Too many young people will wake up on Christmas morning like any other - feeling alone and unable to cope. Through our 50th anniversary Christingle campaign we want to change that – we believe that no child should feel alone."

Jesus demonstrated that children matter and at a time when children had little or no status, he would have been considered quite outspoken. The Children's Society continue to campaign for children to ensure their voice is heard today.

The Society have produced *The Good Childhood* report for 2018 to highlight the social challenges young people face. Personal image and self esteem are very prevalent problems due to advertising showing 'the perfect look' and social media pressures .

Help a child in poverty or at risk; fill that Christingle candle or make a donation via the Children's Society website . The *Light A Candle* song can be downloaded from the website.

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

Andrew Hill  
Chair, Mission Links



## IN CONVERSATION WITH JASON GUNN

Jason and his wife, Geraldine, began attending St Bartholomew's after their oldest child, Oliver, was baptised there eight years ago. Although Jason was not brought up in a churchgoing family, he said that, as an adult, he was drawn to the idea of coming to services. He has since served on the PCC and regularly cycles in the annual sponsored Friends of Kent Churches 'Ride and Stride', when volunteers visit as many participating Kent chapels and churches as possible in one day. This year Oliver, aged nine, cycled with his father.

Born in Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup in October 1968, Jason grew up in Bexley. He has an older sister, Lisa, and said they had a 'fantastic' childhood with extremely supportive parents. Jason went to his local primary school,



Parkwood School; a predominant memory from that time is of the many happy hours he spent playing football as centre forward or winger for the school team, the

local football club and the Cub Scouts. When he began his secondary education at Riverston School, a private school in Lee Green, he found that they played rugby instead of football. Fortunately, as an exceptionally fast runner, he soon adapted to this sport and, by Year 8, was playing as scrum-half or fly-half for the school's 1st XV.

Although team sports fell away as Jason grew older, as a teenager he developed a passion for cycling. He became obsessed with watching the Tour de France and his loft still



contains many old videos from that time. His strong interest in cycling continues to this day; on three occasions he has ridden an 'Etape du Tour' – a mountainous stage of the Tour de France open to amateurs a few days before the professionals arrive. He told me he loves cycling up mountains!

Jason wanted to enter a profession which did not involve sitting behind a desk all day and at 16 enrolled on a college course which could lead to a variety of professions such as surveying, construction or engineering. After two terms, he realised it wasn't for him and left. He then reverted to an idea he had toyed with previously - to become an osteopath (he had seen how his mother had benefitted from this form of treatment). He was offered a conditional place, subject to his A Level results, at what was then the British School of Osteopathy (BSO) just off Trafalgar Square in London and went on to fulfil their entry criteria by passing A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Economics at Bexley Grammar School.



After an intensive four year degree course, Jason graduated in 1993 and became an associate osteopath at a practice in Faversham. However, being footloose and fancy free, when a former fellow BSO student offered him a share in an osteopathy practice in Barbados, he decided to give it a go. He shipped out his belongings only to discover that he was expected to live in a hut and that his friend did not believe in professional codes of practice, including the need for personal liability insurance. Quickly realising he had made a big mistake, Jason cut his losses and returned home. A harsh lesson for a young man!

This experience was a factor in leading Jason to set up his own practice in 1996 in the 'Old School House' in Bexley - whilst also working in two other practices, one in Chatham and one in Faversham. In 2010 Jason was finally in a position to buy his own premises – just across the road from the Old School House. The new building (a former hairdresser's) gave him enough extra space to let out rooms to other therapists so he changed his business's name from Jason Gunn Osteopath to Bexley Complementary Health Clinic. Jason has always enjoyed his profession and finds that being able to choose the hours he works is a great asset

when it comes to sharing childcare responsibilities with Geraldine who works in HR for the European Bank for Research and Development in London.

Jason and Geraldine met in a nightclub in 1996 and married in 2000. I asked what had brought them to Otford and Jason explained that, on their second or third date, a chance visit to Shoreham had introduced them to the delights of the Olde George Pub's Sunday evening quiz nights. For many years they went weekly, making many friends in the area and becoming increasingly convinced that they would like to live in a village. Finding properties in Shoreham to be unaffordable, they identified a house in Station Road, Otford which needed doing up. Not daunted by this work, after eight years, they sold their renovated house and took on an even bigger extension and refurbishment project in Telston Lane (still ongoing) - initially spending five winter months in a 'cosy' caravan on site. Oliver was just a toddler at the time and their second child, Grace, was born a few years later. Jason loves family life and, despite all the pressures on his time, is keen to maintain a healthy work/family life balance.

*Christeen Malan*



## THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

### The Advent Travellers A page from a sketchbook

Last December, the wooden figures of Mary and Joseph stayed overnight with me, as they did with many other households during Advent. I drew a picture of them placed on the breakfast table, next to a cereal packet (one of those mini variety boxes, left over from when my grandchildren came to stay) along with a boiled egg and a couple of pears.

The 'Still Life' scenario created a time of quiet contemplation, before a busy day ahead . . . for them as well as for me, as they were soon packed away ready for their next destination.

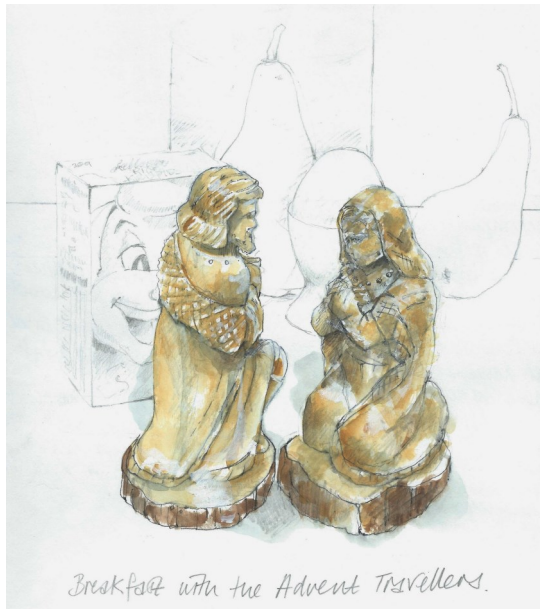
Bringing out my decorations is always a pleasurable activity, carefully unwrapping and handling tiny objects destined for the tree or a

window ledge. They are reminders of past Christmas celebrations going back over the years. Many are handmade; some are gifts from friends and family. At least one new one is added each year.

Every Christmas there are seasonal foods, flowers, fruits and sweets to add into my ever-growing collection of sketchbooks.

I still like opening the windows on an advent calendar, enjoying each miniature illustration that counts down the days to Christmas Day. Perhaps one day I'll design my own . . . I will have plenty of drawings to choose from.

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



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

### **As we approach Christmas I would like to wish you and your family a very peaceful and restful break.**

In case you were not aware 13th November was Purple Tuesday, a new day dedicated to accessible shopping in the run up to Christmas. The aim is to encourage retailers across the country and online to introduce new measures to make the shopping experience more inclusive and accessible for disabled customers. The initiative was co-ordinated by the organisation Purple and has been endorsed by the government.

Sevenoaks District Council is working towards providing and enabling holistic support for people with disabilities who live and work in our district. Using money from the Better Care Fund we are helping the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to offer more support for disabled people when they visit for advice. This includes advice on Blue Badges, benefits, getting jobs and home adaptations to ensure they can live as independently and fulfilled lives as possible. We always have our HERO advice service for more complex cases.

We also have disabled parking bays in all our car parks and have the Shop Safe Stay Safe scheme for any vulnerable people who may need assistance when out and about. Our Housing Strategy aims to provide more supported housing for everyone who needs it from people with mental and/or physical disabilities to care leavers or older people. We work with our housing association partners and the private sector to try to achieve this aim.

More and more of our towns and villages are becoming dementia-friendly and if they are dementia-friendly they will be safer

environments for disabled people, children and people suffering from mental ill health. We work with employers to try to focus on capabilities rather than disabilities. Our One You service provides advice and support for people with a range of health/accessibility issues.

I was humbled and honoured to have won the Local Government Information Unit's (LGIU) Councillor Achievement Award for Health and Care. I was the only woman councillor to win an award and the only district councillor to be shortlisted in the Health and Care category. That is an amazing achievement for everyone at Sevenoaks District Council who helped make our public health vision of creating environments conducive to wellbeing a reality – as all the other councillors that I was up against have direct control of both the public health money and care (in Sevenoaks, Kent County Council are responsible for these).

I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With best wishes,

Michelle



## OUT AND ABOUT



### OTFORD EVENING W.I.

Our December meeting is on Thursday, 13th at 7.30pm in the

Club Room when our speaker, Katharine Collett, hopes to inspire us with “Deck the Halls”, an illustrated talk about a Victorian Christmas. Visitors are very welcome to join us and if more information is required, please contact our President on 01959 524831.

### GIRLGUIDING OTFORD'S CHRISTMAS POST 2018



Stamps for Girlguiding Otford's Christmas Post Service go on sale on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for the 36<sup>th</sup> year running and will be available until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

The special charity post service, which is one of the longest running in the country, delivers Christmas cards with the scheme's special stamps to addresses in Otford village. Stamps cost 30p and are available to purchase in Otford library during normal opening hours or in the Parish Council office every weekday morning. Christmas cards can be posted in the special post boxes located in the same places. Otford's Brownies and Guides will collect, sort, frank and then deliver the cards over the two weekends before Christmas.

This year the money raised from the sale of the stamps will be divided between Embrace Ability, a charity working with disabled children and their families in Cambodia and for whom one of their leaders is currently volunteering in Cambodia, and Sevenoaks Community First Responders.

Please support them by purchasing the special stamps and posting your cards early. Thank you.

**Library opening hours** – Monday 9am – 1pm, Tuesday 9am – 5pm, Wednesday Closed, Thursday 9am – 1pm, Friday 1pm – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 2pm

**Parish Council opening hours** – Monday to Friday 8am – 12:30pm



Do you know someone who could inspire and empower the next generation of girls and young women?

We have hundreds of girls waiting to join our units locally and would love to let more girls experience the fun and adventure of Girlguiding but can only do this with more volunteers.

We have a variety of volunteer roles available now, some working directly with girls in units and others in admin roles.

Come and join us and #InspireGirls

Register here <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/>

If you have any questions or would like more information please email [ggekingsotforddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:ggekingsotforddistrict@gmail.com)



## CALLING ALL YARN LOVERS



We are launching the ‘**Otford Yarn Crafters**’, supported by RVS. A get together for all lovers of yarn crafting to meet and inspire one another, twice a month. So if you knit, crochet, spin, weave or otherwise use yarn, why not join us to share your projects, skills and knowledge and to find help and support when your project just isn’t going right! And if you would like to learn any of the yarn crafts we’d love to help you! Just come and ask.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening – 6pm to 8pm in The Woodman, Otford (November 27th) and the second Tuesday of the month in the morning – 10am to 11am at the Hospice of Hope Tea Rooms, Otford (November 13th). Come to either one or both meetings. You don’t need to book; there are no fees for joining us, but we invite you to purchase a hot or cold drink at the venue.

We look forward to meeting you soon,  
Christine and Elaine.

## KEMSING SINGERS



Join the Kemsing Singers for “Nativity” on Friday 14th and Sat 15th December in the St Edith Hall, Kemsing TN15 6NA at 7.30pm

A joyous, uplifting and always entertaining programme of Christmas and other seasonal music, in aid of Kemsing Youth Charities. We are joined by Keziah Thomas to perform some new arrangements of old favourites and wonderful works by Warland, Rutter and Parry. Join in with some favourite carols too!

Tickets £8 from 01959 523752 or at the door  
[www.kemsingsingers.com](http://www.kemsingsingers.com)



## OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 1st December 12-3pm  
at the school.

Outdoor Christmas Market,  
Santa's Grotto and lots of stalls, crafts, games,  
raffle and festive refreshments

Please come along and support this local  
cause.

£1 entry, children free.

## OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 12th December, 7.30pm at the  
Otford Village Memorial Hall

There will be the AGM with mulled wine,  
followed by a talk on *the History of Otford  
Village School* by Alan Williams. (Non-members  
welcome.)

## FESTIVE RECIPE .. CHRISTMAS PUDDING

### Method

#### Ingredients (for two 1 pint puddings)

4oz/110g soft dark brown sugar  
4oz/110g vegetarian suet  
6oz/165g sultanas  
6oz/165g raisins  
4oz/110g currants  
2oz/55g chopped mixed peel  
(you can buy mixed fruit with peel if you prefer)  
2oz/55g plain flour  
2oz/55g fresh white breadcrumbs  
1oz/28g flaked almonds (optional)  
2 large / 3 small eggs  
Zest of half a lemon  
Half level teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Half level teaspoon mixed spice  
Half level teaspoon grated nutmeg  
Pinch salt  
2 and a half fluid ounces/ 70ml brandy / rum



1. Lightly grease two 1 pint pudding basins.
2. Weigh out dried fruit into a large bowl, measure brandy and pour over fruit, mixing well, and leave for half an hour or longer.
3. Break the eggs into a cup and beat with a fork, then add to fruit, mixing well.
4. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix really well, making a Christmas wish.
5. Spoon the mixture into the two basins, put a circle of grease proof paper/ baking parchment and foil over the top and tie securely with string making a pleat in the foil for easier removal from steaming pan.
6. Place basins into a steamer/ large saucepan with an old saucer or metal lid underneath, half fill with boiling water, cover and steam for 5 hours. Top up with boiling water as necessary (check every half hour or so).
7. Remove from steamer and cool.
8. Remove foil and parchment and replace with fresh ones and tie up as before.
9. Store in a cool cupboard until Christmas Day.
10. To serve - steam as before for 2 hours and serve with whatever takes your fancy.

ENJOY!

## DECEMBER PUZZLE

### Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber,

to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.



Silent  
Night  
Loved  
Carol  
Austria  
First  
Sung  
Stille  
Nacht

Heilige  
Christmas  
Eve  
Father  
Joseph  
Mohr  
Young  
Priest  
Organist

Midnight  
Mass  
Melody  
Single  
Bing  
Version  
Third

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

Prior to moving to Otford some ten years ago we lived in a lovely little house with a lovely level garden and beautiful soil that was cultivated to within an inch of its life.

The house we bought in Otford was completely different. It had not been lived in for quite a few years and was run down and the garden was very overgrown. It took us quite a while just to discover the boundaries. At the same time the garden was doing its level best to get into the house. The gardening conditions could not be more different. We now have to deal with thin, poor, chalk soil that doesn't hold water and flints as big as your fist. All this and on a steep slope to boot.

On moving in a friend of ours spotted a lovely mature yew tree about half way up our new hill. He made us wager that we would not be able to clear enough of the garden to access the tree. We can now see this old gnarled tree from our back door.

So as you can appreciate our gardening exploits here have been something of an adventure. We never imagined having to plant bulbs with a mattock! The saying 'a penny for the plant, a pound for the hole' has been very fitting. Despite compost heaps, leaf bins and even wormeries we have never been able to generate enough material to change the native soil colour to anything but chalky white. So needless to say Otford and our garden has been a steep learning curve. In spite of everything we have a lot of laughs, a lot of failures, and have gradually found plants that cope.

This year has probably proved one of the hardest with 'the beast from the east', wildlife and later

on the drought. They say that grass will come back from a drought but at present ours still looks like the goal mouth on a football pitch.

Since living here the wildlife on the chalk downland has been a revelation to us. This has not helped our gardening endeavours with the foxes and badgers adding to the woes of our lawn. We have to share our compost bins with slow worms, our meadow with adders, our plum trees with the bullfinches and to cap it all a bossy robin that always wants feeding!

Since taming the plot our gardening has changed and now we do little and often throughout the year except during the summer months when we just keep things tidy, cut the grass, put our feet up and enjoy it.

Although lots of hard work our garden has given us a lot of pleasure and made us many new friends throughout Otford.

### TIP FOR THE MONTH

Plant all tulip bulbs nice and deep to prevent tulip fire. Also look after the wildlife by washing and filling your bird baths and feeders.

*Sue and Steve Holmes*





## DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

|                                          |    |                                |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| <b>Aerials</b>                           |    | <b>Florist</b>                 |    |
| Sevenoaks Aerials                        | 28 | Denise Thompson                | 22 |
| <b>Builders Decorators Plumbers</b>      |    | <b>Funeral Directors</b>       |    |
| APM Building Services (7oaks)Ltd         | 39 | Welham Jones                   | 33 |
| Easton Electrical                        | 25 | <b>Gardening</b>               |    |
| Chaili Plumbing                          | 24 | Gardens of England             | 32 |
| Paul Tapper                              | 23 | <b>Health</b>                  |    |
| Painting and Decorating                  | 39 | Pilates                        | 26 |
| Clean Gutter Company                     | 36 | <b>Hair and Beauty</b>         |    |
| Towns Bathrooms                          | 29 | Fiona - Freelance Stylist      | 22 |
| <b>Cars &amp; Bikes</b>                  |    | <b>Halls for Hire</b>          |    |
| Express Factors (car spares)             | 35 | Otford Church Hall             | 27 |
| Palmar Motorcycles (bike spares)         | 35 | <b>Hotel</b>                   |    |
| Sevenoaks MOT Station                    | 33 | The Bull Hotel, Wrotham        | 34 |
| <b>Chimney Sweep</b>                     |    | <b>Leisure</b>                 |    |
| David Fairman                            | 26 | Darenth Valley Golf Club       | 36 |
| <b>Computers</b>                         |    | <b>Oil Suppliers</b>           |    |
| Need help with your computer (Prosphero) | 32 | Spar Oil Services              | 28 |
| <b>Disco and Lighting</b>                |    | <b>Printing Services</b>       |    |
| Silver Pines Sound and Light             | 37 | Silver Pines Services          | 37 |
| <b>Domestic Appliance Repairs</b>        |    | <b>Scouts</b>                  |    |
| Trevor's Domestic Repairs                | 24 | 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scouts | 22 |
| <b>Education</b>                         |    | <b>Taxi</b>                    |    |
| Russell House School                     | 30 | Space Travel                   | 37 |
| St Michael's School                      | 30 | <b>Timber Treatment</b>        |    |
| <b>Estate Agent</b>                      |    | Gulliver Timber Treatment      | 38 |
| Ibbett Mosely                            | 31 | <b>Treework</b>                |    |
| Fine & Country                           | 31 | Down to Earth                  | 38 |
|                                          |    | <b>Watch and Clock</b>         |    |
|                                          |    | MJ Leach                       | 26 |

## ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication please contact:

[st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net](mailto:st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net)



# Denise Thompson Designer Florist Ltd



9 High Street • Otford • Kent • TN14 5PG

Tel: 01959 525009 Fax: 01959 524971

Email: [denise@dtflorist.co.uk](mailto:denise@dtflorist.co.uk)

[www.dtflorist.co.uk](http://www.dtflorist.co.uk)



## **Fiona – Freelance Stylist**

**Your local, reliable, friendly, mobile hairdresser.**

**Highly qualified in all aspects of hairdressing.**

**Call Fiona: Home: 01322 867160**

**Mobile: 07799683031**



## **15th SEVENOAKS (OTFORD) SCOUT GROUP**

H.Q. adjacent to Otford Station

**Beaver Scouts (Age 6 - 8)** Meeting: Mondays 5.00pm - 6.00pm

### **Cub Scouts (Age 8 - 10½)**

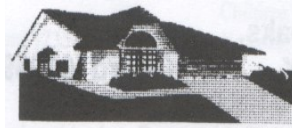
Meetings: Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. or Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15 p.m.

**Scouts (Age 10½ -14)** Meetings: Fridays 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

All enquiries and hall bookings [www.otfordscouts.org.uk](http://www.otfordscouts.org.uk)

## **PAUL TAPPER**

- ◆ Painting / Decorating
- ◆ Interior / Exterior
- ◆ Wallpapering
- ◆ Glazing
- ◆ General House Maintenance
- ◆ Free Estimates



***20 Years Experience***

***Friendly Service and Competitive Prices***

01732 365277 Mobile 07813 455491

[paul.tapper@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.tapper@btinternet.com)



**chaili plumbing**  
a professional service every time

- No call out charge
- A service you can trust
- Complete installations
- Member of the CIPHE
- Burst pipes
- Leaks and blockages
- Covering all areas of Sevenoaks

For a friendly, reliable and totally personal service, call now: **t: 01732 460695 m: 07711 940803**



**Trevor's Domestic Repairs**  
Tel 01732 456326 Mob 07772931537  
Got a problem with your appliance? Give me a call.

Fast friendly service  
Qualified engineer  
Hotpoint, Hoover, Zanussi, AEG, Bosch  
and most other makes.  
Repairs to Washing Machines,  
Tumble Dryers, Ovens and more.



# **EASTON ELECTRICAL**

## **Easton Electrical Services**

**Domestic,  
Business, Commercial & Industrial**

**No job too small**

**Competitive free estimate**

### **WHAT WE UNDERTAKE**

**Re-wire, Lighting, Power Installation,  
Additions, Repairs, Fault Finding  
Inspection and Testing  
Door Entry Systems  
Security and Fire Alarms  
Landlord Certificates  
Maintenance  
PAT Testing**

**Highly-trained,  
competent and fully-qualified.**

**All work is guaranteed.**

**A reliable on-time Trade Company.**

**Please visit our website to see all services.**

**Office: 01959 523054  
Mob: 07999 878274**


**Office@EastonElectrical.co.uk  
www.EastonElectrical.co.uk**




**pilates**  
IN SEVENOAKS

**THE STUDIO**  
now at the Education Centre, Coolings Nurseries,  
Rushmore Hill, Knockholt. TN14 7NN  
Tel: 01959 562192 or 07799 534191 [www.pilatesinsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.pilatesinsevenoaks.co.uk)

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.



  
**DAVID FAIRMAN**  
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Reliable • Professional • Clean & tidy

Traditional methods  
Open fires • Woodburners  
Agas • Inglenooks

Appointment times  
convenient to you

**call 07949 072949**

The advertisement has a light blue background with a white silhouette of a chimney sweep carrying a basket on his back. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a white cloud-like shape at the bottom.

**M. J. Leach.**  
Watch and Clockmakers and Repairers.

SPECIALISTS IN THE  
SALES & RESTORATION OF  
ANTIQUE CLOCKS, WATCHES  
& BAROMETERS

ALL WORK CARRIED OUT IN  
OUR OWN WORKSHOPS

HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE  
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

OUR SHOWROOM IS OPEN:

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
10am-5pm (Closing 1-2pm daily) &  
Saturday 10am-1pm

Tel: 01732 886115  
[www.mjlocks.co.uk](http://www.mjlocks.co.uk)

Member of the British Watch and  
Clockmakers Guild

High Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN15 7AD.



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.

# **OTFORD CHURCH HALL**

HIGH STREET

**Available for:-**

- \* Meetings**
- \* Rehearsals**
- \* Children's Parties**
- \* Receptions**

*(No discos or adult parties)*

**Reasonable Rates**

**Contact:** Robert Hunt on (01959) 523820  
for further details.



## **ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE**

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication please contact:

[st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net](mailto:st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net)





# Spa Oil

—SERVICES—  
Heating Oil



Competitive prices  
Friendly, helpful service  
Red Diesel

Call : 01892 615400  
[www.spaoilservices.co.uk](http://www.spaoilservices.co.uk)

# SEVENOAKS AERIALS

For friendly advice on all your  
TV Aerial / Satellite requirements



Please Call:

**01732 590246**

**01959 525884**

**07950 852021**



email: [sevenoaksaerials@btinternet.com](mailto:sevenoaksaerials@btinternet.com)



**towns**

BATHROOM SHOWROOM

**It's more than our outstanding knowledge and product range that makes us so attractive.**

Local location with very friendly staff, full design service, bathrooms, radiators, water softeners and plumbers merchants.

**T: 01732 350911**

Unit 4 Orchard Business Centre, Sanderson Way, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1QG



[showroom@townsbathrooms.co.uk](mailto:showroom@townsbathrooms.co.uk)



[www.townsmerchant.co.uk](http://www.townsmerchant.co.uk)

**AQUALISA**  **ashton & bentley** **IMPERIAL** **KOHLER** **LAUFEN** **Roca** **Vitra** **GSI**



St Michael's Prep School  
The Joy & Wonder of Learning



New Reception class opening September 2018

Book an individual tour to see excellence in action  
( ISI report 2017 rated "EXCELLENT" )



[www.stmichaels.kent.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaels.kent.sch.uk)



*It's not too late to  
join Reception.*

[www.russellhouseschool.co.uk](http://www.russellhouseschool.co.uk)



**Russell House**

*An independent  
co-educational  
preparatory school  
for children  
aged 2-11*

**01959 522352**

Station Road,  
Otford, Kent  
TN14 5QU



**Ibbett Mosely has been selling property in Otford Village for over 60 years**

We remain the only agent in the village to offer a wide range of professional services

**Open 7 Days a week**

The name you can trust when it comes to selling property in the village

Regular coverage on all major websites and Sevenoaks Chronicle

Visit our website at [www.ibbettmosely.co.uk](http://www.ibbettmosely.co.uk)

Email: [otford@ibbettmosely.co.uk](mailto:otford@ibbettmosely.co.uk)

The Parade Sevenoaks Road Otford 01959 522164

Coming to Otford  
Local Expertise, National Presence,  
International Audience

**FINE & COUNTRY**  
fineandcountry.com

Park Lane Office

**Does your property deserve the Fine & Country service?**

Breaking new ground, Fine & Country is known for its unique blend of intelligent and creative marketing, coupled with a very professional approach to the sale of individual and country property.

Access to the lucrative London and International buyers market from our prestigious showrooms on Park Lane, London, W1 and in over 300 locations worldwide.

Fine & Country  
Tel: 01474 700009 | Email: [northkent@fineandcountry.com](mailto:northkent@fineandcountry.com) | [www.fineandcountry.com](http://www.fineandcountry.com)

Need Help with your computer ?

**PC**



**Web**

Friendly

professional

business and home use

Advice and

Support for

**Andrew Craner : 01732 742454 or 07957 648461**

Email: [enquiries@prosphero.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@prosphero.co.uk) Internet: [www.prosphero.co.uk](http://www.prosphero.co.uk)

## ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication  
please contact:

[st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net](mailto:st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net)



# WELHAM JONES

## FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

FAMILY OWNED COMPANY

Sevenoaks, Otford, Kemsing  
01732 742400 or 01959 525440

156 London Road, Kent, TN13 1DJ  
sevenoaks@welhamjones.co.uk

Borough Green  
01732 780600

43 Western Road, Kent, TN15 8AL  
boroughgreen@welhamjones.co.uk

[www.welhamjones.co.uk](http://www.welhamjones.co.uk)

- ◆ Traditional & Contemporary funerals
- ◆ Eco-friendly funerals & woodland burials
- ◆ Private chapel of rest
- ◆ Home arrangements
- ◆ Memorials & keepsakes



Pre-paid  
funeral plans

24 hour  
service



## SEVENOAKS MOT STATION

Repairs and Servicing of all makes of vehicle

Free pick up service within 7 mile radius

01732 464420 [www.smots.co.uk](http://www.smots.co.uk)



**£20 OFF**

your next full service with this voucher

(one voucher per full service, not available with any other promotion)

- Welding
- Clutches
- Exhausts
- Tyres and brakes
- Shock Absorbers
- Diagnostic Machine

Support your local small business for all your mechanical work

Don't get charged main dealer prices when we can do the work for you

THE  
BULL

MARTIN DEADMAN



# WEDDINGS AT THE BULL

~ FROM £2,995 FOR 50 GUESTS ~

- Room hire for the civil ceremony
- Reception drinks
- Three-course 2AA Rosette wedding breakfast
- Third of a bottle of wine per person
- Toast drinks
- Room hire for evening reception
- Evening snacks
- Table linen and napkins
- Cake stand and knife
- Overnight stay for the Bride & Groom
- Hire charge from £500 to £1,000



**Contact Leigh Anne and Elaine on 01732 789 800**

THE BULL HOTEL BULL LANE WROTHAM TN15 7RF





SEVENOAKS

BLOCK 3, UNITS 3 & 4, VESTRY TRADING ESTATE  
OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS  
KENT, TN14 5EL

SUPPLIERS OF  
TOP QUALITY MOTOR COMPONENTS  
FOR ALL MAKES OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
TRADE & RETAIL

Fast, Friendly  
and local!



Extensive  
Tool Range!



CALL US TODAY!  
01732 46 45 46

PALMAR MOTORCYCLES  
Motorcycle Parts & Accessories

FAST, FRIENDLY  
SUPPLIERS OF PARTS  
& ACCESSORIES FOR ALL MAKES OF  
MOTORCYCLES TO BOTH TRADE & RETAIL



Tel 01732 46 95 46

Please phone or drop in, we will  
always try to help

BLOCK 3, UNITS 3 & 4, VESTRY TRADING ESTATE  
OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS KENT, TN14 5EL





Station Road, Shoreham  
Kent, TN14 7SA

**Welcomes you for morning coffee,  
light lunches or afternoon tea.**

**Spacious function suite available for celebratory  
lunches, dinners and presentations.**

For further information call 01959 522944  
[www.darenthvalleygolfcourse.co.uk](http://www.darenthvalleygolfcourse.co.uk)



## **GUTTERS CLEARED & REPAIRED**

Conservatories, Fascias & Soffits cleaned & rejuvenated

Phone or email for a quote: **Jeremy Steer**

01959 525347 or 07831 214815 e: [jeremysteer2@gmail.com](mailto:jeremysteer2@gmail.com)

**Business Cards**   **Posters & Signs**  
**Letterheads**   **Christmas Cards**  
**Newsletters**   **Calendars**  
**Magazines**   **Postcards**  
**Price Lists**   **Folders**  
**Booklets**   **Invitations**  
**Brochures**   **Menus**  
**Leaflets**   **Wedding Stationery**

**• Silver Pines Services •**

Pinewood Avenue, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AF  
www.silverpines.co.uk • e-mail: info@silverpines.co.uk

**Complete Print Service from  
Design to Delivery**

*Creative design & typesetting*

*Large format printing*

*Bulk & short run copying*

*Short run colour at very  
competitive prices*

*a particular speciality,  
direct from your own file*

*Rapid turnaround*

Phone us to discuss  
your requirements

**01732 465641**

# Silver Pines Sound & Light

## Professional Mobile DJ & Event Lighting & Sound Service

- ★ High quality, experienced DJs who know how to make your birthday or anniversary party, wedding, club or corporate event really special
- ★ State of art equipment, full PLI
- ★ Full event lighting & sound service – from a wedding to a mini-festival

### Party, Event, Live Sound & Conference Equipment Hire

- ★ Extensive range of sound, lighting & AV equipment for hire, for parties, bands, theatrical or church groups, product launches, award ceremonies, public meetings, etc.

www.silverpinessoundlight.co.uk • Tel: 01732 465641 • Email: james@silverpines.co.uk

**PO Box 747  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN14 5XF**



**Mob  
07956 870 240**

**Tel: + 44 (0) 1959 524 747**

Your local saloon & 6 passenger MPV specialists

Gatwick from **£55**  
Heathrow from **£85**  
Stansted from **£90**

London from **£90**  
O2 from **£65**  
Ebbsfleet from **£45**

Advance Bookings Essential



E-Mail [enquiries@spacetravel.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@spacetravel.co.uk)

Internet [www.spacetravel.co.uk](http://www.spacetravel.co.uk)

For *the* personal & reliable licenced chauffeur service.  
Any distance, anywhere, any time .... Travel in space and comfort.

**Established 1995**



***Gulliver***  
***Timber Treatments Ltd.***

WOODWORM, DRY ROT AND RISING DAMP SPECIALISTS  
Incorporating Surrey Timber Preservation Company

Specialists in the investigation and treatment of:-

**WOOD WORM \* DRY ROT \* RISNG DAMP**

**WATERPROOFING BELOW GROUND STRUCTURES (TANKING) \* RESIN REPAIRS**

For a survey ring : 01959 524966 Fax: 01959 525176

Unit G1 Chaucer Business Park, Watery Lane, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6HU

Email: [enquiries@gullivertt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gullivertt.co.uk) Web: [www.gillivertt.co.uk](http://www.gillivertt.co.uk)

Member of the: Property Care Association, Trustmark and Guarantee Protection Insurance Ltd

ROOTED 1979

*Down to Earth*

MASTER ARBORISTS

Professional Tree Management

01959 524 623

[www.downtoearthtrees.co.uk](http://www.downtoearthtrees.co.uk)

ARB Approved  
CONTRACTOR  
[trees.org.uk](http://trees.org.uk)

## *Painting or Decorating?*

### **CALL IN THE EXPERT**

- ✓ More than 40 years experience
- ✓ Free consultancy service
- ✓ References available
- ✓ Free quotations

### *Wallpapering a speciality*

If you're planning painting or decorating projects at home or work, then call Ernie Ball on **01322 274 777** or **07960 866 603** for expert advice and service.



## **APM Building Services (7oaks) Ltd**

[www.apmbuildingservices.co.uk](http://www.apmbuildingservices.co.uk)



**All phases of new & existing build**

**07946 504340**

**Ongoing improvements**

**Property maintenance**

**01732 458776**

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

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

---

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Heather Stanley 01959 523194  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris 01959 522813  
*Min. Sec:* Mark Holmes 01959 522080

### 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:* st.bartholomews@otford.net

### CHOIR

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

### YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

**'First Steps'** (for parents/carers with pre-school children)  
*Contact:* Najen Harris 01959 522813

### SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

**Infants** (3-7s)  
**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

---

### CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Joan Beacom, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Mark Holmes\*, Margaret Lidbetter\*, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Ben Southgate, Mags Southgate, Heather Stanley

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