

St Bartholomew's Church

Oxford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

April	8am	10am	2pm	6.30pm
7 April 5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
14 April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	10.45am Procession from Methodist Church. Service on Green		
18 April Maundy Thursday	-	-	-	Re-enactment of the Last Supper (8-9pm), followed by The Watch
19 April Good Friday	-	All Together Good Friday Worship	2-3pm Last Hour at the Cross	-
21 April Easter Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	Evensong
28 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion (BCP)	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.

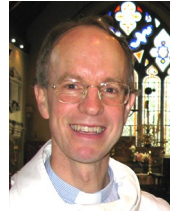
HOLY COMMUNION Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

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: YPF Scrabble evening (Richard Worssam)
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VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



The Vicarage garden is at its best in Spring. It is full of colour: the bright yellow of daffodils and forsythia; the rich red of tulips; the blue of grape hyacinths; the delicate pinks and whites of cherry and apple blossom. At this time of year it is a delight to be out in the garden.

I find it interesting that the story of Easter morning also takes place in a garden. Early in the morning Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb where she saw the body of Jesus being laid on Good Friday. To her dismay she finds that the tomb is now empty, and she jumps to the conclusion that someone has stolen the body. In her distress she hurries to find Peter and another disciple to tell them what she has found. They run to the tomb to confirm this news, and then return to their homes, leaving Mary standing beside the tomb, crying. Then two amazing events happen. First, as Mary looks again into the tomb, she sees two angels who ask why she is weeping. Then, when she turns round, she encounters the Risen Lord. At first she thinks he is the gardener. But when he calls her by name she realises the wonderful truth that Jesus is indeed alive, and joy fills her heart. All this takes place in the setting of a garden.

In fact, gardens occupy a central place in scriptural thought. The Bible begins with an account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is a scene of harmony and happiness. However, this idyllic state is shattered when Adam and Eve choose not to listen to God and to go their own way, thereby letting the power of sin get in and take control.

The remedy for this occurs in another garden, the Garden of Gethsemane. Here Jesus reverses the dynamics of Adam and Eve's action in the Garden of Eden. He

engages in dialogue with God, but this time he listens; he faces a choice of action and this time he goes God's way, even though it proves to be at great cost to himself, leading to his death on a cross.

The final vindication of Jesus' obedience to God, which undoes the effects of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, is revealed in the Easter Garden, with the joyful reality of the resurrection. This is encapsulated in St. Paul's pithy phrase, "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

It doesn't stop there. The word garden is mentioned 59 times in the Bible. It is often used as a metaphor to describe our relationship with God. This is a fruitful image for Christian spirituality in terms of cultivating the garden of our hearts. Beautiful gardens don't just happen. They take a lot of work, pulling up weeds, planting flowers, encouraging growth. So also we need to attend to the spiritual dimension of our lives. Yet we can hold on to the promise we find in Scripture, "You shall be like a watered garden." (e.g. Isaiah 58:11 & Jeremiah 31:12)

The Easter garden was a place of encounter between Jesus and Mary. May our hearts also be a place of encounter where we hear God call us by name, that our lives may be transformed by the joy of the resurrection and the continuing presence of Christ with us. Happy Easter!

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

DIARY FOR APRIL 2019

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

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 7.45 pm | Cameo |
| 2 | 8.00 pm | Lent Course (4) (Church Centre) |
| 3 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 4 | 8.00 pm | Readers and Revs meeting (Riverside House, Church Street, Shoreham) |
| 5 | 2.15 pm | Magazine Team Editorial meeting (The Vicarage) |
| 6 | 9.00 am | Churchyard Working Party |
| 7 | The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday | |
| | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Johnson) |
| | 10.00 am | All Together Worship |
| | 6.30 pm | Evensong |
| 8 | | Homegroup visit to Bognor Regis |
| 9 | 8.00 pm | Lent Course (5) (Church Centre) |
| 10 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson) refreshments afterwards |
| | Magazine material for the May edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net | |
| 13 | 9.00 am | Spring cleaning of the church for Easter |
| | 6.00 pm | EPIC (Church Centre) |
| 14 | Palm Sunday | |
| | 8.00 am | Holy Communion |
| | 10.45 am | Palm Sunday procession: meet at Otford Methodist Church |
| | 11.00 am | Service on The Green |
| 15 | 7.45 pm | Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue) |
| | 8.00 pm | St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee (39 Well Road) |
| 17 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 18 | Maundy Thursday | |
| | 8.00 pm | Re-enactment of the Last Supper (Church Centre) |
| | 9.00 pm | The Watch (in Church) |
| 19 | Good Friday | |
| | 10.00 am | All Together Worship |
| | 2.00 pm | The Last Hour at The Cross |

21 EASTER DAY

8.00 am Easter Communion

10.00 am All Together Easter Holy Communion

6.30 pm Festal Evensong for Easter

22 7.45 pm Bank Holiday: Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)

24 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

28 The Second Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion

11.45 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by Lunch

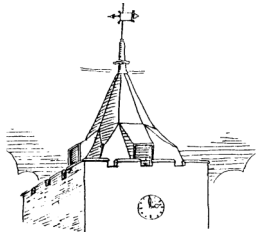
29 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

30 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)



*They could have either a procession of crosses,
or a donkey. But not both.*

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We are very grateful to all those who came last month to help in the Churchyard and we look forward to seeing everyone again on **Saturday, 6th April from 9.00-11.30 am**. If anyone can help for an hour or two it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools too!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

Palm Sunday Procession, 14th April, 10.45 am.

There will be a united churches' procession, beginning at Otford Methodist Church at 10.45 am and ending with an act of worship on The Green, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre. Palm crosses will be available at all services on that day.

Maundy Thursday, 18th April. There will be a re-enactment of the Last Supper in the Church Centre at 8.00 pm followed by The Watch at 9.00 pm in church.

Good Friday, 19th April. There will be a service for all ages at 10.00 am in the Church Centre and The Last Hour at The Cross in church at 2.00 pm.

EASTER DAY, 21st April.

There will be services of Holy Communion at 8.00 and 10.00 am. At 6.30 pm there will be a service of Festal Evensong. Do join us!

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM will be held after the morning service on Sunday, 28th April at 11.45 am in the Church. This will be followed by a parish lunch at 1.00 pm. At this meeting we will be presenting the Annual Report and Accounts and also electing new members of the PCC. We do hope you will join us as we look back with thanksgiving and forward with hope.

2019 LENT SERIES

"The Kingdom of God is at hand"

There are two more sessions of our Lent series this month, 2nd & 9th April from 8 - 9.30 pm, with dessert served halfway through. We are looking at the themes of working for social justice, and caring for our earth. Whilst they are part of a series in which we are looking at different aspects of working for the Kingdom of God, nonetheless each session is self-contained so you can join us even if you haven't had the chance to attend earlier sessions.

THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box. It communicates the real story of Easter to all generations. The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to the charity, Traidcraft Exchange, from sales giving at least 10p from the purchase of each 150g egg. Available from Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Waitrose supermarkets. For details see: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT



2ND OTFORD BROWNIES' COMMUNITY KINDNESS CHAIN

'One good turn leads to another'.

A good turn is something you do to help someone else, just to be kind. Doing good turns is an important part of keeping the Brownie promise, and can help to make our local community an even better place to live.

2nd Otford Brownies have started a Community Kindness Chain in Otford Library and they would love the whole community to get involved. If you've done a good turn in our local community please pop in and see Lorraine in the library and write or draw what you did on a strip of paper. Join your good turn to the end of our chain and let's see how much kindness there is in Otford!

How long can we make our kindness chain?



OTFORD EVENING W.I.

At our next meeting on the 11th of April we will be celebrating our 60th Birthday with a special supper and cake. Tickets are available from Chris Bourne on 01959 522485.



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Michelle Ernoul's interest as an amateur beekeeper has grown and she now has her own website, www.thelittlehoneybeecompany.com. On 2nd April, 8pm in the Village Hall, she will give a talk about 'Bumble Bees, Solitary Bees and Honey Bees'. Michelle will also bring honey and wax related products for sale.



The vicar had assured the verger that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

April: The Road to Easter

Bible story: Peter is forgiven



Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen. They were casting their nets into the big lake – the Sea of Galilee – when Jesus called to them, “Come and follow me and I will teach you how to catch people for God!”

At once, they left their nets and followed him. Peter’s journey towards Easter had begun.

As Peter followed his Master, his excitement grew. He saw Jesus befriend the poor, heal the sick, draw big crowds - even calm a stormy sea. Amazing! No wonder people were asking who this Jesus was.

“Who do you say I am?” Jesus asked his friends one day.

In a flash, Peter knew. “You are the Christ - the one we’ve been waiting for!”

Jesus nodded, but his next words shocked Peter. The road ahead would be hard, he said. The religious leaders would plot to have him arrested then killed - and after three days he would rise again.

“No, Master,” said Peter angrily. “That’s not fighting talk!”

Jesus was equally stern. “Peter, you’re only thinking about what men want. I’m here to carry out God’s plan.”

Peter wondered about that as he and the other disciples followed Jesus from town to town. How could Jesus free them from the

Romans if he was dead? Stories about his Master spread to Jerusalem and the religious leaders became jealous. Crowds came out to wave palms as they entered Jerusalem one Sunday - Jesus riding on a peaceful little donkey.

Later that week, Peter enthusiastically joined in their meal of bread and wine for the Passover celebration, unaware that this was the Last Supper with Jesus. Afterwards, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus seemed troubled and told the disciples that soon they would all let him down.

“Not me!” said Peter boldly. “Even if all the others do, I won’t let you down.”

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered. “Tonight, before the cock crows twice, you will disown me three times.”

Later that night, soldiers came to march Jesus away. Peter and John followed them to the High Priest’s courtyard. Peter felt less bold now.

“Aren’t you one of the disciples?” asked the High Priest’s servants, three times.

“I am not!” he replied, each time. Then, to his shame, he heard the cock begin to crow . . .

Jesus was put to death on the Cross and buried in a garden tomb.

On the third day he rose again, just as he had promised. Peter

saw the empty tomb with his own eyes. With joy, he even saw the risen Jesus. But still he did not understand. What was he to do now?

Peter and his friends were out on the lake



again, but their net remained empty. A figure called from the shore, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat!” They did so and – a miracle - caught so many fish that they could not haul it in.

“It’s the Lord!” exclaimed John.



Peter couldn’t wait. He splashed into the water and waded ashore to find Jesus grilling fish and breaking bread for their breakfast.

When they had eaten, Jesus took Peter aside.

“Peter, do you love me?” he asked.

Peter felt his face redden. “You know I do, Lord.” Then Jesus asked him twice more. “Do you love me?” Peter felt hurt. “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus smiled forgivingly. “I want you to look after my flock of followers – those who are just learning about me and those who have known me for a while – help them to understand.”

Gradually, Peter was beginning to see. Jesus had willingly died on the Cross to save his people from their own wrong doings – died in his place. And he had come back to show that death is not the end. Peter was not perfect – far from it – but now he knew he was forgiven and that the promise of forgiveness was for everyone. What joy! He had work to do - new purpose in life!

And one day soon he would tell a big crowd,

“God’s promise of forgiveness is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Pause for thought: Easter is all about forgiveness and therefore new life. God loves us so much that he sent his Son to pay the price for our mistakes. In doing so, he brought us back into a close friendship with God and he forged us a path to heaven.

The Bible story: Read the story about Peter together as a family and wonder about it:

I wonder what Jesus meant about catching people for God?

What do you think Peter expected Jesus to do as their leader?

I wonder why Jesus was stern with Peter?

Do you think that Peter let Jesus down?

I wonder if we would do the same?

Why do think that Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him?

Do you think that Jesus already knew the answer?

Let it go! If we bear a grudge it can dominate our lives. Siblings often argue and blame one another. After such an argument, explain that bearing a grudge is rather like holding on tight to a prickly object. (Give children a holly leaf or something similar to hold.) It hurts us as much as it hurts the other person! When we forgive someone, we let the grudge go (drop the object) and each person feels free to experience joy again – new life!



New life: Children might be forgiven for thinking that Easter is just about chocolate eggs! Explain that eggs (and also baby rabbits, lambs, etc) remind us of Spring but also the new life that Jesus brought at Easter to all who will accept his gift. Why not buy some pussy willow stems and daffodils from our village florist and place them in a vase? Children could hang egg decorations on the stems as a seasonal reminder.

Easter egg treasure

hunt: Plan an all-age hunt for extended family and friends in the garden and house! Make everyone a rabbit or chick container in which to collect small foil eggs.

For a rabbit, use a white paper cup and glue on long white card ears with pink felt/ paper inner ears, googly eyes, a pom-pom nose and tail and pipe-cleaner whiskers, cut into short lengths. For the chick, use a yellow paper cup, glue on some yellow feathers, googly eyes,



and make a beak and feet from orange card. As you work, discuss Peter's journey of faith and how it took him a long time to truly understand Jesus' words. This will be the same for us. But if we keep going on our own Christian journey, we will collect many treasures along the way!

The Lord's Prayer: Can we say this prayer together off by heart? Point out that it includes asking God to forgive us the things that we have done wrong, just as we forgive the people who wrong and hurt us. God can only hear and forgive us when we have love and forgiveness in our hearts for one another.

Vicki Howie



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

This year the District Council, and Parish Council elections if enough people stand, will take place on Thursday 2nd May with the polling stations open from 7am until 10pm. If you will be away you have until Monday 15th April at 5pm to apply for a postal vote, or Wednesday 24th April at 5pm to apply for a Proxy Vote – where you appoint someone else to vote on your behalf at the polling station.

You may be aware that Sevenoaks District Council has approved its second round of Community Infrastructure Levy funding, secured from house builders, to support exciting community projects across the Sevenoaks District. I am delighted to say that Otford is one of the communities to benefit from some of this funding. The Otford Patient Participation Group has been allocated £2,500 for a 'Health Pod' at the Otford Medical Practice. The pod, which will be invaluable for freeing up 'face time' with GPs, will be able to perform basic check-ups including blood pressure, weight, pulse and glucose levels. This project is due to be completed in early 2019 and ties in with the work that the Council is doing to take pressure off GPs and hospitals with our 'One You' advisors and health strategy.

You may be interested to know that the Council took an active part in Safer Internet Day in February. A session written by Childnet International was delivered to the District's three secondary schools. It covered the sensitive issue of sharing sexually explicit messages or photos amongst 11 to 16 year olds. The sessions included a play in which students were asked to step into the shoes of characters and to think about the consequences of creating and sending indecent images.

Another initiative asked schoolchildren to take part in the Digital Sunset Challenge launched last year. The scheme invites children and their families to put their smartphones away early in the evening during the Challenge week. They make a note of the time they stopped using their devices, when they went to bed, and how they felt the next day – the object being to help them get away from online social media pressure and have a better night's sleep.

On 26th February the Council unanimously agreed this year's budget – and a balanced ten year budget going forward. We are one of the only councils in the country to plan ten years ahead and we strongly believe this has helped us to weather the austerity storm of losing £5m of central government funding in ten years – whilst still protecting front line services such as the weekly rubbish collection and having low homelessness rates. We have been able to go further by offering wellbeing services that help take pressure off the NHS by working to deal with underlying symptoms causing medical problems such as anxiety caused by debt, asthma caused by damp housing and a range of issues caused by loneliness, poor diet and lack of exercise.

With best wishes,

Cllr Michelle Lowe



IN CONVERSATION WITH ... VIVIEN DAVIES

... on the subject of her Lancashire childhood and the annual church walking days



Vivien with her parents

Vivien was born and brought up in Earlestown, a town in Lancashire between Liverpool and Manchester. Earlestown had grown quickly in the mid-nineteenth century thanks to the development of the railways and had taken its name from Sir Hardman Earle (1792-1877) a director, and later chairman, of the London and North Western Railway. When Vivien was a child the Vulcan Foundry, making locomotives, and the Viaduct works which made wagons for the railway, were still big businesses. The railway had also brought other manufacturers to the town, such as T & T Vicars, which produced biscuit making machinery, and the Sankey Sugar works. Vivien well remembers the roads being full of bicycles at lunch time as the men from the works pedalled home to eat. She also remembers smoggy days in winter when the smoke from the chimneys would sit low over the houses.

Vivien's great grandparents had been mill workers in another part of Lancashire and her paternal grandparents had moved to the town

when her grandfather became the manager of a grocery store. Her father, Colin, went to grammar school in nearby Leigh before leaving the area to gain a teacher training qualification at St Luke's College, Exeter. He then returned to Earlestown to teach and to support his mother who had been widowed shortly before the end of the First World War. In 1941 he married a local girl, Freda, and several years later Vivien was born. Vivien, an only child, spoke of her father as being a 'remarkable man'. She said he was an excellent teacher, that everyone would come to him for advice, and that he was talented in so many ways including art, photography, languages and sport.

The family, including Grandmother Lily, lived in an Edwardian end of terrace house with a 'yard' where Vivien would play with friends. She told me that, like most children at the time, she was brought up to be independent and, from the age of four and a half, was expected to make her own way to the district infant and junior school, crossing four roads to get there. She would also make regular bus journeys alone to visit her mother's relatives in Ashton in Makerfield and Garswood. She said that life was simple back then – you wore home knits and hand me down clothes and played for hours outdoors. A picnic on the recreation ground with your mother and the girls next door would be a treat.

Every Sunday in the afternoon Vivien would attend the Church of England Sunday School in her infant and junior school. As well as listening to stories and singing hymns the children would be given a stamp to put in their books. At the end of the year those with a full book of stamps would receive a prize. Through the Brownies, who met in the Methodist Church Hall, and the Congregational Guides, Vivien also enjoyed a

taste of other forms of worship. Occasionally she would even attend church on her own. At eleven Vivien went to grammar school in neighbouring Newton le Willows and, on leaving school, trained as a PE teacher at St Mary's College, Bangor.

Each year in June all the churches – St John's (C of E), St Patrick's (RC), All Saints (C of E), St Peter's (C of E), the Congregational Church and the Brunswick Methodists - would come together for what was one of the great events of the year – the annual church walking day.



Vivien in the centre

The children would be in a state of excitement for days in advance with the girls focusing on the pretty, pastel coloured, smocked dresses they would wear and on deciding whether to sport a bow in their hair or an Alice band with flowers. At the walk the men would carry the large church banners and the congregation would process behind them. Ribbons would fall from the banners, some to be held by adults to

stabilise the banner, and others to be held by children. Along with their beautiful dresses, the little girls would wear white socks and lace



gloves and would carry a small bag into which kind family friends and relatives would sometimes drop a threepenny bit for them to spend. The roads would be crowded with bystanders, all dressed in their Sunday best, and the walk would start in Market Square and go through every street in the town before returning to Market Square. Afterwards there would be races on the recreation ground watched by parents and relatives – which 'our Vivien' would always win! They were 'such happy times'.

Now, along with the heavy industry, the old traditions have largely disappeared.

After thirty years living in County Durham, Vivien and her husband Lionel moved to Otford in 2017 to be nearer family members. They regularly attend services at St Bartholomew's.

Christeen Malan



Vivien on the right



IN MEMORIAM



Jean Currier, 1930 - 2019

Jean was born in Otford on 6th February 1930, the second in a family of three girls. Her father was a local builder, and her mother was a housekeeper at Holmesdale – the Georgian house on the Green. Jean's family can trace its residence in Otford back to the 1851 Census. Jean was christened here in St. Bartholomew's Church.

Jean attended Otford Primary School. When the Second World War broke out, she was evacuated to Exmouth in Devon. On her return to Otford she won a scholarship which enabled her to attend the Tonbridge Day Technical School for Girls, as it was known then, later to become Tonbridge Grammar School, where she attended from April 1944 for a 2-year course.

On leaving school in 1946, at the age of 16, Jean worked for five years at George King's, the photographers in Sevenoaks. One of her most memorable assignments was accompanying Mr King to Chartwell in Westerham to photograph the great man himself, Sir Winston Churchill. In the early 1950s Jean also did some hop picking and apple picking at local Otford farms.

Jean met her husband, Alan, through her cousin Peter who lived at Dunton Green. Alan was a friend of Peter and he would come to visit when he was on home leave from the Navy. They courted for a while because Jean's father would not allow her to get married until she was 21. In due course, Jean and Alan were married at St. Bart's on 24th March 1951 by the Revd. Albert Elder who, back in the 1920s, had conducted the wedding ceremony for Jean's parents.

At first they lived in Stone Street, near Seal. Their first son, David was born there in 1952. Then they moved to Twitton Bungalows – the prefabs that stood where Twitton Meadows is now. Their two daughters, Elizabeth and Fiona were born here, in 1955 and 1959. Then the

young family moved to Seal for 3 years. Here their youngest son, Peter was born in 1961. Finally they returned to Otford when they moved into the Charne in 1962. This has continued to be the family home ever since, for the last 57 years.

With the birth of her children, Jean gave up paid employment and devoted herself to looking after her family. This provided the family stability given that Alan was often overseas with his work with the Marley Tile Company.

While the children were still at school, Jean worked as a dinner lady at Otford Primary School. Later Jean returned to work with a spell at Jermyns, a company dealing with electrical components, on the Vestry Estate where her sister Pam also worked. She also did voluntary work, in particular assisting at the Otford luncheon club for many years as a member of one of the Thursday catering teams.

At home Jean took a real delight in her garden. She enjoyed the birds, and flowers, and nature in general.

In later years Jean's mobility was reduced when she broke her hip and then also had a stroke in 2004 which affected her left side.



Jean was very much a family person and she always looked forward to visits from her four children, her six grandchildren and her five great-grandchildren.

MISSION MATTERS ... WORLDWIDE SILVER LINING

Magnet School Kenya and MAPED Tanzania (Christian Maasai project)

The tithe from the St Bartholomew's Re-ordering enabled the construction of a boys' toilet block together with a bio-digester to deal with waste, encompassing a grey water system (re-using filtered water for flushing). WWSL have since funded the construction of a girls' toilet block as well. This is a major step forward in improving sanitation at the school as previously the students had to use pit latrines. Bishop Jeremiah Kibobi thanked God for the generous opportunity provided by St Bartholomew's Church. There are over 300 students at the school with an age range of 4-18. Some are orphans, others from destitute families and some pay what they can to help the school.

MAPED (Christian Maasai education and development project).

WWSL have funded a teaching degree course for Asaneth (the Principal Maliakis' wife). Unfortunately they recently lost their first child a few weeks after birth. Please include them in your prayers. The community are soon to be connected with electricity for the first time as a new road is to be built nearby.

Please see our website and Facebook page.

www.worldwidesilverlining.co.uk

*Andrew Hill
Chairman of Mission Links*



Rev Steve Padfield with Magnet students



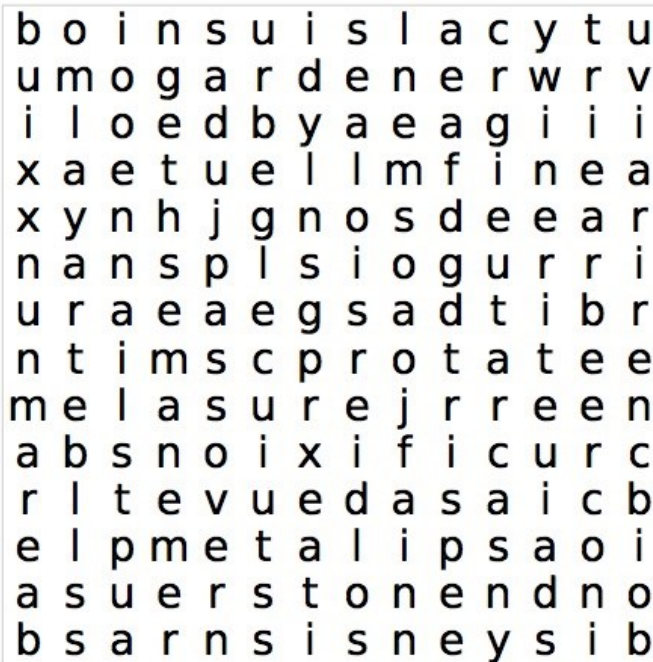
Maasai students

APRIL PUZZLE

Christ is risen! He is risen
indeed! Hallelujah!

April brings us to Easter - the
crucifixion, death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ -
the triumphant highlight of

the Christian year. As St Paul
pointed out, unless Jesus
really did rise again, our faith
is useless, and we may as well
forget any hope of heaven or
eternal life.



Passover

Bread

Wine

Body

Blood

Betrayal

Jerusalem

Pilate

Judas

Gethsemane

Trial

Crucifixion

Soldiers

Cross

Nails

Vinegar

Temple

curtain

tomb

angel

stone

risen

gardener

Mary

RECIPE FOR APRIL

EASTER CUPCAKES

These cupcakes use similar ingredients to the traditional Simnel cake and are very quick and easy to make. The recipe makes 12 cakes.

Ingredients:

About 450 g marzipan (supermarkets do packs in roughly this quantity if you want to speed things up!) Roll until about 3mm thick, and cut 24 discs of about 3-4 cm in diameter.

First ingredients for mixing:

275g caster sugar
150ml sunflower oil
1 tblsp runny honey
1 tsp vanilla extract
75g cream cheese
4 medium eggs

Second ingredients to add:

225g mixed fruit
250g self raising flour
2 tsp mixed spice

Mix the first ingredients, beating the eggs in until really smooth, then stir in the second set of ingredients.

Spoon cake mixture into paper cases to a depth of 1-2 cm and add a marzipan disc. Spoon more mixture on top to three quarter fill the cases.

Cook at 180 degrees (I use 160 degrees for a fan oven) for about 25-30 minutes.

As soon as the cakes come out of the oven, press a second disc of marzipan on top – the heat will help seal the marzipan on top.

They can be decorated with eleven edible gold balls to re-create the Simnel cake tradition (representing the apostles without Judas) or with mini Easter eggs.

Hilary Fothergill



OTFORD HERITAGE TRAIL - AROUND THE PARISH CHURCH

Instead of today's church, imagine a thatched chapel standing in its place. Poorly-clothed Anglo-Saxon Christians might be making their way there to worship. Facing the church look to your right and step into the Middle Ages. That lovely beamed house was once the manor court of the archbishop. A court was held here every three weeks attended by all the village men. To your left that big house was having its heyday in Edwardian times when large families and servants were common-place.

COLET'S WELL

Colet's Well was built in about 1790, replacing an older Tudor mansion on the same spot. This tall, new house originally had a brick frontage and three acres of garden with an orchard to the rear. Fresh water ran in a brick culvert from a spring in the garden of Friar's Pool on Station Road. At that time Friar's Pool was a cottage-cum-laundry on the estate. Having supplied the house well, the water then ran through the cellar to feed the village pond which was also part of the property. Until 1841 the house included a working dairy on its ground floor and a drawing room was on the first floor.



In the Edwardian period, its owner was a member of the West Kent Hunt.

The high wall facing the churchyard is dated to the 1600s. The wall facing Station Road, however, was constructed in the early 1800s. At the wall's far end it incorporates an original Tudor door which most probably came from the nearby ruined Archbishop's Palace. The heyday for the house commenced with the arrival of Alfred Alexander and his family in 1878. It was then occupied by a succession of wealthy Victorian families. In 1910 Mrs. Maclean briefly changed its name to Otford House.



Colet's Well, viewed from across The Pond in the summer of 1960.

THE CHANTRY

Apart from the church, this is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the parish. It was built by the archbishop as his manor court between 1340-1390. It had a first-floor hall open to the roof eaves and a small robing room/jury room at the northern end. Entrance was from an outside staircase. All the windows at this time would have been unglazed and shuttered. A prison cell was probably located in a strong room beneath the jury room.

When not in use as a manor court, the building may have been used as the village school house or, on occasion, for marriage feasts and festive celebrations. It is thought that a local

market would have been located close by. When Henry VIII took ownership of Otford Palace, the building passed into private ownership. This was when its great chimney was built, and several glazed windows added. During the 1700s, the house was divided into a pair of cottages known as Church Gate Cottages. In about 1920 the whole building was sympathetically restored back to a single home. The name is a 20th century misnomer as no chantry priest has ever been installed at the house.



The Chantry stands just beyond the war memorial.

THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW

The church likely gained its name when Emma, Queen to King Canute, returned from her pilgrimage to Rome in 1020. She carried with her a relic of Saint Bartholomew. In 1180 the tower was added and within the next one hundred years, a new chancel replaced the



A postcard of Otford Church and The Green, franked in 1906

original one. The south aisle and Lady chapel were built in the fifteenth century. In the nave, be sure to look at the eight hatchments (funerary coats of arms), and the helmet hanging in the chancel. They are memorials to the local Polhill family. Beside the altar stands an Easter Sepulchre, considered to be amongst the finest in England. Notice how the Tudor
rose and



A wartime wedding in 1916 beneath Otford's ancient church tower.

pomegranate of Catherine of Aragon feature prominently. The church is also famous for its brass chandeliers which light evening services.

The timber west porch is dated 1637. Can you find the scratch dial stone, replaced upside down near an outside lamp bracket to the left of the south nave door? These were used to indicate the time for mass... but only when the sun shone!

In Medieval times, the offering of a hen left in front of the statue of St. Bartholomew was said to ensure the supplicant with the birth of a girl child; the offering of a cock, a boy child. Meanwhile the parish priest enjoyed a good Sunday roast!

With thanks to Rod Shelton, Phil Clucas and Ed Thompson



A BOOK WHICH INFLUENCED ME...

Ten by J. John

It is a delight when you pick up a book at a festival or Christian gathering because it looks a little intriguing and find yourself challenged at the first read, but also at the second or third reading.

The 10 Commandments are something we are all familiar with, perhaps over familiar. This book challenges my thinking and how to apply the commandments as I follow Jesus. My copy is well thumbed and I have annotations and highlighter through sections, always a sign of finding relevance in what I am reading.

There are just 10 chapters, one for each commandment and the first thing you notice is that the commandments are covered in reverse. The book starts with 'you shall not covet' and builds towards the challenge of the first commandment of 'having no other Gods'.

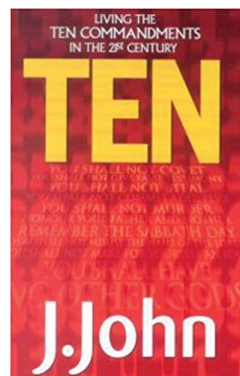
Each chapter starts with thoughts on 'what's the problem' which roots the commandment in our present reality. That, in itself, can be a reality check. 'You shall not murder' may seem a simple commandment to keep but the reader is challenged to think about their complicity in the millions who die from famine, war and displacement. The next part of each chapter explores the biblical principles around the commandment under the title of 'the heart of the matter'. It seeks to link in other teaching from the Bible and shows the consistency of the teaching in Scripture and the 'why' of the commandment.

Finally, there are passages about applying the commandment in the world that we live in: how do we keep the Sabbath, how do we honour our

parents? For a practical person like me these can be a really helpful way of putting what I have read into action, moving from theory to practice. I was challenged when I read the chapter of keeping the Sabbath about how I protected my time with God, and when I read the chapter about honouring my parents I was reminded about how important my attitude is as well as my actions.

The joy of this book is that it can be read as a whole, or each chapter can stand alone. It challenges me to think about something I know very well in a deeper and more practical way. We used it as the basis of a series we did with the youth group last year to help them understand the relevance of the 10 Commandments to their modern lives. The commandments that God gave Moses to help the people all those thousands of years ago are as powerful today as they were then and this book has helped me to think more deeply and apply more vigorously God's teaching.

Dawn Hallam



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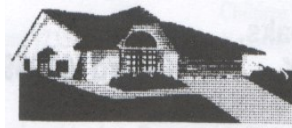
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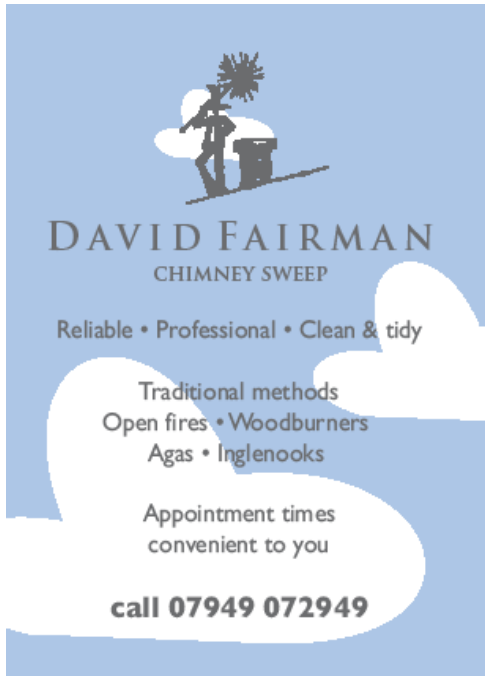
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