

St Bartholomew's Church Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
1 Mar 1st Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
8 Mar 2nd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
15 Mar 3rd Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
22 Mar Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
29 Mar 5th Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Messy Church	-

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

JUNIOR: 8-11

SENIOR: 12-14

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

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

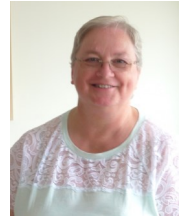
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP meet every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Centre, 6.30 - 8.00 pm.

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

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

Cover photo: Otford Palace - Christeen Malan
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 03 Volume 90

CHURCHWARDEN'S REFLECTION



We are now in the Season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday, during which we think about the time when Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and reflecting on his forthcoming ministry. After 40 days he was tempted by Satan, (Matthew chapter 4 verses 4 - 10): "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus responded, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

In the second temptation Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple. "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands, so you will not strike your foot against a stone'". Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Finally, Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All of this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus replied, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Following these temptations Jesus began his ministry in Galilee fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament and travelling with his disciples preaching, teaching and healing the sick as he moved from village to village.

As Jesus neared the end of his ministry, we remember his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, followed by his trial, and crucifixion and then his resurrection on Easter Sunday. In about AD300 many churches devoted Good Friday to the Crucifixion of Jesus and then Easter Sunday to the resurrection, Easter being fixed as the first Sunday after the first full moon. With Easter

occurring in spring linking it to new life, and new beginnings. The English word 'Easter' is from 'Ester' the goddess of dawn or new life.

Spring, a time when bulbs begin to flower, Crocus, Daffodil and later Tulips. Trees begin to sprout new leaves, and the days lengthen, so that by the end of March we are looking forward to changing the clocks once more to British Summertime.

St. Bartholomew's is also looking forward; we have created our Parish Profile, and advertised our Vacancy on the Church of England website. Applications closed in February and interviews are scheduled for the middle of March. If an appointment is made, then a date will be agreed for the announcement to be made in St. Bartholomew's Church and the Parish from which the new Incumbent is moving.

There is normally a three-month notice period, which may be longer, as consideration of the family situation of the person appointed may result in a later start date. Following arrival in Otford there will be a short period of settling into the Vicarage prior to a Service of Induction and Installation when the new Vicar will be licenced and commence work in the Parish.

Please continue to pray for those involved in the selection of our New Vicar, that the right person may be found for our Parish.

*Janet Hunt
Churchwarden*



DIARY FOR MARCH 2020

1 The First Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Canon Derek Carpenter)

8.45 am Prayer Breakfast

10.00 am All Together Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

2 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

4 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson) refreshments afterwards

8.00 pm Lent Series (1) (Church Centre)

6 8.30 am Office and Wardens' meeting

2.00 pm World Day of Prayer (Otford Methodist Church)

8 The Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Andrew Procter)

10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Richard Williams)

9 10.30 am Magazine meeting (Church office)

7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

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

11 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Anne Bourne)

8.00 pm Lent Series (2) (Church Centre)

12 2.00 pm Interment of the ashes of Lilyan Bullen

14 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

15 The Third Sunday of Lent:

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

8.45 am Prayer Breakfast

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

16 12 noon Soup lunch (Church Centre)

7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

17 7.30 pm Worship Advisory Group (17 Leonard Avenue)

18 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed) refreshments afterwards

8.00 pm Lent Series (3) (Church Centre)

22 The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Canon Derek Carpenter)

10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Alan Vousden)

23 Homegroup outing to Bognor

24 8.00 pm Lent Series (4) (Church Centre)

- 25 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Adie McCall)
- 8.00 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 27 8.30 am Office and Wardens' meeting
- 28 12 noon Baptism of Abbie Hallett (Revd. Adie McCall)

BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS

Put clocks forward at 2.00 am on Sunday 29th March

- 29 **The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday**
 - 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Dennis Mihill)
 - 10.00 am Morning Worship
 - 3.00 pm Messy Church (Church Centre)
- 30 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)



Registers

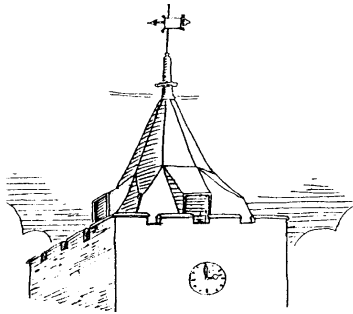


FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)

25th January Christine Joy **MacPherson** (aged 86)



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCH OFFICE AND CHURCH CAR PARK

During the clerical vacancy (September onwards) the church and church car park will only be open during church office hours - Monday to Friday 9am-12.30pm.

If you wish to visit the church at another time please contact the church office 01959 523185 or st.bartholomews@otford.net

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service will be held on Friday, 6th March at 2.00 pm at Otford Methodist Church.

The chosen subject this year is 'Zimbabwe: Rise, take your mat and walk'. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to this ecumenical event.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The first session for 2020 will take place on **Saturday, 7th March**. We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools, too!

SOUP LUNCH

You are warmly invited to our soup lunch on **Monday, 16th March from 12-2.00 pm in the Church Centre**. Our coffeetime guest will be Julia Downing,, Professor of Palliative Care and musician. Please sign your name on the list at the back of church. Suggested donation of £5

for home-made soup and bread and a light dessert. Look forward to seeing you!

LENT SERIES

For our Lent series this year we will be focusing on 5 of St. Paul's letters: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians. We will be exploring the historical and geographical contexts of each letter as well as delving into the main themes. The sessions will include some teaching but also the opportunity to interact and respond in small groups. Of course, a highlight is the pudding which we have during the break, along with a cup of tea or coffee. Do join us for some fellowship and learning together in the Church Centre at 8.00 pm on Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, **Tuesday 24th** March and Wednesday, 1st April.

MOTHERING SUNDAY, 22nd March

You are warmly invited to our Mothering Sunday services when posies will be offered to ladies in the congregation.

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on **Sunday, 29th March, 3.00 pm in the Church Centre**. An enjoyable afternoon is promised for all who come. It is particularly suitable for families with children up to the age of 11.

SIX NATION RUGBY - MATCH AND A MEAL Sat 7th March 4.30 pm for 4.45 pm kick-off

Come and watch England v Wales on the big screen in the Church Centre and then enjoy an Anglo-Welsh 3-course supper. Suggested donation £15 adults (£7 for under 12's). There will be a rugby-themed table quiz with a small prize for the winning table. Please bring your own drinks and don't forget to invite your friends. For catering purposes please sign up at the back of church or contact the church office .

MONTHLY MEDITATION—MARCH

Lent

As a child, the season of Lent seemed such a long dreary period – no flowers in church, trying to give up sweets, and usually the weather was gloomy and grey. Even the hymns we sang every morning in assembly were doleful.

Nowadays there are many ways of keeping the season of Lent. Some people do give something up to experience in just a small way the deprivations that Jesus went through. Others though add something into their lives – a daily bible reading, or daily charitable work. Christian Aid run an excellent Lenten ‘Count your Blessings’ campaign and this year the topic is how climate change impacts our sisters and brothers around the world – and for us to take action together to stop the climate crisis. See <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent-easter-appeal/count-your-blessings-online> for details of how you can join in and support this work.

The Gospels tell us that after being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights in the Judean Desert. During this time Satan came to Jesus and tried to tempt him with visions of food and power. Jesus withstood these temptations, quoting scripture to strengthen himself and his arguments. Mark even tells us that there were wild animals which must have come and threatened Jesus, but that Angels came and helped him.

Every day we too face trials and temptations. It’s all too easy to think an unkind thought, to lose patience, or to take the shortcut that saves us effort but causes more effort for others. When he was preaching the Sermon on the

Mount Jesus warned us that ‘the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult’. We all face times when keeping on that straight and narrow path is indeed challenging or not even obvious and the temptation to take the easy road is overwhelming. We may not be sent angels to help us (though you never know) but we do have the knowledge that we are sheltered by the love and grace of our heavenly Father. When you face any temptation, challenge or crisis, remind yourself that Christ is with you and within you, and that nothing can separate you from God’s love and protection. This prayer, by a former vicar on the Island of Lindisfarne asks for that protection – may it help you on your Lenten journey.

Circle me Lord with your protection and keep me from danger.

Circle me Lord, keep hope within and doubt without.

Circle me Lord, keep light near and darkness afar.

Circle me Lord, keep peace within and keep evil out. Amen

Susanne Beard



FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

March: Mothering Sunday

Bible story: Have you seen Jesus?

(based on Luke 2:41-52)

When Jesus was a baby, his mother Mary was very busy looking after him and taking care of their home. *What do you think she would have done?*



Mary watched Jesus grow from a baby into a toddler and then a young boy. As each birthday came, Jesus was stronger and taller than the year before. One year, he fitted under Mary's outstretched arm, but when she measured him the following year, he came right up to her shoulder. *How tall are you compared to your Mum or Dad?*

"You'll soon be taller than me!" exclaimed Mary, laughing. But the thing that pleased her the most was that Jesus was such a kind and helpful person. *What pleases you and your family the most about each other?*

Sometimes, Jesus seemed just like the other boys in the town. But Mary knew that Jesus was the Son of God. An angel had told her so. And one day, something happened to remind her that he was someone special.

Every Spring, Mary and Joseph packed their bags and took Jesus to visit the big Temple in the city of Jerusalem. Many other people travelled there too, and in the Temple, God's house they thanked God for taking care of them all year.

When Jesus was twelve years old, he went to Jerusalem with his parents as usual. Perhaps Jesus met his aunts and uncles, cousins and friends on the way and they had fun together

sleeping out under the stars. *Have you ever been camping with your relatives or friends?*

When everyone had thanked God in the Temple, it was time to come home again. Mary walked at the front with all the other mothers, and Joseph at the back with the fathers and the bigger boys. After a while, Joseph caught up with his wife.

"Where's Jesus?" he asked. Mary felt her heart sink.

"I thought he was with you!" she cried.

"No!" said Joseph, "I thought he was with you!"

No-one had seen Jesus. It seemed he was lost.

Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem. Frantically they searched the house where they had been staying, the maze of streets and the market places. But they couldn't find him anywhere. *Can you guess where they found him?*

After three days of searching, they went back into the Temple – and there was Jesus, sitting with all the Temple teachers, asking them questions and listening to them. And everyone was *amazed* at the sensible things that he said. There were so many things about God that he seemed to understand.

Are you good at asking questions and wondering about things?

But Mary couldn't keep quiet any longer.

"Son!" she said. "We didn't know where you were! We've been searching everywhere for you!"

"Why didn't you look in the Temple first?" asked Jesus. "I thought you would guess that I was in my Father's house!"

"Come on!" said Joseph kindly. "It's time to go

home." So Jesus did as he was asked and said goodbye to all the teachers until the following year.

But Mary never forget the time when they searched everywhere for Jesus and found him in the Temple. *Why do you think they found him there? Where do you think your parents should look for you?!*

Jesus continued to grow, not just in height, but in wisdom too, and he delighted his Father God and his family, too!

Mothering Sunday (March 22nd)



Traditionally, Mothering Sunday was the day when Christians visited their mother church (the most important church or cathedral) halfway through Lent. In Victorian times, the

whole family went to church and returned to a special meal. Working children were allowed the day off to visit their mothers. They took with them a gift such as flowers, gloves or a simnel cake. American soldiers who came to Britain during the Second World War revived the idea of a special day for mothers. Cards were designed to show how hard they worked in the home. They do all sorts of different jobs and work today! *Can you design a card that shows all the things your Mum does for you? Write a big THANK YOU inside!*

Spring clean!

Could you give whoever looks after you a break by giving your bedroom a spring clean? Make some more space by tidying some cupboards, drawers and shelves and filling some bags with things for the charity shop or to recycle. You could make a 'desk tidy' by sticking together and decorating some empty boxes and tubes. Dust and hoover and put up



some attractive posters or family photos.

During Lent, we try to give ourselves a spring clean by 'throwing out' things that waste time and prevent us coming closer to God. Perhaps we could give up so much time spent on devices and spend it with each other, playing a game, going for a walk in the wonderful world God has made or reading a Christian book together.

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature

Perhaps you could make a tradition of measuring children and making a mark on a wall that doesn't matter each year. Use the opportunity to talk about Jesus growing taller but also closer to God. Share your ideas about how we can do that by, for example, spending more time with God in prayer, in church, in nature, and in finding out more about him in the Bible.



Prayer: The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Day by Day

**Dear Lord of Thee, three things I pray,
To see Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
follow Thee more nearly,
Day by Day.**

Vicki Howie

EVENTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES FROM OTFORD'S PAST

A flight from Paris to London (via Otford) in 1910 by John Moisant, pioneer aviator

Many readers will be familiar with the popular comedy film 'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines' released in 1965 and directed by the British director Ken Annakin. The film starred a 'who's who' of international actors and told the story of an apparently fictitious early competitive international air race from London to Paris. The film was set in 1910 only a few years after the first powered flight by the Wright Brothers in the United States of America.

But how many readers know the film is, perhaps not explicitly, but at least in part, based on a real event of 110 years ago in which Otford and other local villages played a part?

This story concerns the American pilot John Bevins Moisant, (1868-1910). Moisant was a charismatic figure and was perhaps even more well-known internationally in the early 20th century than the Wright brothers. He was a great publicist, though you have probably never heard of him.

Known at the time as the "King of Aviators," he was also an aeronautical engineer, flight instructor, businessman, and political 'revolutionary'. He was born in Chicago in 1875 and after the death of his parents he moved with his (six) siblings to start a plantation in El Salvador where he subsequently became involved in events in 1907 attempting to overthrow the regime. He was obliged to leave the country in some haste. Obviously a man of wide interests he was also fascinated by the early development of powered flight.

Travelling to Europe he trained as a pilot with the *Aéro Club de France* in 1910. He then became the first aviator to complete a flight over the Channel with a passenger. (The Frenchman Louis Blériot was of course the first to fly solo across the Channel in 1909.) Moisant was accompanied by his mechanic, Albert Fileux and, for at least part of the journey, a kitten *Mademoiselle Fifi*. (The cat was apparently given to him in Tilmanstone, East Kent.) Still a novice pilot Moisant set out in mid August 1910 to fly from Paris to London. It was only his sixth flight as a pilot and took nearly three weeks (it would probably have been quicker to walk, but then again his aircraft had a top speed of less than 40 m.p.h.). On 6th September having circled Crystal Palace he landed at Beckenham, severely damaging his aircraft in the process. Crystal Palace was an obvious landmark, and the closest he got to central London. He subsequently telegraphed Paris to announce 'I have reached London and so accomplished my object'.

But what, you might be asking, is the connection with Otford?

The flight from Paris included both planned and unplanned stops at locations *en route*. The unplanned stops, which were apparently all in Kent, were usually caused by mechanical problems and bad weather. Difficult landings damaged his aircraft and these took time to repair. He also used the opportunity of the 'short hop' flights to take intrepid passengers on pleasure trips. The delays meant he spent some time in the Sevenoaks area, including a significant delay in Kemsing, where he stayed with Sir Mark Collet at St Clere in order to rebuild the aircraft. On the final leg of his journey he set off from Drakes Farm above Kemsing giving Sir Mark Collet and his

bedridden wife a grandstand view of the flight. Unfortunately he crashed again in a corn field somewhere between Otford and Shoreham and close to Otford station. Heading into the familiar strong headwind racing down the Darent Valley probably did not help. On 6th September he set off again in the early morning when the air was still and after a flight time of some 30 minutes at a height of a few hundred feet he arrived at Crystal Palace.

His pioneering flight attracted much attention locally and in the press and in October 1910 he returned to the United States to take part in an International Air Competition representing the USA. On New Year's Eve 1910 he was sadly killed in Louisiana after being thrown from his aircraft by a gust of wind.

A future edition of the 'Otford History and Heritage Newsletter' will include an expanded version of this article about this little-known episode in the history of Otford. You can ask to be added to the distribution list to receive copies of the newsletter (available by email only) by emailing info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk with your name. There is a fascinating article about Moisant by Gordon Ankhorn in 'Bygone Kent' (volume 1, number 5, 1980, pp 277-286) and more information in Kemsing Heritage Centre. If this has whetted your appetite for history you would be very welcome at the meetings of the three history societies ('Otford and District Historical Society', '1940s Society' and the 'NW Kent Family History Society') which meet regularly in Otford Village Memorial Hall. You can find out details of the meetings at the website www.otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk. These are also published in the 'History and Heritage' and Parish Council Newsletters. Of course there is

an early example of an *unpowered* flight in the Darent Valley by pioneering aviator Percy Pilcher which predates that of Moisant, but that, as they say, is another story to follow in a later edition of the magazine. You can also find out more about Percy Pilcher in the village Heritage Centre which celebrates its 21st birthday this year.



John Moisant and his cat 'Mademoiselle Fifi' (or 'Parée') after he crossed the Channel on 23rd August 1910. (Photographer unknown. Source: United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. Public Domain).

Alan Williams

MARCH WALK

A traffic free walk of about four miles around Lullingstone Park (a former deer park to Lullingstone Castle), taking in areas of ancient woodland and the golf course. It offers some panoramic views of the Darent Valley.

The paths are well walked but in March the ground tends to be muddy, especially where the track is shared with horse riders.

The starting point is the Visitor Centre car park (pay and display) – post code DA4 0JF.

If you are walking with children, why not get them to do some detective work? The park is home to a wide variety of trees including oaks, field maples, beeches, chestnuts and hazels. Although there are no leaves on the trees at this time of year, by investigating the dead leaves and seed husks there are plenty of clues as to their identity.

Begin with your back to the visitor centre and climb straight up the hill. Walk to the top left corner of the grassland area turning round at the top to admire the view to the north – you may just be able to spot the nine arch Eynsford railway viaduct.



Follow the 'Lullingstone Loop' path, signposted with a black arrow on a white background, into the woods and carry on along the wide path edged with brambles, past a large metal gate, then bear left at the junction with another path. Soon you will

go past another metal gate after which bear right. Just before the next metal gate, turn left to follow the blue arrow along the straight path. To your left, across a field of growing corn, there will be a view of the other side of the valley.

After about 300 yards, turn right into the wood as indicated by the lower of the two blue arrows. If you reach the road you have gone too far! You are now walking through an area of mixed woodland that is being actively managed and, a little further on will come to a clearing where many trees have been felled. The route continues downhill to a T junction of paths. Turn left then, just after the metal gate, turn right to go back uphill, noting the bluebell plants growing vigorously in this shade filled place where mossy tree roots border the path. Continue along the track passing some impressively tall trees.

Where the path joins another track bear right and continue to the next T junction then turn left – you will see a string of farm buildings to your left just outside the park. You are now back on the Lullingstone Loop and will be following the black arrows for over a mile. Continue straight on, turning right onto footpath 206 opposite where the farm buildings end. Go downhill to the golf course and cross as directed by the black arrow. Before entering the woodland opposite look out for the violets that pepper this south facing slope in March.

Follow the arrow through the wood and out onto another section of the golf course to pass behind some trees before meeting a tarmac path. To your left you will see the golf course's club house. Turn right continuing to follow the Lullingstone Loop signs and, just after passing a clump of trees on your left, note the park's Sentry Box Oak to your right – so named because of its hollow centre where a person can stand.



Soon thereafter, turn left and follow the black arrow left into the wood to walk between ivy clad trees, carrying straight on and ignoring side paths, initially with the golf course to both sides, then with it just to your right. This is an area much favoured by squirrels!

After about half a mile, you will emerge into an open green space. Follow the black arrow straight on, with views of Eynsford in the distance, then exit the field to go downhill through a shrubby area then up again with the golf course on your right.

Close to the top of the slope, leave the Lullingstone Loop path and turn right, as directed by the blue arrow, to my favourite stretch of path in the park. At first you will be walking very gently uphill but, once you reach the top and begin to descend, there are stunning views to both sides – over the fields to Eynsford to your left, and of the golf course and rolling valley to your right.

Before long, Lullingstone Castle will come into view. Follow the path round to the right (blue



arrow) and continue straight on, down a short but steep slope, and along the path running parallel to the valley and the castle grounds. On reaching a small wood, ignore the blue arrow which indicates straight on and turn left, past the metal gate, to descend to the River Darent. Turn right along the shaded footpath beside the river to return to the car park.

Christeen Malan



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Building Control Services

Sevenoaks District Council has the busiest Planning Department in Kent with over 2000 applications a year. Local Councils are under significant pressure to build more homes, the need for proper scrutiny and control has never been more important.

Building Control is a shared service run by Sevenoaks District and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils. The joint partnership provides a dedicated team who offer a fast, efficient and reliable service to help and advise you through the Building Regulations process.

Building Regulation guidance is one of the many services provided. The guidance ensures that new buildings, conversions, renovations and extensions (domestic or commercial) are safe, healthy and energy efficient. Regulations cover specific topics including, structural integrity, fire protection, accessibility, energy performance, acoustic performance, protection against falls, electrical and gas safety.

The Council has a duty to ensure that these standards are met through planning assessments and site inspections. The inspections are carried out by the Council's Building Control Surveyors, who all have a thorough knowledge of the building regulations, local conditions and relevant British standards, codes of practice and guidance.

If you require a Building Regulation Certificate you should ensure that a building regulation application has been submitted before the building works commence, and that you have a copy of the approval notice. You will need to let the Building Control team know as soon as any building work has started and when it will be

ready for a first visit. This can be done using the District Council's new texting service through the *LABC Site Inspection Request App* or calling the District Council on 01732 227376.

You or your builder should contact the Building Control team at key stages during the building works. This is to allow for checks on the works to be carried out in accordance with the building regulations. The team normally offer same day site inspections (Monday to Friday) provided that they have received the request before 9.30am.

When a building is completed to the required standards, the Officers will issue a completion certificate to the homeowner/developer to confirm that the works carried out met the building regulations standards and were regularly inspected by qualified Building Inspectors.

The District Council's Building Control team are available to help get you started on your building project and will answer commonly asked questions and more on your building project. The team offer a prompt, proactive, commercially aware service and understand the pressure involved in delivering construction projects on time. The Building Control team can offer you professional help and impartial advice on your project and answer any queries you may have on regulatory issues.

To find out if you need building control approval or for general advice on a building project contact Building Control at 01732 227376 or email building.control@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Cllr Irene Roy
cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Tel: 01959 525610



OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING W.I.

In March we meet on Thursday 12th at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Village Hall when our speaker is

B.Steven. The subject is 'Alternative Calendar Girls' - very intriguing!

Subscriptions are now due and can be paid at the meeting, but if any more information is required please contact 01959 524831.



NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our next Social Gathering will be at The Woodman in Otford on Monday 30 March, when we shall be showing a French film, with English subtitles, starting at 7.30pm, with a break in the middle for friendly chat. Do join us.

HISTORY MEETINGS IN OTFORD

Below are forthcoming history meetings in Otford organised by the Otford and District Historical Society (ODHS), the 1940s Society and the NW Kent Family History Society (NWKFHS). All meetings are open

to visitors for a small admission charge. Meetings start at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) and refreshments are available.



Thursday 12th March, NWKFHS, Women and the Official War Artists' Scheme of the World Wars. Carol Harris

Wednesday 18th March, ODHS, Stone on Stone – the men who built the Cathedrals. Imogen Corrigan

Friday 27th March, 1940s Soc, Recollections of a D Day Veteran with Les Fryatt

In the run up to the 'VE Day 75' commemorative events to be held in May you will notice some meetings, at least one each month, specifically about Britain and the war years. We look forward to welcoming you to the meetings.



COME AND SING!

Kemsing Singers' Choral Workshop.
Saturday 14th March, 10am-3.30pm

The workshop will take place at St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford. TN145PD

Refreshments will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. £10 contribution towards costs.

Please contact musicaldirector@kemsingsingers.com if you are interested in coming



Saturday 21st March 7.30pm at St Martin's Church, Brasted for an evening of uplifting European Sacred music:

Zoltán Kodály - Missa Brevis

Giuseppe Verdi - Four Sacred Pieces

The choir, directed by Robin Walker, will be accompanied by organist Charles Andrews. Refreshments will be available after the concert.

Tickets available from www.evenbrite.co.uk or Sevenoaks Bookshop priced £15 (U18 £7.50)

MISSION MATTERS...HOSPICES OF HOPE

Saint Bartholomew's Church continues to support the Hospices of Hope charity as a mission link partner. This update aims to highlight several projects that the organisation, which is the leading hospice development charity working across South East Europe, hopes to support in 2020.

In Romania Hospice Casa Sperante, a centre of excellence, is now the largest organisation in the country providing free hospice care to both adults and children. With two purpose-built hospices in Brasov and Bucharest, the hospices offer care via inpatient units, out-patient clinics, daycentres and home care teams.

During 2020 funds raised through the charity's work hopes to provide six month's running costs for the children's therapy centre at Copaceni. The aim is to be able to offer 200 respite care admissions, 1000 assessment/ play therapy sessions, 300 family counselling and support sessions and 400 home visits during this time.

Hospices of Hope would also like to be able to cover the running costs of the Bagpuss children's wing which is part of the Hospice in Brasov. This facility, with six inpatient beds and supported by Oliver Postgate (creator of Bagpuss), cares for up to 150 children with life limiting conditions at any one time.

In Albania funds raised by Hospices of Hope go towards supporting two homecare hospice services and an outpatient facility in Tirana and Durrës. In the coming year the charity hopes to provide an additional team in the south of the country as well as recruiting an additional four nurse aids and two physiotherapists to provide care services.

Since its opening in 2018 the BELhospice day care centre continues to make a unique difference to cancer patients in Serbia. Nurses, social workers, psychologists and volunteers care for patients in the day care facility and support around 600 outpatient appointment visits per year.

In 2020 Hospices of Hope aim to support the centre by providing funds for a nurse's salary and one home visit a day throughout the year. In addition, the charity hopes to introduce a week's holiday club for children who have a relative receiving care from BELhospice.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Serbia, with more than 30,000 new diagnoses and over 20,000 cancer related deaths every year. It is hoped that in the future the first ever purpose-built inpatient unit can be built in Serbia to meet the need of patients requiring hospice care.

The Hospices of Hope shop and tearoom in our village is one of 17 charity shops spread throughout Kent, Surrey, London & Scotland making a huge contribution to the work of the charity. More information can be found by popping into the shop or visiting the charity website hospicesofhope.co.uk

Anne Stevens



hospicesofhope
making every day count



IN MEMORIAM ... JOAN MARCHANT



Born in Seal, Joan was the eldest daughter of Ivy and George Hucks. She had two sisters, Shirley and Pamela, and a brother Martin. Her father was a member of the Seal Fire Service and once, when the call-out signal came, he could not find his big brass helmet. After much searching, it was spotted - Joan had 'borrowed' it and was racing round the garden making ringing bell noises.

Joan attended the local primary school and, later on, enjoyed their reunion get-togethers. After primary school she studied typing and shorthand at Tonbridge County Technical School for Girls which led to her gaining employment as PA to one of the directors of the local firm, Marley Tiles.

Joan met Don at the age of 14 whilst travelling to school by train. They married in 1954 and were soulmates for the rest of their married life. For their first 12 years together they lived in a bungalow at Home Farm, Rye Lane. During this time their daughters Linda and Beverley were born. Joan could never resist a baby to cuddle and once Linda and Beverley were at school the house was filled with a succession of foster children. Some stayed just a few weeks, others for longer. However long, they were always given the same care and love as Joan and Don's own children. In 1965 the family moved from Rye Lane to Pilgrims Way West where they remained for over 50 years.

Joan's mother-in-law Adelaide owned the village shop selling high class groceries and provisions. Joan came on board, helping Don and his brothers John and Robert before the business was sold after nearly seventy years of trading. The village arranged a retirement

party in the Village Hall where the family were presented with a book full of wonderful comments from their many grateful customers and friends.

Don's love of sport resulted in Joan making endless cups of tea for the football club's weekly matches as well as numerous cricket teas in the summer. Joan enjoyed many activities including Scottish dancing in Kensing and the Otford English Folk Dance Club. Joan and Don also belonged to a local walking club and were both devoted members of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Through these connections they made many friends and were well known and loved throughout the village. Their friendships led to several holidays abroad after which they would come home with stories of hilarious events and mishaps, a sense of humour never far away. After Don died Joan continued her travels with friends, to places as diverse as the Pennines, Cornwall, Iona, Italy and Jerusalem.

After a full and active life, Joan's final years were challenging but the family were fortunate in finding a care home that saw her as a person with laughing eyes and a beautiful smile.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ANDREA MUIR (NEE NEWLANDS)



My earliest memory of St Bart's is sitting on the front pew with Mrs Bunch and my sisters at a family service. I also remember Sunday School; Mrs Bunch used to lay out cardboard squares with ages on next to each row of chairs and we had

to sit in the correct one. We used to take it in turns to skip around the hall to each song. I loved it!

I don't remember a time when we didn't go to church or Sunday School. It's funny, I can still remember little snippets of teaching, such as Noah being chosen by God.

After Sunday School (I remember Ellen Bratby being a leader), I helped there myself which I really enjoyed. I think it was Explorers next. Then a group called Gateway in the afternoon. I loved being in the youth group, especially the youth communion breakfasts; they were special times. I made good friends as we tried to navigate the teenage years together.

I remember 'Summer Surprise' holiday clubs, Church fetes (including canoeing on the lake of the Castle House with the cubs/ scouts), communion classes and cleaning the chandeliers as a Girl Guide.

I was also in the church choir which I really enjoyed. Mr and Mrs Grafton were lovely and taught me a great deal. I remember performing as Gabriel in a nativity one Christmas Day and

having lines in 'Murder in the Cathedral' which was performed in church.

At 18, I moved to Oxford where I lived for 10 years. I went to church a few times while there. It wasn't until 2001 when I moved back to Kent that I returned to St Bart's. I couldn't find anywhere to live and so I lodged with Dawn (my old Youth Leader) and our relationship changed to firm friends, scrabble rivals and Godmother to my daughter.

I have been a teacher since 1995 in a range of schools, teaching from Key Stage 1 to Post 19. I had a book published in 2012 based on my work with children with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

In 2004 I married my husband Andrew at St Bart's and both our children (Amélie and Hamish) were baptised there too.

In 2004 I started attending The Vine Church in Maidstone where we live and have been worshipping there ever since. My children are both actively involved in church life too. Amélie is going to New Day Christian festival in Norfolk in the Summer and Hamish is going to Chequer Tree camp.

St Bart's definitely influenced me. I remember a great deal of kindness shown to me at different times in my life and a real feeling of safety and security. Mrs Bunch was a kind and loving person and I still think of her fondly. The different families that opened up their homes taught me the value of hospitality. Dawn's kindness to me at different times in my life has modelled Jesus' love to me and my family. St Bart's will always have a special place in my heart. My children see it as the place where Mummy and Daddy got married, but it is so much more. I hope to pop back and visit soon and I will certainly be at the Summer Fair.

NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 5 O2 EXPERIENCE at YOUNG VOICES

The morning had come, quicker than I expected, for one of the most exciting days of my life. The playground was buzzing, the kids were laughing and full of excitement. I couldn't wait to get on the coach to head to the O2 but that was only happening at midday!

In class, Mrs Little, who is my teacher, tried to make the morning as normal as possible but we still got really fidgety and the morning seemed to last an eternity....

THEN, the coach arrived! Before we could get on, we had to get our amazing Young Voices t-shirts on. Mine was really big - like a dress. Mrs Little told us it was time to get on the coach.

The coach ride wasn't that long and before we knew it, we were at the arena. As we got out of the coach, we saw the humongous O2. It looked like a giant tent. While we were walking to the O2 Mrs Roberts wanted to take a photo, so we got out the school banner and

held it proudly. When we found our seats, we started the practice session. That went on for 5 hours, but thankfully it helped us to remember all of our songs and dancing.

As the parents entered the arena, everyone tried to see if they could find theirs - but there were too many people and it was impossible to see my mom and dad in the sea of faces! There were 8000 children, so we guessed there were about 16000 spectators!!

When the lights dimmed, everyone got out their little torches and started waving them in the air as the first song was about to be sung. There were many great performers that we got to sing with which included Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet, The Shire and Ruti to mention a few. We felt like stars when the parents applauded.

The evening was an amazing experience, one I will remember forever. I would definitely recommend it to all our future Year 5's.

Written by: Georgia Year 5



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH ORGAN

A pipe organ is an expensive item, whose cost is likely to be in six figures (although this obviously varies greatly with the size of the instrument). What can be overlooked, however, is its cost-effectiveness over a long period. An electronic organ, costing perhaps £25,000, is likely to last on average 17 years, whereas a pipe organ will normally last at least 100 years and often much longer. It has been calculated that using electronic organs over the course of a century costs about twice as much as using pipe organs. As it happens, within a few miles of Otford is the oldest organ in the country still in regular use: the organ of c.1623 in Knole House Chapel. I do not expect our organ to last 400 years, but it has already embarked on its second century!

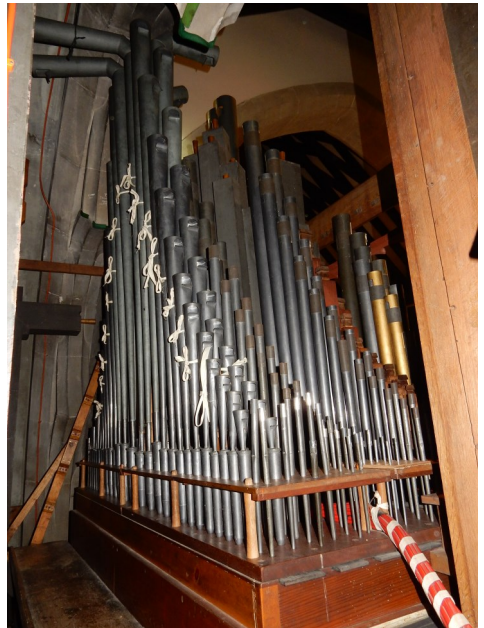
Careful maintenance is important, and we have for the last 30 years used the excellent services of Martin Cross (now Sheppard and Cross). Martin carried out the last major work on the organ in 1989, which involved dismantling the whole instrument and cleaning it (just under 1000 pipes!), and replacing the pipes of one stop with a new stop which I felt was of more use in leading a congregation in hymn singing, and to make it a more versatile instrument. Since then, another thirty years' dust has accumulated, added to by the work in reordering the church in 2018, and it was time to repeat this important job. In October 2019 Richard Sheppard, who took over the firm following Martin's sad death, undertook the cleaning of most of the organ (he was able to leave a few stops untouched). The picture shows but a small fraction of the pipework normally hidden from view.

The result is that, though not everyone will notice it, the organ sound has become brighter, adding to the improvement caused as a by-product of the new stonework used in the reordering. The more important result is that the organ will last longer through being in good repair.

In the course of working on the organ, both in tuning it and in the recent work, Martin and Richard have provided evidence that some of the pipework was taken from the previous organ, confirming the view which I had reached from contemporary documents. It appears that the Swell Horn and the Great Stopped Flute were taken from the old organ and adapted by Spurden Rutt to form part of the new instrument, and (not previously suspected) that the Great Open Diapason, one of the most prominent sounds on the organ, was also so adapted, the gold-leafed pipes which would have previously been on display now being hidden inside the case. These pipes are now well over 150 years old and still working hard.

Long may our revitalised organ continue to serve our congregation in worship!

*Kevin Grafton
Organist and choirmaster*



Thanks to Richard Sheppard for the photo

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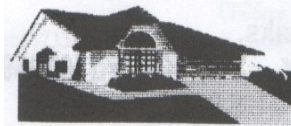


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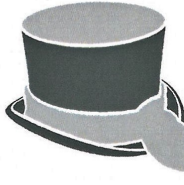
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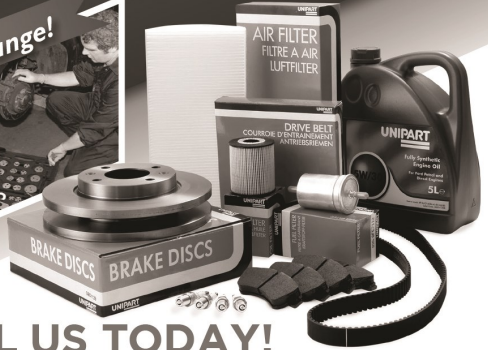
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