

THE NEW LEAF

The Parish Magazine of St.Paul's Northumberland Heath

AUGUST

PRICE 10p

1985



NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service (3rd Sunday - Family Communion)

6.30 pm Evening Service (4th Sunday - Lord's Supper)

STAFF

Vicar: Rev. Robin Balch, The Vicarage, 44 Colyers

Lane, Erith, DAS 3NP (Dartford 332809)

Curate: Rev. Keith White, 113 Belmont Road, Erith

(Dartford 334762)

Lay Mr. Dudley Reading, 103 Lesney Park, Erith

Reader: (Dartford 339869)

Pastoral Mrs. Vi Blacker, 250 Belmont Road, Erith

Assistants: (Erith 38941)

Mrs. Jeanette Watts, 77 Little Heath Road,

Bexleyheath (Erith 39172)

Organist: Mr. Alan Hunt, 22 Meyer Road, Erith

(Dartford 338620)

CHURCH OFFICERS

Wardens: Mr. Timothy Nunns, 15 Hawthorn Road,

Bexleyheath (01-304 2538)

Mrs. Eileen Thatcher, 44 Hurlingham Road,

Bexleyheath (Erith 39410)

Treasurer: Mr. Derrick Blacker, 250 Belmont Road

(Erith 38941)

Hall Mr. Brian Thatcher, 44 Hurlingham Road,

Manager: Bexleyheath (Erith 39410)

INFORMATION

re the different church organisations and activities will appear from time to time in the magazine. A list of church organisation leaders will be found in the church porch on the notice board.

AUGUST LARY for AUGUST DIARY for AUGUST DIARY

4 PENTECOST 10

- 10.30 am Family Worship: Preacher Vi Blacker
 - 6.30 pm Evening Prayer (1662): Preacher Keith White
- 7 8.00 pm Informal Prayer and Fellowship Lounge

11 PENTECOST 11

- 10.30 am Family Worship with Baptism : Preacher Keith White
 - 6.30 pm Evening Worship (ASB Evening Prayer):
 Preacher Keith White
- 14 8.00 pm Informal Prayer and Fellowship Lounge

18 PENTECOST 12

- 10.30 am Family Communion (ASB): Preacher Robin
 Balch
 - 6.30 pm Evening Worship (Informal): Preacher Paul Prosser (Head of R.I. at Erith
 School)

(Vi Blacker taking Evening Worship at St. Augustines, Slade Green)

- 21 10.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
 - 8.00 pm Informal Prayer and Fellowship
- 23 8.00 pm Faith Sharing Team (Lounge) Robin gives
 training on "Good News Down Your Street" a way to share your faith in others' homes...
 (ALL WELCOME)

25 PENTECOST 13

- 10.30 am Family Worship: Preacher Robin Balch
 - 6.30 pm Lord's Supper (ASB) Preacher Vi Blacker
- NB: THERE WILL BE NO 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION during August, but a special service will be held at 10.00 am on 21st August.
 - 8.00 am Holy Communion RECOMMENCES on September 1st.
 - -- THE STAFF AT ST. PAUL'S WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY --

He flew to Tel Aviv on 30th July for a month's course on "The Bible and its Setting" at St. George's College in Jerusalem. Excursions to actual Biblical sites are part of the study. Four days are devoted to camping in the desert. Candles and toilet paper were advised as a necessity, as well as a bandanna - the headgear sported by Lawrence of Arabia.

Joan keeps the flag flying at Lesney Park. Then the couple are off to Swanwick to attend ARM (Anglican Renewal Ministries) Conference which has top priority in their

diaries.

On 26th September, Edmund goes for a month to read at St. Deiniol's Library at Hawarden, on the Welsh/Cheshire borders. He is not certain what he will read but it will probably be some aspect of Church Growth. Joan hopes to join him for some weekends.

Then their big joint venture is to East Africa assisting with SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad). The team led by Michael Harper assembles at Nairobi on 30th October. Others in the party will be from St. Nicholas's, Nottingham, and Lutherans from America. The group travels into Tanzania to Moshi, on the shores of Lake Victoria. After a week it's back to Kenya when Edmund and Joan hope to make contact with the Church Army in East Africa; then to Limuri for a second week for an Anglican Conference for leaders. And surprise ... surprise ... sweaters for cold nights and wellies for rain are advised.

The Wilbournes should be back in England towards the end of November.

Edmund is not certain what will happen then, as due to restructuring at Church Army Headquarters his job has come to an end, but he will most probably be engaged in a semi-peripatetic ministry based in Erith.

He already has some Missions and Weekends booked. St. Paul's may be seeing more of both Edmund and Joan from the New Year onwards. They ask for your prayers.

"LORD, we pray that you will be with Edmund and Joan as they travel, and with Joan as she stays behind to work. Grant that there may be times of refreshment and times of renewal for them both, in what seems to be an extremely busy Sabbatical. And please grant too, that on their return they may see your clear guidance for their future lives. We look forward to seeing more of them Lord, and look to your gracious provision for them.

That Jesus name may be glorified wherever they go.

FROM THE VICERAGE

My dear Friends,

MAINTENANCE v MISSION

The controversial report, assessing the Ministry of the Church of England, the TILLER REPORT, says that the Church has concentrated on MAINTENANCE and neglected MISSION. That, says, Canon Tiller is the main reason for the decline of the Church of England. I have a similar conviction. An emphasis on Maintenance puts a limit on God's people.

A LIMIT TO CHANGE. The Church is a LIVING BODY, and a living body must change. I am not a believer in "change for change's sake." I believe also that changes should come "gently and lovingly", yet change there must be. Every aspect of the church's life must come under constant scrutiny. Does a particular organisation or service meet the need of "Mission, or is it just "Maintained" for "maintenance sake"? It is easier to start something than to stop something, yet the time comes when we have to be ruthless about something that prevents real "Mission" taking place.

A LIMIT TO GIVING. Maintenance also puts a limit on the level of our giving, in terms of time, talent and money. "The Church has enough. We are ticking over. Not in debt. We have people running groups." Jesus did not tell his disciples to stay in Jerusalem, but to push on to Judea, Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth. We reason God has enough from us. We stop God's blessing as we limit our response. What would have happened if Jesus had said it was enough just to come to earth, and stopped short of giving his life for the world?

A LIMIT TO GROWTH. Nothing saddens me more than to hear people say that the Church is big enough, we ought to consolidate. Some have the impression that there is nothing more to do. They have emotionally arrived. No more people to win. No more targets to reach. No more efforts to grow, either personally, or as a church. Such indeed is a "death-wish" for the Church. Tiller challenges the Church to rethink its attitude towards everything - worship, the role of clergy and lay alike: its organisation, and vitally, its mission.

PLEASE DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELV S FOR GOD.

Best wishes, Lober, Koben

BEHOLD YOUR KING

AS A RESULT of the Retiring Collections, and after deduction of expenses, we are sending £150 to TEAR Fund for their work in Ethiopia. Our thanks to everyone for their generosity.

A recording has been made of the production and if anyone would like a copy of the cassette would they please contact me as soon as possible. The approximate cost of the double cassette is £3.50.

Tel: Erith 33478 Keith McGill

<u>Distribution</u> - PLEASE, I would like some help with a few magazine deliveries - it honestly isn't too onerous a job - you will offer won't you? I look forward to hearing from you!

Assembly/Collation - a small group of people gather each month on the Tuesday before the last Sunday in the month to put the magazine together, this is a very pleasant and easy job provided all or most of the helpers are able to come, however, there are naturally times when this is not possible. Near crisis situation occurred on the July assembly when no less than 8 of the team were unable to be there! If you think you could possibly agree to come on a "stand-in" list, so that if I know we are going to be shorthanded I could phone you and ask for help that would be a great blessing and encouragement. Otherwise if there are any who would like to join us at any time we would be grateful. We hope to be ready to assemble the September magazine on 20th August - 3 pm in the Hall.

Vi Blacker

Sponsored three legged fancy dress fun run:

Sponsor money for this magnificent effort towards our piano fund is still coming in, but at the time of going to press we had received £233.52. Our gratitude to those who took part and those who sponsored - if by any chance you sponsored anyone and have not yet paid up, don't forget will you?

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MEWS from our BAPTIST Triends in Belmont Road: 27.6.85

"I expect that you will have heard that Paul Knight has accepted our call to the pastorate here. He will take up the work in the Autumn.

We are delighted of course. There was applause from the congregation and the singing of the doxology when I made the announcement on Sunday morning.

Our united work has been a criterion in the selection process and we are sure that Paul will be an enthusiastic and energetic colleague in our ministry in Erith.

The 'induction' service and fellowship meal will be on Saturday, September 28th - the service starting at 3 pm, and we hope that you will be able to be with us and bring a greeting at the tea table.

It seems to have been a 'long-haul' - more than two years since Fred retired - but Praise the Lord, He has kept us and sustained us and blessed us with some positive growth since that time.

We have a lot of work to do to complete the Manse renovation but I think we'll get it done in time for Paul and Alison to move in sometime in August. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth starts school in September.

Best wishes and prayerful thoughts, Sincerely, Don Cross."

It is good to be able to rejoice with our Belmont Road brothers and sisters at last. As the Lord said to the prophet Habakkuk (2:3) "It may seem slow in coming, but wait for it; it will certainly take place, and it will not be delayed." Praise the Lord, another time of waiting is almost over. Make a note in your diaries of September 28th so we can join in the rejoicing with our welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: There are no meetings of the Women's Groups or of Spike Island during August. Autumn meetings will be listed in the September magazine.

S.A.M.S. - A forward date for your diary. MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER - 7.15 pm at St. Paul's, Robert Adam Street (near Baker Street) will be the time and site for the SAMS autumn meeting. Further details will be published nearer the time.

CONGRATULATIONS to VIV and KEITH McGILL (and to the proud and happy grandparents) on the birth of their little daughter, ALISON CLARE - date of birth: 12.7.85 at 2 pm - weighing in at 81bs 8 czs

Let us give thanks to God our Father for the movement of Lis Holy Spirit in this area, as we come closer together with our friends from Queen Street and Belmont Road, not forgetting our meeting with Our Lady of the Angels. We are particularly praying for the forthcoming Christian Festival. If Christian Unityis to become real it must begin with people coming to love one another as brothers and sisters.

We hope this prayer will be a starting point - - we long to feel oneness in Christ as we begin to pray for our community.

"Loving Father we rejoice to belong to you in Jesus Christ and because of His great love for us, we are glad that we also belong to each other. May there be many in our community who will be joined through your Son Jesus Christ and may our deepening worship and work together be a channel of His power. We pray that we may be deeply aware of our fellowship with all other Christians in our town, and that the effect of your love may be far reaching and apparent in all your church by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen"

DO YOU READ E.D.W.J. ?

If you do read Every Day with Jesus you will want to know that CWR have now produced 4 Special Editions - these are reproductions of notes and prayers which have been particularly helpful over the years - the gems of E.D.W.J. collected under separate headings: "Prayer", "Sharing Your Faith", "Discipleship", and "Worship".

These little books are produced on high quality paper with a full page picture opposite each page. They look expensive, but cost only 95p each.

Highly recommended for those who have found the Daily Reading Notes helpful over the past 20 years in which they have proved themselves, and ideal as a gift for a new Christian or one who is seeking help.

I have copies of these 4 books - please ask if you are interested in seeing or buying one - it could even be the beginning of your Christnas shopping!!

Paula) Palaver



Thinking back over our recent holiday (two weeks in Malta at the end of June), I was wondering what had impressed me most. It wasn't the climate, though we did have two weeks unbroken sunshine while you at home shivered through the wettest and coldest June on record! Nor was it the beauty of the island, I was surprised when I saw what a colourful place it was, with oleander trees and bougainvillea heavy with blossom, dahlias, marigolds and huge flowering cacti just to mention a few.

Derrick and I love looking round old churches - they are the places where Christians meet to worship and also they are historically and architecturally interesting. On this tiny island (only 17 miles long) I was told there are 365 churches. We only visited a tiny fraction of that number! Those we did visit were not in the main, the important cathedrals, but ordinary little parish churches.

The thing that impressed us so was the fact that we really were <u>visiting houses of prayer</u> -we found in every church that there were people praying. We had no desire to wander around looking for things of interest - we took to just quietly sitting and soaking up the atmosphere - we joined our silent prayers to the prayers around us and we knew we had found unity in the sight of God.

It was thrilling to see the eagerness of the people to be together to worship, we were in one church on Saturday at 5.45 pm and probably at least 100 people were in their seats ready for the beginning of a service - a service which was not due to start until 6.30 pm! Everywhere we went we were greeted with smiling faces and offers of help, they were such a loving people - St. Luke records Paul's visit to Malta by saying "The natives showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2).

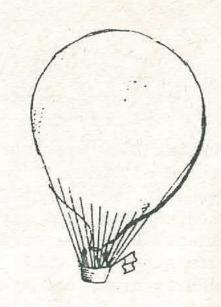
Certainly in the years that have passed since Paul's visit to this island, the Maltese people have had cause more than once to rely upon the power of prayer, this surely is what keeps them in a spirit of unusual kindness - maybe we have something to learn.

August

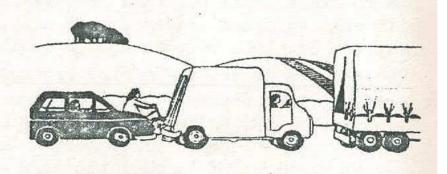






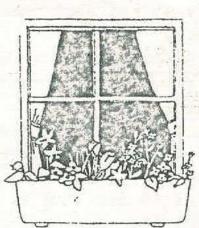






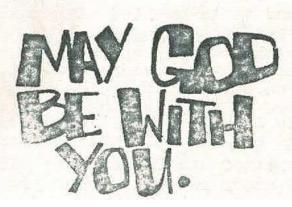
Or staying at home ...?











::::::: CHOIR NEWS

Our congratulations to <u>JESSICA LINDRIDGE</u> for coming first in her class at Christ Church Choristers Competition. She won a certificate and a book token for this. We also have to congratulate her on passing her Grade 4 Flute examination. In our June magazine we were congratulating Jessica on coming second in her class at the Lewisham Festival, only one point behind the winner, so she has done very well indeed this year. Keep it up Jessica!

The choir is having a break from practises during August - please note that the next practise will be on Thursday, 29th August when we shall be beginning to prepare for such things as Harvest and Christmas as well as the Sundays week by week.

EXTRA VOICES ALWAYS WELCOME!

OUR COMMUNION TABLE

After months of waiting, we now have a new Communion Table for our re-ordered Chancel. You are not likely to see another table like this, (unless it is copied in years to come), it is special to St. Paul's.

Keith McGill had the idea and drew an artist's impression. The PCC approved and someone suggested using the discarded front pews. The necessary permission was obtained from Diocese. A friend, Bob Coltart was approached, and after joining us at our Family Communion Service he agreed to put his skill into following Keith's drawing.

Then started many hours of dedicated work, the road was littered with boulders - the pews had to be hand planed because nobody would risk putting second-hand wood on a machine - the hard winter stopped production for a bit, because Bob was working in his unheated garage - some materials had to be purchased and these were almost unobtainable and had to be awaited with much patience. Each time Bob put an estimated date on the completion of the table something went wrong to delay that date - even close to the end of the work, when we hoped to have it for the Confirmation Service, there was a slip with a chisel that resulted in a badly damaged finger for Bob - but at last, on 5th July, Derrick Blacker and Ron Handy were able to go and collect St. Paul's Communion Tahle.

THE FOLLOWING is written as a tribute to BOB who has given of his best to the glory of God. Thank you Bob.....

THE CARPENTER'S GIFT

A plank of wood - an old church pew A drawing by a man of vision.
A time of worship and of prayer.
That wood - hand planed;
The scars of years with love removed.

Each little joint measured;

Dowels hand made with loving care
Angles fashioned - a perfect fit.

Carving with infinite care

A gentle,

flowing,

line.

A cross was formed Not rough, like that on Calvary,
But smooth and clean of line;
Placed in the centre
Symbolic of love.

What love?: The love of Jesus
Bearing the burden of table above;
The table that in turn will bear
The Bread,

the Wine,

the Word of God.

The old church pew in pain has borne

The cold of chisel, the heat of saw,
The pain is over now - new birth is his
Finished like satin Fit for a King.

The carpenter grieves a little

To part with his child
He too bears the scars of accouchement
But offers his gift in thanks to God,

For the skill of the carpenter

Shared by

God's Son

Jottings from your P.C.C.

Your PCC have discussed three matters which were raised at the A.G.M.:

- 1. Proxy Voting at Annual Parochial Meetings Tim
 Nunns has researched this matter and has discovered that
 this is not possible under the present rules governing
 our church.
- 2. The building up of a cash reserve in the Church Accounts
- the Finance Committee looked carefully at the money situation and decided that in fact, we have no real reserves. Relative to our annual turnover, the amount of money held in reserve at this point in time is only sufficient to meet our immediate fluctuating needs.
- 3. The Housing of the Vicar and Curate: Tim Nunns is to approach the Diocesan Parsonages Committee regarding their thoughts on improvement in the present clergy housing.

The PCC have agreed to arrange for special meetings to consider the church's policy on such matters as Marriage Preparation and Discipline, and Counselling and Healing — you will be hearing more on these matters in the future. The decision was made to buy 170 copies of the Green ASB Morning and Evening Frayer Booklets to replace our Yellow Series 3 Booklets to save the confusion which arises due to different page numbers and slightly different wording — these should be in use by the time you read this.

MONEY MATTERS EEE EEE

Our giving for the quarter ended 30th June is shown below ..

Vicars and Wardens Charitable Fund £138.92 Sharing Schene £3169.94 Cash Offerings £2147.10

We are now running at £300 below our estimated needs for our domestic commitments. Please give this your prayerful consideration, particularly remembering during this holiday time, that even when you are away our expenses continue.

D.G.B.

Friends of St. Paul's Church In the July magazine (p.8) I asked for names and addresses of ex-members or missionary links with St. Paul's who might like to receive a quarterly or, perhaps, bi-annual newsletter from us - please do remember to let me have contacts as soon as possible.

PERSONALIA

There are a number of CONGRATULATIONS this month - it is good to REJOICE with and to CONGRATULATE:

The Rev. CHRIS GANE who is celebrating 25 years in the ministry. Chris was Vicar here from 1964 to 1970 and is now Rector of St. Margaret's Church, Ipswich.

DARYL SAUNDERS on passing her Alternative Maths Examination (she says it's a miracle, probably hard work had something to do with it!) This means she can take up her place at Avery Hill Teacher Training College in September. Well done Daryl and our best wishes for your future studies.

YVONNE ELLEY and IAN THOMAS who announced their engagement on 7th July 1985.

NICHOLAS BOOTH and JANE MONTGOMERY who are to be married at Radnor Park Parish Church, Clydebank on 24th August. They will be starting their married life at Rainham, but we hope to see them when they visit parents, Jeanne and Jack Booth.

CONGRATULATIONS to PAUL and STELLA MACE on the birth of a little baby girl, SARAH LOUISE. We hear that all is well, and look forward to seeing the family some time in the near future.

To BRIAN and BERYL WESTAWAY our CONGRATULATIONS on the celebration of their SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on 26th July. We hope you had a lovely day!

HOLIDAYS - Robin and Eileen and the girls are away from 28th July to 17th August, and Keith and Carol and family are away from 18th August to 7th September - we pray that their holiday times may give refreshment and rest and that they may return to us safe and with renewed vigour.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS at this time:

BERNARD STEVENS making a recovery from his recent operation. It was good to see the family together in church.

We are so sorry that JOHN LOVELY has been in hospital recently, and are grateful to all involved in taking NELLIE to the hospital to see John. May he soon be home and much stronger.

PERSONALIA contd.

MR. and MRS. BOB RICHARDS, who are back at Orchard Cottage at the back of Hengist Road, after a short stay in hospital. We trust that they are progressing well, we wish the same to NORMA MOFFET - back after a recent operation.

We continue to pray for CHRIS SKRIMSHIRE after his stay in hospital. Our prayer is that the Lord may soon heal him from some distressing symptoms. We hope that Chris may soon be back nursing at Charing Cross Hospital.

We are pleased that MICHAEL MURPHY is back home again from Charing Cross Hospital after a slight stroke. We continue to pray for Michael and Marjorie as they seek the Lord's will for the future, especially about a move to a more manageable home.

OUR SYMPATHIES to several bereaved families this past month. Those connected with St. Paul's: our sympathies to JOAN HEATH and her sisters and brothers on the sad loss of their dad BILL LONG: also to the friends and neighbours of DENNIS ATKINSON in Horsa Road, especially to our EDIE NICHOLS and husband BERT who cared for him for many years. MAY GOD SUPPORT ALL WHO GRIEVE AT THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES.

NEWS OF LEF, SOUTH INDIA.... PAUL and SUSHEELA send
"greetings to our many friends at St. Paul's" They write
of "thrilling reports from the Central Prison. 28 Bibles
were distributed in June to life prisoners who have
accepted Christ. Prayer Meetings are being held in every
block. Multhyya is as active as before. We thank you for
that offering given by St. Paul's for his house construction
Paul celebrated his 70th birthday on July 2nd. LEF literature shows that he is extremely busy.

Inge and Dudley will shortly leave for Shrewsbury, but Tim and Sue Luff will be taking over as St. Paul's LEF reps.

A LOOK INTO SEPTEMBER

8th...A day with Horizons featuring SUE REID, who will work with this Society among French speaking peoples. We are pleased to welcome their director JONATHAN BOOTH at 6.30 pm.

9th...Training Evening for Home Group Leaders 18th...FESTIVAL CELEBRATION at Queen Street

21st...Harvest Supper and .. 22nd HARVEST THANKSGIVING

28th ... Induction of Paul Knight as Baptist Pastor

29th...ORDINATION of KEITH WHITE as Priest - Rochester Cathedral

June 16	RECORDED IN OUR REGISTERS
June 16	We were pleased to share in the naming and blessing of:
Danny Mark Sems Jodie Pearson of 7 Brendon Close (with permission of St. Augustine's, Slade Green) June 23 Rebecca Jones of 26 Northumberland Park July 14 Nikki Williams of 57 Northumberland Way We extend our sympathies to the relatives of: June 18 Henry Charles Gould of 111 Parsonage Manorway	
July 7	
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AT YOUR SERVICE

A USEFUL GUIDE TO LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

ATHLETIC CLUB

Bexley Borough Athletic Club: Mr. Tom Gordon, 89 Carlton Road (Erith 35092) Mr. Ron Handy, 82 Bedonwell Road (Erith 30345)

BESPOKE TAILOR

T. Luff, 7 Hurst Road (Dartford 339705) Specializing in Suits, Overcoats and Alterations

BIBLES, BOOKS, CARDS AND RECORDS

Good News Centre, 137 Upper Wickham Lane, Welling (01-855 6144)

DANCING

Margaret Baldwin (Ass.I.S.T.D.) School of Dancing. Ballet tap, modern, stage and jazz. Saturday mornings - Mission Hall. For further details telephone: Minster (Kent) 872095

GROCER

Challis Stores, 209 Bexley Road - orders delivered

I AIRDRESSER

'KAROLINES' - 282 Bexley Road (Dartford 335550)

JEWELLERS AND WATCHMAKER

(. Gilbert, 231 Bexley Road (Dartford 334134)

IOCKSMITH

I. Perry - Most Types of Lock Work Undertaken Lay.....79 Hythe Street, Dartford 92656
Night.....16 Highfield Avenue, Erith 48715

DEWSAGENTS, TOBACCONISTS, CONFECTIONERS AND TOYS
'The Tuck Shop', 253 Bexley Road (Dartford 335640)

NURSERYMAN (Bedding Plants, etc).

West Holme Nursery, Heath Way and Barnehurst Avenue North Heath (Dartford 338474)

FHOTOGRAPHS

Graham Condy, 23 Silverdale Road, Bexleyheath - Crayford 53831. Family photographs taken in your home. Portraits of children a speciality.

PLAYGROUP - ST. PAUL'S

Held in the Church Hall each weekday morning during term time. Leader: Mrs. S. Day - Dartford 347789 and Registrar: Mrs. M. Farr - Dartford 331525

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