

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

January	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
1st Jan	-	New Years Day Communion	-	-
8th Jan	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
15th Jan	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
22nd Jan	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Messy Church	-
29th Jan	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	-

SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14) CRÈCHE: 0-2 YEARS INFANT: 3-7 JUNIOR: 8-11 SENIOR: 12-14

These groups meet in the Church Centre during the 10.00 am service, except on the first Sunday when they meet in Church for All Together Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

Vicar's off duty day: Monday

Cover photo by Richard Worssam. Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services

Magazine No. 01 Volume 87

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

As we find ourselves at the beginning of a New Year, we may wonder what it will hold for us. If last year is anything to go by, there may well be some surprises along the way. (Here I'm thinking of all the events surrounding the Brexit vote and the American presidential election.)

On a personal level, who can tell what may happen? We may suddenly find ourselves having to deal with health issues, or a change in work circumstances, or joys or struggles in relationships.

There are some things that we can anticipate, but there will be other things that will come unexpectedly. So how can we best prepare for the journey that lies ahead of us through the unfolding months of 2017? What qualities will sustain us along the way?

To begin to answer these questions I find inspiration from St. Paul. When he started out on his ministry he would not have been able to anticipate all the joys and challenges that lay ahead of him. Yet throughout his life he showed a remarkable consistency.

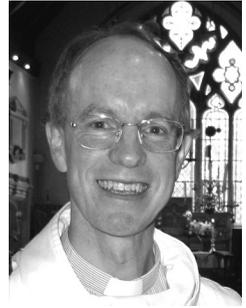
The earliest letter that we have of his in the New Testament was written to the Thessalonians. In the final chapter he gives three key pieces of advice:

- * rejoice always;
- * pray without ceasing;
- * give thanks in all circumstances.

At the end of his life, when he was under house arrest in Rome, Paul wrote to his dear friends in Philippi with almost exactly the same advice:

- * rejoice in the Lord always;
- * pray about everything
- * with thanksgiving.

This was no armchair advice. Paul had had to endure great hardships in his ministry; and yet he stuck by the same three principles. It's worth pondering them.



Firstly, what was his basis for rejoicing? Paul gives the answer in the next sentence. It was his abiding sense that "the Lord is near". This awareness transforms all situations.

Secondly, Paul affirms that we become aware of the Lord's presence through prayer. A definition of prayer which I find helpful is simply, "Keeping company with God." It is good to begin each day with a time of silence, acknowledging his sustaining presence as we set out into whatever the day may hold. And it is good to have a time of silent prayer towards the end of the day when we place all that has happened into his hands.

The third thing Paul highlights is thanksgiving. Remember Paul was in prison when he wrote this to the Philippians, but he still found some things to give thanks for. In effect he demonstrated the power of positive thinking; he was able to maintain a constructive rather than a negative spiral in his thoughts and outlook.

As a suggestion for a New Year's resolution, why not try putting these three principles into practice each day, and see what difference they make?

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*



DIARY FOR JANUARY 2017

Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at 9.00 am and on Fridays in the Cranmer Room at 9.00 am

1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

10.00 am New Year's Day Holy Communion service

2 7.45 pm Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)

4 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards

7.30 pm Worship Advisory Group (Vicarage)

8 The Baptism of Christ: The First Sunday after Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

9 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

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

2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Team (Vicarage)

11 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.45 pm Finance and Standing Committee (Church Centre)

14 8.30 am PCC breakfast and discussion morning (Church Centre)

6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

15 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

16 7.45 pm Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)

18 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards

19 7.45 pm Bellringing practice followed by Otford Guild of Bellringers AGM

22 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion

3.00 pm Messy Church

6.30 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service (Otford Methodist Church)

23 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

25 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

- 29 **Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Morning Worship
- 30 7.45 pm Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

4th December Georgia Keira Hoch

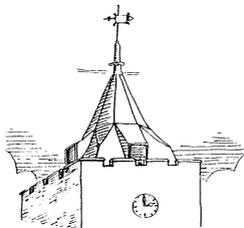
FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)

21st November Celia Mary Down (aged 85)



"The vicar's hoping providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church."

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHRISTMAS MARKET 'THANK YOU'

My sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Market such a success and especially to Santa's deputy who did a fine job greeting visitors and dispensing sweets. To the stall holders who worked so hard beforehand and on the day to the kitchen staff who could show some high class places a thing or two, to all who served, knitted, baked, made sweets, marmalade and lemon curd, turned wood, ran out of raffle tickets... and to everyone who came to support us. What more could we ask for? A lovely morning, the Church Centre with stalls laden with superb goodies, delicious refreshments and lots of people creating a truly wonderful atmosphere. The total raised was £2774.13 - amazing! Well done everyone.

Sylvia Grafton

GREECE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

23rd - 31st October 2017

Together with Revd. Andrew Procter, the Vicar will be leading a nine-day pilgrimage to Greece next October half-term, visiting sites closely connected with the ministry of St. Paul and the growth of the early Church as recorded in his letters and the Book of Acts, including Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth. Information sheets and booking forms are available at the back of church.

OTFORD GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

We thank our ringers for the committed work they put in over the year. Their AGM will be held on Thursday, 19th January at 9.00 pm, following ringing practice.

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday, 22nd January at 3.00 pm. An enjoyable afternoon is promised for all who come. It is particularly suitable for families with children up to the age of 11.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place at Otford Methodist Church on Sunday, 22nd January at 6.30 pm

REDECORATION AND RE-ORDERING UPDATE

Our Faculty Application has been submitted to the Diocesan Registry and we are currently waiting to hear back from the Chancellor of the Diocese. We will keep you up to date with how things progress.



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk <http://michellelowe.yourcllr.com>



I hope you had a peaceful and restful Christmas break and I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

You may have seen from recent *'The Guardian'* coverage that Sevenoaks District Council has won the

Guardian Public Service of the year award for our self-sufficiency agenda. *'The Guardian'* praised us for becoming England's first financially self-sufficient local authority despite unprecedented public sector cuts.

David Brindle, the Guardian's public services editor and co-chair of the judging panel, said: "Sevenoaks has blazed a trail for all of English local government. Ministers plan to phase out central grants by the end of the decade, but the detail is still being thrashed out.

"While others haggle over the numbers, Sevenoaks has picked up the ball and run with it. What it has achieved has taken vision, initiative and nerves of steel at a time of unprecedented uncertainty for town halls."

As well as our petrol station in Swanley and office block in Sevenoaks, we also plan to develop and own a hotel in Sevenoaks town. This will not only help with our investment strategy but will provide much needed overnight accommodation to help businesses and tourism across the district. Our self-sufficiency agenda means that we are still able to provide services, to you our residents, and we don't have to worry about what the government is planning to cut.

We have also launched our housing based services in hospitals to help patients be discharged faster, which is not only good for their overall health and wellbeing, but helps to free up much needed beds – particularly at this time of year. Our HERO service is working in Sevenoaks and Edenbridge Hospitals attending discharge meetings to see how we can prepare peoples' homes so that they can be discharged sooner. It might mean fitting a rail, ramp or stair lift or something simple such as taking a bed from upstairs to downstairs.

At Tunbridge Wells Hospital we are working with Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils to provide a similar service. A Housing and Health Co-ordinator and handyperson will work directly with patients to identify and overcome obstacles preventing immediate hospital discharge.

By being located in Tunbridge Wells Hospital, the handyperson can react quickly to carry out small but essential home repairs to ensure patients are home as soon as possible. They can also carry out small repairs to prevent falls in and around the home thereby reducing the need to be readmitted into hospital.

As a council we are determined to remain financially sound so that we can continue providing our traditional services such as the weekly refuse collection; as well as new and innovative services such as our housing based services in our hospitals.

As ever please contact me if you have any issues or concerns and I will be happy to help.

With best wishes,
Michelle



IN MEMORIAM



Elizabeth Holland, 1941-2016

Elizabeth was born in Manchester in 1941 and spent her early childhood there. Her father ran an outdoor catering business and Elizabeth recalled attending various football matches, gymkhanas and other sporting events as she helped in selling the food.

When Elizabeth was 11, the family moved to Cornwall where the family ran a bed and breakfast business. Elizabeth completed her secondary education at a school in the Lizard Peninsula.

The family then moved to Ferndown in Dorset and Elizabeth attended a secretarial college and worked as a typist for a local firm of solicitors. Elizabeth then moved to London where she worked first as a secretary in the Foreign Office and then for the drinks company, Guinness. However, she found that she didn't like being in an office all day, and so she moved into cookware sales, demonstrating food processors and other kitchen equipment in department stores such as Alders and elsewhere.

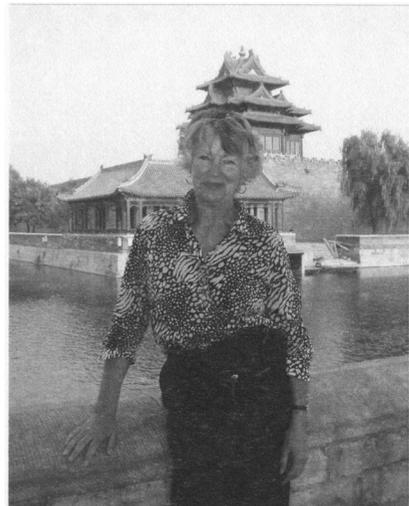
Elizabeth met her husband, Ian, in London in her early twenties and she got married when she was 24. They had two children, Fiona and Piers. Their first house was in South Godstone and then they moved to East Grinstead where they lived for fifteen years. In 1986, Elizabeth and Ian parted company and Elizabeth moved with Fiona and Piers to Purley.

In 1989 Elizabeth began a new chapter in her life when she moved to Ivy Hatch. She worked as a sales representative for a company selling porcelain, china, cooking utensils, tea towels and other products. Her responsibility was to

cover all of southern England south of the M4, and as a result she did a lot of driving. Her natural outgoing personality suited her well to making new contacts with clients and customers.

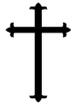
In 2004 Elizabeth moved to Sevenoaks. She particularly enjoyed travelling, including travelling around India by train, travelling across Africa in a lorry, riding on a train across Russia, and travelling through Peru and Bolivia. Even when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2010, Elizabeth travelled extensively during periods of remission, including a trip to Burma and the Far East, and also to the heights of Ladakh.

Locally, Elizabeth enjoyed playing golf. In the last few years she became a regular member of St. Bart's. With her cancer progressing to stage 4 by 2011, Elizabeth, with the help of the Marsden, faced up to her illness in an inspirational way, with great courage and a determination to make the most of life.





IN MEMORIAM



Celia Down, 1931-2016

Celia was born in Watford in 1931. She was only 8 when the Second World War broke out and over the next six years she was moved from place to place, including Harpenden, London, St. Albans, Ireland, Richmond and Bromley, and her accommodation ranged from a boarding school to a farm.

In 1945 Celia was able to return to St. George's School in Watford. Her headmaster at the time wrote, "A school doesn't exist to send out men and women solely to play a part in life whereby they achieve a competence and honourable life of useful work, but it exists to send out for posterity and for their own generation, men and women who by their character shall leave the society in which they live the better for their presence and hence the world much nearer the Kingdom." This proved to be an inspirational quotation.

From St. George's School, Celia went on to train at Guys Hospital as a radiographer. She worked in this capacity at Sevenoaks Hospital for many years.

Celia met her husband, Norman, through a group of friends on a sailing holiday on the Norfolk Broads, and they continued their friendship through Bromley Tennis Club. They got married in 1958 in Chislehurst and for their first home they moved into Tudor Drive in Otford. They soon started a family, with the birth of Julie, Richard and Roger. In the mid sixties they bought a large vacant plot in Colets Orchard that was completely overgrown but had a stream running through it. They designed and had built a house with a large garden and the family moved in in 1966. While

living here their fourth child, Peter, was born.

The family was actively involved in the life of St. Bartholomew's Church, with the children singing in the choir. Their son, Richard, was head chorister for a while.

Celia maintained many interests. As a young woman she was very good at sport, captaining her school team in Lacrosse and in cricket she was a trialist for the Kent ladies team. She was also good at tennis, and maintained friendships from Bromley Tennis Club throughout her adult life. Celia and Norman enjoyed boating holidays and in retirement they bought a canal boat and toured much of the English canal network. When the family was younger, they went on several camping holidays in Europe with their VW camper van.

Celia was a member of the Soroptomists and she also enjoyed playing bridge. She particularly had a love of gardening, and latterly she was the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.



FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

January: Speaking and listening

Pause for thought: As we gaze out of our windows at this time of year, we see the bare branches of trees silhouetted against pink sunsets. Ponds may be frozen, and gardens sometimes lie under a blanket of snow, muffling every sound. Silence! There is no doubt that we have arrived in the depths of winter.



At the time of the Bible story on page 14, God hardly ever spoke directly to people and he did not appear to them in dreams very often. Silence! But one night God spoke, not to Eli the experienced priest, but to his trainee altar boy, Samuel. The boy did not recognize God's voice, and so it was up to Eli to explain whose voice he had heard and how to respond.

There are many instances in the Bible when God speaks to someone unexpected. So perhaps we should not be surprised when the children we know show amazing spiritual insight. Then we need, like Eli, to display humility by listening to what they say and taking their opinions seriously. However, it may be up to us to interpret what they are experiencing and to advise on how they should move forward.

God speaks to Samuel: Read the Bible story on page 14 together. Wonder about it, as follows:

- I wonder why God spoke to Samuel and not to Eli?
- I wonder how God speaks to people today?
- I wonder if prayer is about talking or listening or both?
- I wonder if you have ever felt God speaking to you (perhaps through a Bible story, through the words of a Christian friend, or a quiet voice in your head)?

The listening game: How good are we at listening to each other? This game could be played on a long car journey. One person tells a story about something funny/embarrassing that happened to them. Then someone else has to repeat their story, eg "One day when Mum was six, she was riding a donkey along the beach when . . ." Take turns at telling and relaying the stories. How much detail can everyone include?

However old our children may be, they always need us to listen to them, whether it is that important time straight after school or on the odd weekend when they come home from working away. Sometimes having someone to listen is enough. At other times, we may be able to interpret a situation for them, saying, for example, "Well, perhaps your friend was just having a bad day," or, "Hmm, if you keep feeling like that, do you think God might be telling you something?"

The name game: You could play this while sitting at the table before or after a meal. Put a baby name book on the table. Does everyone know what their name means? Have a guess and then look them up. Chat about why those

names were chosen. Look up the names of other relatives. You might like to draw a family tree together on a big piece of paper, with the names in circles. Add the bare branches of a



wintery tree and its trunk in the background. Can anyone remember what Samuel means?

I hear with my little ear! Go on a wintry walk in and around Otford. Stop still for a few minutes in different places to find out what you can hear:

- Near the pond
- On the bench in the churchyard
- On a footpath
- In your garden
- In the woods

Have you noticed these sounds before? Next, when each person wakes up in the morning, try guessing what time it is by what you can hear, before checking a clock. How did everyone do? Can you get more accurate as the days go by?



Link this with the idea that prayer is as much about listening to God as speaking to him. As a family, agree that each one will try to pause for a short while between

each of their prayers in order to listen to God, perhaps saying, "I'm listening, Lord." Perhaps this could be a New Year's Resolution!

Feed the birds! We don't hear the birds singing so much in the early morning at this

time of year. But they may be hungry. You might like to get or make a bird table as a family project. To make a simple one, use a piece of plywood for the base and thin strips of wood for the edges. To hang it from a branch, fix a screw-eye at each corner and make two loops with thick string. Put food on the table (seeds, dried fruit, cooked potato, bacon, hips and haws, acorns) and keep a record of the food different birds eat.

You can make a bird pudding by mixing kitchen scraps and uncooked porridge oats with melted fat. Pour the mixture into an empty yoghurt pot with a hole in the bottom and string threaded through for hanging upside down.

Big ears! Make bunny ears from a paper plate! Turn it upside down and, starting from the inside of the crinkled rim, draw two bunny-shaped ears (ie, within the middle of the plate). Cut out the inner circle of the plate, going around the ears and being careful not to cut across the place where the ears join the rim. Colour the ears and then fold them up. Write, "I'm listening, Lord!" around the rim. Try it on!

Bedtime story: "Play" the Bible story with your toddler and a soft toy with big ears, such as rabbit, a mouse or a dog. For example, "This is Sam. Sam was just going to bed - night-night, Sam - when he heard a voice calling him. Samuel, Samuel! So he jumped out of bed and ran in to see (*your toddler's name*) saying, 'Here I am! Did you call me?' *Your toddler says* "No, I didn't call. Go back to bed, Sam!" So Sam goes back to his bed. He snuggles down and he is just going to sleep, when . . . etc.

End by saying perhaps that was God speaking. Let's say a prayer and listen to God together.

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Perhaps the most senior member of St Bart's Church family ...

Although it hardly seems possible, given her sprightly gait and lively mind, Eunice Beasley is ninety seven years old. Born in 1919 in Godalming, Eunice told me that she had 'a wonderful childhood and upbringing'. This was despite being raised without a mother; when Eunice was just four years old her mother left the family to begin a new life and Eunice never heard from her again. She spoke warmly of her 'lovely father' who, with the help of his mother and sister, brought her up. After the Great War Eunice's father took up employment as a sign writer for local businesses; she described him as 'very artistic' and as a placid, sociable man who never spoke about the war or his wife's disappearance.

Eunice feels no anger towards her mother (Hilda); she described how her parents had met at the end of the First World War when her father (who was in the Royal Sussex Regiment) returned badly injured from the fighting. He was to bear a large scar on his head for the rest of his life and never got rid of the cough caused by gas. Her parents were very young when they met and got married quickly and impulsively against their parents' wishes.

Ten years ago, Eunice discovered what had become of her mother, Hilda. Out of the blue her family were contacted by a distant cousin who told them that relatives had emerged in New Zealand who had managed to trace Eunice through Genes Reunited. At the age of 87, Eunice heard the thrilling news that she had two half-brothers living in New Zealand; until then she had always believed herself to be an only child.

Within the year both half-brothers, Frank and Paul, had each visited her and she was able to learn more about her mother, Hilda's, life after her disappearance in 1923. It seems that she went to New Zealand where she married a vicar and that he was the father of Eunice's half-brothers. It was only after their marriage broke down in 1955 that Hilda told her sons about Eunice's existence. Eunice was touched to learn that Hilda and her youngest son, Frank, had then come to England to try to find her but were unsuccessful. Both half-brothers returned to England in 2009 for Eunice's ninetieth birthday celebrations and the families have been close ever since.

Churchgoing began early in life for Eunice when she attended services with her young aunt. Indeed one of her first memories is of sitting in a pew at the back of the church and of trying so



hard to see what was happening that she leant right out into the aisle and fell from her seat! It was through church that she met her beloved husband, Jim, to whom she was married for seventy two years until his death in 2013.

Eunice was fifteen when she first noticed Jim. He had noticed her too but it was only when Eunice was knocked down by a bike when leaving church one Sunday, that he summoned up the courage to walk over to her group of friends to ask her how she was. They were always together thereafter and married in 1941 when she was 21 and he 22. At that time Jim was on active service as a signaller in the Royal Navy and had already been torpedoed once and bombed in Portsmouth harbour on another occasion.

Jim and Eunice's first child, Dennis, was born in 1943. This was also the year when Jim retrained as a radar operator and the young family enjoyed a happy six months together whilst he was attending a course in Battersea and was able to return to their flat in Clapham every evening. Thereafter Eunice, like so many other young wartime wives, was alone for long periods whilst Jim was away on different ships.

After the war Jim retrained as a teacher; he ultimately became headmaster of Ockley School near Dorking.

Eunice had worked for The Prudential on leaving school but gave it up when Dennis was born. Much later in life she became secretary of the school where Jim was headmaster. When they both retired, some thirty years ago, they moved to Otford and loved living here. Eunice has always kept busy; from schooldays onward she enjoyed all manner of sport and later became an accomplished embroiderer, dress-maker and knitter. She and Jim relished long walks together through the beautiful Kent countryside.

To Eunice her 'fantastic' marriage to Jim, and their family life, have been her greatest joys. Two sons were born to them, Dennis (an architect) and Roger (a soldier who became a policeman), and there are now two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Inevitably Eunice misses Jim enormously but she looks back over their time together with huge gratitude; she feels 'very blessed'.

Christeen Malan



ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

God speaks to Samuel (1 Samuel 3: 1-10)

Samuel heard it as he lay on his bed in the room with the golden chest – the one that held the laws God gave to Moses. It had been busy in the Temple all day, but now he listened to the silence and watched the light from the oil lamp flicker on the bare walls.

“Samuel!”

That must be Eli, his guardian, wanting him to fetch something. He’d go and see what he wanted. The old man could hardly see now.

“Here I am!” he said, running in to Eli. “Here I am, you called me.”

But Eli said, “No, I didn’t call. Go back to bed.”

Samuel obeyed. That was strange. He was sure he’d heard his name called. He tried to sleep, but couldn’t. He thought about his mother and wished she wasn’t so far away. If only she could tell him a bedtime story - like the one about her praying and praying for a baby before he was born. He smiled. She’d chosen the name Samuel for him because it meant “asked of God”.

“Samuel!” There it was again. That *must* be Eli. He ran in.

“Here I am! You called me.”

“My son, I *didn’t* call!” said Eli, puzzled. “Go back and lie down.”

Samuel was wide awake now. Was the old priest getting forgetful? This had never happened before, not since his mother had brought him here when he was very small. How homesick he’d felt at first. But his mother had made God a

promise. Her son would serve God all his life, as a thank you. He’d soon got used to helping Eli in the temple, learning how everything was done. And now it felt like home. Except, he did look forward to his mother’s next visit . . .

“Samuel!” There! He wasn’t imagining it. What was going on?

“Here I am, Eli! What do you want?”

The old priest sat up, paused for a moment, wondering.

“My son, I think the Lord is calling you,” he said. “Go back and lie down. If he speaks to you again, say, ‘I’m listening, Lord. What do you want me to do?’”

Slowly, Samuel went back to bed. He lay down. Could it be true? The one who’d made the world, talking to *him*? He lay still as a statue, straining to listen above the beat of his heart, roaring in his ears. It would drown out every other sound!

But when it came, the voice was as clear as if the Lord were standing right next to him.

“Samuel!”

“I’m listening, Lord,” Samuel answered. “What do you want me to do?”

Vicki Howie



MISSION MATTERS: SEVENOAKS AREA YOUTH TRUST

SAYT is involved in several programmes interacting with young people in our area.

Detached Youth Work

SAYT continues its regular weekday detached youth work. This is where we take a minibus, along with squash and hot chocolate and the delectable cakes baked by our wonderful volunteers out to the young people of Sevenoaks. The International Soroptomists have also been generously supplying homemade cakes recently.

SAYT remains a regular presence on a Thursday night at Greatness Park from 7-9pm, and at Kemsing on Tuesday from 4-6pm. We can give thanks to God that numbers at Greatness have continued to remain strong, and numbers at Kemsing are steadily beginning to grow!

House in the Basement

Every Wednesday SAYT is at the 'House in the Basement', the youth café located underneath the Stag Theatre. It's been great to work with the staff and young people there, so please do continue to pray for our involvement in this regard.

Fareshare and Tesco

With supermarkets working at reducing their food waste levels and helping their local community, we have linked with the charity Fareshare. We are now receiving some food produce direct from Tesco, at Riverhead, on a weekly basis that would otherwise be wasted.

Schools Work

At Trinity we've put on our regular weekly "Chill Space" which has been very well attended. At Knole, our weekly Tuesday and Thursday clubs have also continued to go from strength to strength. Typically on a Tuesday we have access to a games room which has

things like an Xbox and pool table for us to use, and then on a Thursday we run a calmer club in one of the class rooms, often with chess, Uno and always a thought for the week.

We've built up some great relationships with students from both of these schools this year, so please pray that God will continue to bless our involvement.

Blesma

This national charity supports veterans from the armed forces who have lost limbs, or the use of their limbs or eyes. Their community programme delivers free workshops in schools that aim to inspire and motivate pupils from all walks of life, with their firsthand accounts of overcoming adversity and being resilient. SAYT had the opportunity to link Knole Academy and BLESMA so that the year 10 students were able to participate in these workshops. These included a motivational message, and the facilitators involved the young people to apply the concepts to their own situations.



Does an Adventure in Africa Appeal to You?

There is an intrepid bunch of folk planning to cycle from Kilimanjaro to the Congo in November 2017 to raise money for a number of charities including SAYT. Should this challenge appeal to you as a way of raising funds for us, please get in touch with us on 07763 364185, or through our website, www.sayt.org.uk

EARLY ANGLO-SAXON OTFORD

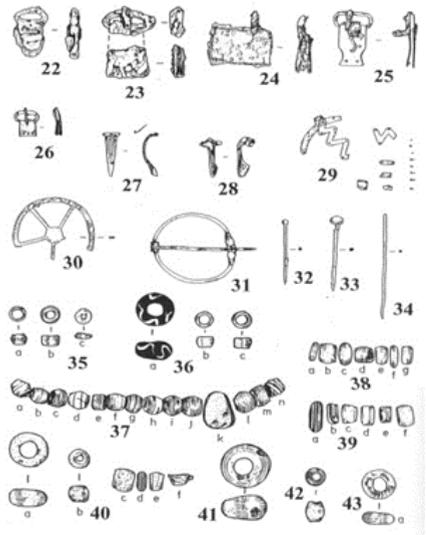
Otford, situated by a river ford, is thought to be named after Otta, an unknown Anglo-Saxon. The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain covers from about 450 AD to 1066 (Norman Conquest). But, who were the Anglo-Saxons, and what evidence do we have that they ever settled in Otford?

Otford is an ideal place for settlement. There are natural springs and it is situated at the southern end of the River Darent valley, with its rich alluvial soil. The lower hill slopes are suitable for arable and pasture; with woodland on the summits. There is evidence of Roman settlement. We know of two villas in Otford, a small Roman settlement site and cemetery at Wickham Field, and a farm near The Charne. Due to barbarian disturbances elsewhere in the Roman Empire the Roman legions were officially withdrawn from Britain in 410 AD. After that, although some stone buildings continued in use, they decayed, and the archaeological record elsewhere shows that new building in stone virtually ceased. During this “sub-Roman” period the Anglo-Saxons arrived. They comprised pagan settlers from Scandinavia and Northern Germany, and traditionally it is believed that Kent was preferentially settled by Jutes (modern-day Jutland/Denmark).

The period from 400-800, with mass movements of European peoples, is termed the “Migration Period”. Scholars disagree over the actual number of Anglo-Saxon invaders/settlers, but most agree that they were always outnumbered by the native British. Over time, the locals adopted the culture and language of the invaders. In Kent the evidence from burials suggests the original settlements were in the East of Kent and around the mouths of river estuaries in the north of the county. Anglo-Saxons could then have reached Otford by migrating south along the River Darent.

The Romans often built in stone and their goods included pottery and metal objects. Unlike them, the Anglo-Saxon tradition was to build in wood, and many of their household objects were also made of organic materials such as wood, cloth or leather. These materials eventually decay, and this is one of the reasons why Anglo-Saxon artefacts are so seldom found (excepting metal objects in grave burials). Most archaeologists recognise that compared to the quantity of stone and metal artefacts from the Roman and medieval periods those from the Anglo-Saxon period are scanty. Similarly, the only remaining evidence of their dwellings or halls may be holes from wooden posts, discovered on excavation. These do not generally show up well on aerial photographs or on geophysical survey, and in the past may have been overlooked by archaeologists.

The most important Anglo-Saxon find pertaining to Otford is of a large cemetery on the lower slopes of Polhill, near the western parish



Personal ornaments from Polhill graves.

boundary. An excavation in 1967 revealed 68 graves. Subsequently, in 1982, when it was realised that the M25 motorway might destroy evidence, the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit arranged an urgent further excavation. In total over 150 graves were found. The skeletons were in reasonable condition, probably due to the well-drained chalk. Amongst the grave goods discovered were many knives, spears, buckles, beads and brooches. Analysis of the grave goods suggested that the burials dated from the first half of the 7C to mid 8C, and that the people may have been nominally Christian, or possibly semi-pagan. Sadly for Otfordians, the artefacts were deemed “not very rich or socially distinguished”!

The cemetery would probably have served a number of small settlements over a large area. What about finds in Otford itself? The earliest dated Anglo-Saxon finds in Otford are of two black cremation urns dug up near The Charne, from about 550-600 AD. In 2004 during house building in Tudor Crescent a small pit was found containing animal bones and an iron knife blade. The knife was of typical Anglo-Saxon design, and associated charcoal was carbon-dated to between 650 and 790. Two small metal strap ends found in an Otford field have been identified by the British Museum as Anglo-Saxon. Also, an attractive pin brooch found in a field in western Otford (now in Maidstone museum) has been dated to 570-580, and the use of garnet inlay shows Frankish (French) influence. Just as in post-war Britain some women followed Parisian fashions, so in 5-7C Kent the design of brooches and ornaments was influenced by trends in Francia (France)!

With its existing Roman farmland, there is no reason to suspect that Otford was ever totally abandoned, but, as is the case for most villages, we have no definite evidence either way.

Detailed studies done elsewhere suggest that in the sub-Roman period settlement continued on existing farmland, although farming became less specialised and less intensive. Anglo-Saxon farms and settlements were often small, dispersed and un-bounded with a tendency to “shift”, and often leave little archaeological evidence. The finds mentioned above suggest that early Anglo-Saxons lived in Otford; we just don’t know exactly where!

Charles Shee



Pin brooch with garnet inlay

OUT AND ABOUT...

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OUR PALACE?

Sevenoaks District Council, who own the Palace site, have appointed an independent company to recommend what should happen to the Tower and the Field. Historic England have funded this Options Appraisal. There are a number of choices that they may consider but they also have to ask the community for its view.



The Parish Council feel it is more appropriate that an independent charitable trust be formed to represent the community. That has now been done. It is called the Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust CIO.

We would now like to share our thoughts with you and to listen to your ideas so that the Trust can speak with one voice. It is important that we are all involved. If, as may happen, we are given responsibility for the Palace site, there will be a lot of conditions that we have to undertake. So we want to share this with you.

We have hired the big hall (+ tea & biscuits) for a Saturday afternoon so everyone can attend. Please put this in your diary:

Saturday 21st January, 3.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

See you there.

Rod Shelton



The Otford/Neufchatel - Hardelet Twinning Association AGM will be held on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm at

the Woodman, Otford.

Do join us and share your ideas for future plans with us.



We start the New Year with a talk by Jean Surrey about Souvenirs Past and Present, so make a date for January 12th 2017, at

7.30pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall. Subscriptions may be paid at this meeting.

Visitors or new members will be very welcome to join us and if more information is required, please contact our President on 01959 524831.

PUZZLE PAGE

January 2017 brings us numerous significant dates. 75 years ago, in Jan 1942, the first US troops arrived in Europe. 50 years ago, in Jan 1967, the Apollo 1 caught fire at Cape Canaveral. 30 years ago, in Jan 1987, Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle

East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon. 20 years ago, in Jan 1997, Bill Clinton became President of the USA for a second term. 15 years ago, in Jan 2002, the Euro became the official currency of the EU. And this month, Donald Trump becomes President of the USA.

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BEACOM FAMILY FAVOURITES

Chocolate Malteaser Cake

Ingredients

150g margarine
250g caster sugar
150g self raising flour sifted
125g soured cream
4 eggs
50g cocoa powder sifted
1tsp baking powder
Pinch salt
Half tsp vanilla essence/extract
Heat oven to 160° (fan-heated oven)
Grease and line two 8" sandwich tins
Cream margarine and sugar

Add all other ingredients and mix well by hand or mixer. Divide between the tins. Bake for 20 - 25 mins until cake shrinks from sides of tin and is springy to touch. Leave to cool slightly and turn onto wire tray to cool completely.

Icing

50g plain chocolate (70% cocoa)
250g sifted icing sugar
125g butter/ margarine
Packet of Malteasers

Melt chocolate in a bowl over hot water or place in microwave until melted (take care if using microwave as it can overheat). Mix butter with half the icing sugar until pale, add the remaining sugar and the slightly cooled melted chocolate. A little milk can be added to loosen mix if necessary.

Spread half of the mix on each cake and sandwich together decorate with Malteasers (I sometimes leave them as two and place Malteasers on each - you then have two cakes!)

As I am gluten intolerant this can be made successfully with gluten-free flour, as can all other recipes of mine.

Enjoy. Joan



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CHURCHWARDENS	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Russell Edwards 07933 352044

Organist and Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117

Sacristan: Tony Grogan 01959 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Margaret Lidbetter

Hon Treasurer: Janet Hunt 01959 523820

Freewill Offering Sec: Mervyn Harris 01959 522813

Hon Secretary: Joan Beacom 01959 524304

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm:

Susan Reid,

Clive Southgate

01959 523185

Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Robert Hunt 01959 523820

MAGAZINE

Editorial team: 01959 523185 Vicki Howie,

Christeen Malan, Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam

Advertisements: Deborah Vigis 01959 523331
st.bartholomews@otford.net

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

'First Steps' (for parents and pre-schoolchildren)

Contact: Najen Harris 01959 522813

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

Infants (3-7s)

Juniors (8-11s)

Seniors (12-14)

For all groups contact Donna Worssam 01959 523185

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Contact: Dawn Hallam 01959 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Links:

Andrew Hill 01732 469538

BELLRINGERS

The Tower Captain: Bobbie Fairclough 01959 522696

Secretary: Janet Whitehead 01959 524088 Practice
night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117 Practice

night: Friday 8.00-9.30pm New members always
welcome

CHURCH COUNCIL The Vicar and the Churchwardens Margaret Lidbetter* and Russell Edwards, Samantha Barnett, Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Dawn Hallam*, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes, Vicki Howie, Janet Hunt*, Mike Jones, Bill Lattimer, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Mags Southgate, Anne Stevens, Mark Tierney