

# St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

November	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
6th Nov	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
13th Nov Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	Remembrance Service	-	-
20th Nov	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Messy Church	Evensong
27th Nov Advent Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	Advent Carol Service

### 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 year 5-7) meets on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 6-8pm 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.

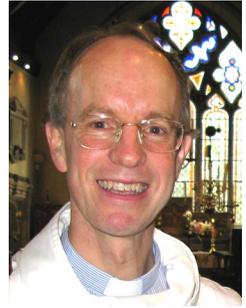
**Vicar's off duty day:** Monday

Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services (see page 37)

Magazine No. 11 Volume 86

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

1066 is perhaps the most famous date in English history. This year marks the 950th anniversary since William and his Norman army were victorious over Harold and his Anglo-Saxon warriors. The Battle of Hastings was a closely fought fight. 14,000 soldiers were involved, and by the end of the day 2,500 Normans and 3,500 English lay slain on the battlefield. The ramifications of this battle are still felt today.



It was the last successful invasion of our country, and led to a new epoch known as the Norman period of English history. William was crowned King on Christmas Day 1066 in Westminster Abbey, and he set about consolidating his power. There were significant political, economic and social changes, and there were also developments in the religious life of the nation.

William had vowed that if he was victorious he would found an abbey on the site of the battlefield. Battle Abbey stands as a testimony to the fulfilment of this promise, and the high altar was located over the place where Harold was slain. In addition, at Easter 1067, a penitential ordinance was issued which set out the penances that the conquering Normans could fulfil to make amends for the violence they had committed in injuring or killing opponents in battle. This led to many Norman knights and noblemen, who had fought alongside William, to establish or rebuild churches on land that they had been granted by the King.

During William's reign from 1066 to 1087, 34 new monasteries were established. Lanfranc was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070 and he consolidated the parish system that had emerged during the Saxon period.

St. Bart's itself bears witness to these changes. Christianity was established in the Darent Valley in Roman times, as can be seen from the

archaeological remains at Lullingstone Villa, and there was church here in Otford in Saxon times. The evidence for this comes from a listing in a document known as the Textus Roffensis which dates from 1115 but was a copy of an earlier Saxon document. This early church in Otford was replaced by a stone building constructed around the time of the Norman Conquest with the north and west walls of our current building dating from this period.

I find it wonderful to worship in a church that is so deeply connected with previous generations. The Normans had a significant impact, but it is not only their work which is preserved in the fabric of our church. Successive generations have also played their part. The tower was added in about 1185; the chancel was enlarged and the south aisle were added in the first half of the fourteenth century; the Victorians, under the direction of G.E. Street, carried out a major restoration in 1863 with the introduction of the stone arcade in the centre of the church, the rebuilding of the chancel arch, and the introduction of the present pews, pulpit and font. (If you are interested in more details, Gillian Shilling has written an excellent guide to the history of St. Bart's which is available at the back of church).

We belong to a living tradition which has continued to change and develop over the centuries and we are privileged to share in this.

Your friend & Vicar, Richard



## DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2016

**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      8.00 pm      Home Group (Park Farm House)
- 2      9.30 am      ‘First Steps’ (Otford Evangelical Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)
- 10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP 23)
- 5      8.30 am      Prayer breakfast for the redecoration and re-ordering project
- 9.00 am      Churchyard Working Party
- 
- 6      The Third Sunday before Advent (Trinity 24)**
- 8.00 am      Holy Communion**
- 10.00 am      All Together Worship**
- 3-4 pm      Youth Choir rehearsal (Church Centre)**
- 6.30 pm      Evensong**
- 7      7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8      2.30 pm      Magazine Editorial Team
- 9      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 10     **Magazine material for the December edition by today, please, to the Church Office, [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)**
- 12     8.30 am      Prayer Breakfast for the redecoration and re-ordering project (Church Hall)
- 6.00 pm      EPIC (Church Centre)
- 
- 13     The Second Sunday before Advent (Trinity 25): Remembrance Sunday**
- 8.00 am      Holy Communion**
- 10.00 am      Remembrance Sunday Service**
- 10.50 am      Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial**
- 14     7.45 pm      Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 15     8.00 pm      Home Group (Park Farm House)
- 8.00 pm      Deanery Synod at Borough Green, open to all as we consider the Diocesan Initiative “Our Conversation, Our Future”
- 16     9.30 am      ‘First Steps’ (Otford Evangelical Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)
- 10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)
- 7.45 pm      PCC (Church Centre)
- 19     10.00 am      Christmas Market (Church Centre)

**20 Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Morning Worship**

**3.00 pm Messy Church**

**6.30 pm Evensong**

21 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

23 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards

**27 Advent Sunday**

**8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

**3-4 pm Youth Choir rehearsal (Church Centre)**

**6.30 pm Advent Carol Service**

28 7.45 pm Focus (17 Leonard Avenue)

29 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

30 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Evangelical Free Church, Pilgrims Way West)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)



*Registers*



**BAPTISM (Our Welcome)**

9th October

Willow Elizabeth **Francis**

16th October

Isla **Cox**

23rd October

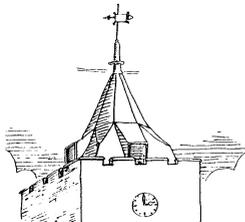
William George **Clucas**

**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

19th October

Elizabeth **Holland** (aged 74)

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



**HARVEST** Thank you to all those who gave to the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal. Thank you, too, for your harvest gifts. Some were taken to St. Saviour's Priory in the East End of London, (thank you to Nobby and Mary Brackett for transporting them) and tins and dried goods were also delivered to the Loaves and Fishes food bank in Sevenoaks.

### **CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY**

A reminder that the last churchyard working party of the year will take place on Saturday, 5th November between 9.00 and 11.30 am. Any support will be most welcome.

**THE CHRISTMAS MARKET - This will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday, 19th November from 10.00-12 noon.**

Stalls will include: gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; cakes; bulbs (the growing kind!); Christmas sweets and chocolates; herb and spice craft and a super raffle.

There will be a huge snowglobe and a Lucky Dip for the children, and Santa Claus has again promised to send a deputy. Coffee, tea and soft drinks, together with Christmas biscuits, Stollen and mince pies, will be on sale for you to enjoy while you chat with friends. I am very grateful for all the offers of help so far received; what is urgently needed now is items with which to stock the stalls. All contributions will be most gratefully received, and may be left at the Church Office, at any church service, at

'Burway', Sevenoaks Road, or at 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks. **With any queries or offers of help, please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.**

We require please:

**Gifts** - new or unused, for adults and children

**Christmas gift wrapping** paper, ribbon, tags, gift bags and boxes

**Christmas decorations** - table, tree, hanging and novelty

**Candles** - decorated or plain

**Cakes** - please see Susan Reid (523234) who will be delighted to receive your offerings

**Christmas Sweets and Chocolates** - bought or home-made

**Herb and spice craft** - spices, e.g. cloves, star anise, dried oranges and apples etc. These will be made into decorations, so we need them as soon as possible, please.

Most of all, we want you to come and enjoy a happy time with family and friends, joining together in support of our church work.

*Sylvia Grafton*

### **CANDLELIT ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

This will be held on Sunday, 27th November at 6.30 pm. You are warmly invited to this special service to mark the beginning of Advent. The candlelight of the chandeliers provides a memorable setting for the theme of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus who is the Light of the World.

### **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

This popular service will be held at 4.00 pm on Sunday, 4th December. Bring your friends, too!



### TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE

This will be held on Friday, 9th December, starting in St. Bartholomew's Church at 7 pm followed by the switching on of the lights on the tree on The Green. All are welcome and labels to remember those who have died may be obtained from the Parish Office in the High Street, or from the Hospice in the Weald. Donations will support the work of the Hospice.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Church Choir will present our annual Christmas Concert in church on Sunday, 11th December at 7.30 pm. There will be a mixture of carols old and new, from England and many other countries, and plenty of carols for you to join in. Refreshments, in the form of wine or fruit juice and mince pies, will be available as always, and our entry price remains at £5 (children free). Come and get into the Christmas mood with us!

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE DATES.** Do make sure you have these dates and times in your diaries!

- 27th Nov.** Candlelit Advent Carol Service, 6.30 pm
- 4th Dec.** Christingle 4.00 pm
- 18th Dec.** YPF Christmas presentation and Sunday Club Nativity play 10.00 am
- Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight, 6.30 pm
- Christmas Eve:** Crib Service, 4.00 pm
- Midnight Communion 11.30 pm with carols from 11.10 pm
- Christmas Day:** All Together Christmas Communion **10.00 am**



### JUST TO REMIND YOU - COME AND SING

We are starting a group for 9 year-olds and over to meet 3 or 4 times a term on a Sunday afternoon in St Bartholomew's Church Centre for about an hour to sing and have some fun.

Dates this term are **Sunday 6th and 27th November from 3-4pm**

You don't have to be a good singer, Debbie will teach you! Although we are meeting at St Bart's Church, you don't have to be a member of the church, and there is no charge.

If you are interested please give your name, age and phone number to the St Bartholomew's Church Office (01959 523185) or at [stbartholomews@otford.net](mailto:stbartholomews@otford.net) or [cmbishop38@gmail.com](mailto:cmbishop38@gmail.com)

### REDECORATION AND RE-ORDERING UPDATE

Over the last month we have had much encouragement along the way.

- \* Tenders have been returned by all five firms we approached, and the good news is that the prices quoted come within the fund-raising target that we have been aiming for.
- \* The Diocesan Advisory Committee is supportive of the overall scheme and we are now finishing off the details of some aspects.
- \* Bishop James and Archdeacon Clive are lending their support to arrangements that will need to be made while the work is being done.
- \* Further information is available in a November update sheet at the back of church, and we hope to share more news in December.

Thank you for your continuing support.



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk) <http://michellelowe.yourcldr.com>

Sevenoaks District Council has recently commissioned a housing survey that will be conducted by a specialist independent market research company called 'arc4'. It is a postal and online survey so I want to assure you that nobody will be knocking on your door!

You will receive it in November and, if you do have the time, I would be very grateful if you could complete it. We need as many residents in the District to take part as possible as the more that do the more accurate our results. The aim of the survey is to establish our housing need. Do we need more family sized homes, more older people's accommodation, more starter homes, more supported homes and so on. Then we have to establish where we need them: in Otford, in Sevenoaks, in Swanley etc.

In Otford a few years ago your parish plan identified a need for older people's accommodation in the village to allow people in large family-sized homes to 'right size' to better meet their needs. Hopefully our survey will back up the results of the parish plan. That data will then form the basis of our new Housing Strategy and will also be at the heart of our new Local Plan (planning).

The survey provides us with 'evidence-based need'. So next time a developer wants to develop one type of home in Otford, if we have no need for that type of housing, we are in a better position to refuse it and ask them to build something that meets our identified need. This will put the District Council on a much stronger footing when dealing with developers and will help us build the sort of homes that you want us to build and that the village needs.

Sevenoaks District Council has also received additional funding for our 'Disabled Facilities Grants' which are available to adapt homes to help disabled and older people live independent lives. They include ramps, rails and stair lifts and are available to some home owners and to those who rent both privately and through a Housing Association. Funding is available on a first come first serve basis so if you need an adaptation to help you live more independently please call our housing team on 01732 227000 or email [psh@Sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:psh@Sevenoaks.gov.uk).

If you are dreaming of home ownership but don't think you can afford to live in the District – please think again. We have a number of shared ownership schemes where military personnel followed by local people are given priority. If you are interested in what you might be able to afford visit the Help to Buy website at [www.helptobuyse.org.uk](http://www.helptobuyse.org.uk) or call 03333 214044 and ask for the low cost home ownership team or email: [helptobuyeastandsoutheast@bpha.org.uk](mailto:helptobuyeastandsoutheast@bpha.org.uk)

With best wishes,

Michelle



## LYRICS AND LIVES: HYMN WRITERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

It's the end of November. Christmas is coming and the liturgy is moving on as we begin the Church's new year celebrating Advent and the birth of Christ. For us, O come, O come, Emmanuel announces the start of Advent. The candles are lit and the processions begin.

Vespers is sung in monasteries and in cathedrals at the end of the day. In the week leading up to Christmas the services include the O Antiphons as part of the service. Each antiphon\* begins with one of the titles given to Christ the Messiah and then the prophecy associated with that title. They come from the words in Isaiah we have grown accustomed to listen to every Christmas in our service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The 'Os' probably date back as far as the eighth century although we cannot be sure, but at some point they were amalgamated to make the hymn 'O come' as we know it today. Its first appearance was in 1710 in a book of religious songs found in Cologne originally collected together by a Jesuit a hundred years earlier. A refrain had also been added, Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te Israel; Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel. This Latin refrain was used very effectively in the 2009 recording of the hymn by the modern singer Enya.

John Mason Neale, a Victorian priest, discovered and translated many of the hymns now found in our popular hymn books. He had found 'O come' in a German hymnal in 1844 and translated it to make the five verse hymn still in use today. The other popular translation is by T. A. Lacey. Two extra verses were later added but the author is unknown.

The tune we use is from a fifteenth century French missal and was used for funeral processions. It has none the less proved popular and helped to secure the place of the hymn in the affections of choirs and congregations.

Now for an acrostic.

The order of the 'Os' at Vespers is as follows; beginning on 16<sup>th</sup> December we have O Sapientia (wisdom), O Adonai, O Radix (root of) Jesse, O Clavis (key of) David, O Oriens (dayspring), O Rex Gentium (King of Nations), O Emmanuel, and O Virgo Virginium (virgin of virgins) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It is easy to match these to the verses of the complete hymn with a little poetic licence.

Now ignore the last O, (O Virgo) and put the initial letters of the rest in reverse order. This gives EROCRAS or ERO CRAS. This can apparently be translated as 'I will be there tomorrow'. This is the message of Advent that Christ is coming very soon.

*Gillian Shilling*

\*An antiphon is a sung or recited response often drawn from Biblical text.



**Do come to the Advent Carol Service  
on Sunday 27th November at 6.30pm  
in St Bart's Church**

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### November: Turning over a new leaf

**Pause for thought:** Take time to read the Bible story on p.14 Zacchaeus was unpopular because of his job and perhaps because he was more interested in accumulating his own wealth than in a life rich in friendship. Today, our children are at risk of isolating themselves as a result of modern technology – sitting alone in their rooms building up the number of ‘friends’ they have on social media, rather than interacting face-to-face with other people.

Although we all hope that our children will work hard and do well in exams, etc., one of the most important things in life is to get along and to mix with other people. Jesus came alongside many people, often those on the fringes of society, and is still changing lives today through the offer of his friendship.

Perhaps some of the following activities will highlight the important points in this story and bring children out of their rooms to enjoy some autumnal family activities.



**Man up a tree:** Read the story on p.14 together as a family with a pile of coins and a few dry leaves as visual aids. Wonder about the story as follows:

I wonder why people didn't like Zacchaeus very much

I wonder why Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so much

I wonder why the people grumbled about Jesus going to Zacchaeus' house

I wonder what made Zacchaeus change into an honest and generous person

I wonder if people can change for the better if we are kind to/make friends with them

**Autumn delights:** Put on your boots and go for a family walk in the woods, scuffing through piles of red, orange, yellow and brown leaves.



On a windy day, watch the leaves fall and try to catch 12, one for every month next year

Challenge everyone to find a seed pod, a sycamore/red leaf, a pine cone, a big conker, a spider's web, ivy climbing up a tree (like Zacchaeus!)

Bring home a collection of coloured leaves, twigs and other forest finds. Can you use them to make a picture of a tree with a face looking out to illustrate the Bible story?

As you watch the leaves on the trees change colour, chat about the possibility for change and how the kindness of Jesus turned Zacchaeus from a mean to a generous person.

**Getting to know you:** How much interest do we all show in each other? If you are having a family get-together, ask everyone in advance to give you a small piece of fun information about themselves that is not widely known! Hand out a quiz at the party based on this information, asking, for instance:

Who once milked a cow?

Who won the slow bicycle race aged eight?

Who once played Buttons in Cinderella?

Encourage everyone to fill in the answers by chatting to each other, but without directly asking the listed questions. Set a time limit!

Chat later about the importance of face-to-face conversations as opposed to contact on social media. It might be good to highlight some friendly gestures, such as standing up when someone new enters a room, proffering a hand to shake hands, smiling and looking other people in the eye on meeting them.

**Hello!** Older children might research the various ways that people greet one another in different cultures. Try miming them! Can you think up some funny new ideas for an imaginary country? How many words and phrases can you think of that we use to greet others? Learn some in other languages!

**Silly car song:** (*Sing this on the way to a birthday party, to the tune of 'Hot Cross Buns'*)

Party time! Party time!

Thank you, God, for food and friends at party time.

Try to be a good friend, smile at someone new (*shake hands*)

They'll be fun for everyone at party time!



**Turning over a new leaf:**

Chat about what we mean by this phrase. Cut out lots of leaf shapes from different-coloured paper. On one side, everyone writes words or

draws pictures of things they are sorry for. For example, Arguing, Grumpy, Aloof. Then turn

the leaves over and do the same to show how we could be with God's help. For example, Friendly, Joyful, Joining in. Everyone could use the leaves at their own prayer time. Family members might encourage one another to bring about real change over the month of November.

**Teatime treats:** On a cold and foggy afternoon, make fairy cakes together and decorate them with smiling faces using small sweets and writing icing. For a savoury version, make muffins, cut them in half and create friendly faces with diced vegetables and raisins.

**Bedtime finger rhyme:** The 'fat gentlemen' are the thumbs; the 'thin ladies' are the index fingers and so on. Hold up both fists with the thumbs raised and the other fingers closed. Then bend the thumbs slowly forward as if bowing to one another. Repeat with the other fingers. (This is very difficult with the ring fingers!)

*Two fat gentlemen met in a lane,  
Bowed most politely, bowed once again.  
How do you do? How do you do?  
How do you do again?*

*Two thin ladies, etc*

*Two tall policemen, etc*

*Two little schoolboys, etc*

*Two little babies, etc*

Vicki Howie

**A verse to learn and display:**

The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost (Luke 19:10).

## IN CONVERSATION WITH...RALPH ALDRED

### The boy from Penge who became Managing Director of a top FTSE 250 company

A familiar face at St Bart's Sunday 10 am service, Ralph grew up in Penge, South East London. There, during the war years, when he was not evacuated to other parts of the country, he attended a Church of England primary school where he formed lifelong friendships. However Otford is the place where he has lived longest; his house on the Shoreham Road has been his home for forty six years. He and his wife Doreen, together with their son and daughter, moved to the village from Orpington in 1970 and the children attended Otford Primary School. Ralph now has four grandchildren in their teens and twenties but sadly, after forty nine years of marriage, Doreen died twelve years ago.



Ralph and Doreen Aldred

After leaving school, Ralph deferred his National Service to do his chartered accountancy exams. By great coincidence he later discovered that, when sitting his finals in 1955, he would have been seated not far from Brian Beacom (candidates sat in alphabetical order). He passed the exams aged twenty two and married Doreen just two weeks later. Then came National Service in the RAF – time chiefly spent 'paying WAAFs'. Ralph was delighted when he was released and immediately re-joined the accountancy firm, John M Winter and Sons.

In 1958, aged twenty five, he left to become Chief Accountant of the recently formed retail grocers, Spar (Britain) Ltd. The company had been set up to help wholesalers and retailers counter the threat of the supermarkets – the first one of which had opened in 1955. After five enjoyable years working for Spar, Ralph wanted to gain experience with a bigger company so moved to Unilever as one of their internal audit managers. He described his time there as 'brilliant'; in the job he travelled widely and has especially fond memories of visits to Mac Fisheries in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

A further change of employment came in 1966 when Ralph joined Freemans – a mail order catalogue company with around seven thousand employees. In the space of just five years he progressed through the ranks from Assistant Chief Accountant to Chief Accountant to Financial Director to Managing Director. When I commented on this rapid rise, Ralph modestly said 'you get promoted despite yourself'. However I think that there was more to it than this because, as Managing Director, he oversaw a growth in company turnover from £42 million on appointment to some £500 million seventeen years later when he took retirement!

In being appointed as Managing Director at the age of thirty seven, Ralph was the youngest member of the board. What is more, he took on the role during a 'tricky period'; the year was 1971 and Britain was in the midst of a seven week postal strike – a recipe for disaster in a mail order business. Ralph immediately had to decide whether or not to lay off staff (he didn't) and they came through it 'exceedingly well', partly by getting out and delivering the parcels themselves.

Ralph was with Freemans in the heyday of mail order and says he built up 'a terrific team' around him. They instigated new budgetary controls and rethought from scratch the way the firm operated; a process he described as 'great fun'. Under his leadership the company expanded in every direction; the catalogue grew to over one thousand pages, it sold household goods as well as fashion, and it offered free credit which was not something easily available to most of the public at the time. Other innovative moves were the introduction of flexible working (Freemans was possibly the first company in Britain to do this) and computerising the company's vast warehouse to enable the efficient picking and packing of orders. A further example of the company's market leadership was in the

development of a new computer based system called 'order line' (a term devised by Ralph and still used today) which allowed a member of staff to check stock availability and to reserve items while the customer was on the phone. This took the whole mail order industry off guard and led to a decline in orders by post in favour of telephone sales.

In 1987, on Black Monday, Freeman's share price collapsed and Sears (once the biggest UK retailer) made a hostile but ultimately successful cash bid for the smaller firm. By then Ralph had been at the head of Freemans for seventeen years and chose to retire, though he did then take on a non-executive job seeing through the privatisation of Seaboard.

In retirement Ralph enjoys working in his beautiful garden and playing outdoor bowls in Sevenoaks. He also spoke warmly of his 'wonderful group of friends', many of whom he has known since primary school days. He told me that there is one Bible verse which has been particularly important to him throughout his life – 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you' (James1:5).

*Christeen Malan*



Daily Telegraph 1979 - Ralph Aldred

## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

### The story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Imagine that Jesus came to Otford and wanted to have lunch at someone's house. You might think he would choose the Vicarage, or the home of a respectable community leader. Surely he'd never choose an outcast, a hated person? Or would he?

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector for the hated Roman occupiers of Israel. He took money from the people, giving some to the authorities but keeping much of it for himself. Not surprisingly, no-one liked him! Zacchaeus chose wealth over friendship. Who might be an equivalent today? Maybe a businessman who takes huge profits from a company while treating his workers badly? Or a fraudster who tricks elderly people out of their life savings?

Imagine the outcry if Jesus came to Otford and chose to have lunch with someone like that! But that is just what Jesus did when he was in Jericho and chose to visit Zacchaeus.

When Jesus visits Jericho, Zacchaeus is determined to see him. Maybe he's fed up with being an outcast and is hoping for a way out so that he can live a normal life again. Or maybe he's just curious. Being small, Zacchaeus realises that he won't be able to see over the large, noisy and bustling crowds surrounding Jesus. So he climbs up a sycamore-fig tree. And soon enough, along comes Jesus.

And then Zacchaeus gets a big surprise. Jesus doesn't just notice him, up there in the tree. He speaks to him. And he seems to know all about him.

'Zacchaeus,' calls Jesus. 'Come down immediately! I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus is shocked but also elated. He's used to being hated. And here is this famous prophet, this preacher, speaking to him and inviting himself for lunch!

This extraordinary encounter has a transforming effect on our hero. It isn't just a spiritual conversion, important though that is. It changes the whole way he thinks and acts.

'Look, Lord,' he says. 'Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

We live in a very different world from Zacchaeus. But like him we can make bad choices. If we let him, Jesus can change us completely – as he did with Zacchaeus – and give us a fresh start.

*Bill Lattimer, Reader*



## THE NIGHT SKY IN OTFORD NOVEMBER 2016



If you look low down in the north around mid evening in November you will see The Plough, which is part of the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear).

Most people can identify The Plough, partly because

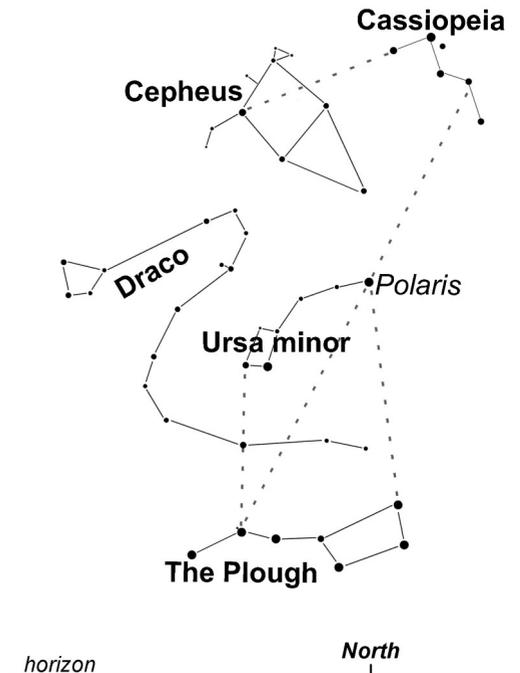
its shape is well known, but also because it is always visible when the sky is dark and clear, though it's not always in the same place. Why is it that we can see some groups of stars all year round, whilst others, like Orion or Cygnus for example, we can only see at certain times of the year and therefore think of them as belonging to a particular season?

To answer this question, you need to refer back to something I mentioned in September about how the Earth's axis points towards the North Celestial Pole (NCP). This spot in the sky is occupied by the pole star Polaris and because it just happens to be aligned with the Earth's axis, the entire sky appears to revolve around it. To take this to its logical conclusion, consider that if you lived on the equator you would see (theoretically speaking) the North Pole on one horizon and the South Pole on the other whilst over the course of a year, the entire sky would pass before you. However, as you travel north, so Polaris also moves above the horizon by the same amount until you reach the North Pole when the pole star will be exactly overhead. From this you can see that the angle of Polaris above the horizon can be measured in order to find your latitude. Our latitude is roughly  $51^\circ$  which is the same as the height of Polaris above the northern horizon.

To return to the original question, this explains why we see some constellations throughout the year. It is because any star that lies within  $51^\circ$  of the NCP will never set from our latitude and so will be visible on any dark night. These stars are called "circumpolar".

The map shows the major circumpolar constellations. Start with The Plough and use the dotted lines to guide you to the other star groups.

*Brian Mills FRAS*



## MISSION MATTERS: SEVENOAKS COUNSELLING

Sevenoaks Counselling are a long-term Mission partner with St Bartholomew's Church. The service, based at The Bridge behind the United Reformed Church off Kippington Lane Sevenoaks, is a registered charity and operates through grants, donations from individuals and churches and payment by clients subject to means.

There are 12 part time counsellors who are all fully qualified and experienced professionals and members of The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and the Association of Christian Counsellors.

Whilst each counsellor can work with any client they all have their areas of special interest including post-natal depression, family counselling, anxiety and identity crisis and transition issues, dementia and relationships and loss, eating disorders, self-esteem issues,

and post-traumatic stress. Some counsellors specialise in issues surrounding young people and counsel students. Spiritual issues can be discussed if the client wishes.

Clients may refer themselves for counselling or be referred by a medical or educational professional. Clients are only asked to pay what they feel they can afford.

Training courses open to both professionals and the public are held regularly in various subjects including dealing with loss, parenting, addictions and pastoral care training. Details of future courses are available on the web page.

Sevenoaks Counselling provides a valuable local service and we intend to continue our support both in prayer and financially.

Phone: 01732 450118

E-mail: [info@sevenoakscounselling.org.uk](mailto:info@sevenoakscounselling.org.uk)

## FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE RIDE

Hello, my name is Adam. I am 9 years old and I love cycling with my daddy and friends! For quite a long time I have wanted to cycle to my nanny's house in Loose, near Maidstone. My daddy told me about the 'Friends Of Kent Churches' bike ride that he used to do when he was younger. I thought that it would be a good idea to do both and ride from Otford to Loose stopping at churches along the way, and raise money as well.

So on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September we set off from St. Bartholomew's Church, Otford and after 21 churches and 56 km we arrived at All Saints, Loose just before the rain started.

I didn't like the hills as much as the yummy, home-made cake I had on the journey. I enjoyed it a lot. See you next year!

*Adam*





## IN MEMORIAM



### **Ted Finley, 1933 - 2016**

Ted was born in Lambeth in 1933. On leaving school he started work with the Civil Service in Woolwich as an apprentice electronics engineer. He spent the rest of his working life with the Civil Service, in various locations, as a Scientific Officer.

Ted did his National Service with the RAF.

Ted met his wife at a dance hall in London and they got married in 1955. (They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary last year.)

They moved to Kent in 1962, and their family grew to include four children, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Ted was a devoted and loving family man with a good sense of humour. He had a keen interest in researching family history and he managed to trace the Finley family tree back to 1750. He helped support the North West Kent Family History Society and he was Chairman of the Sevenoaks branch for many years.

In his earlier years, Ted enjoyed playing a range of sports, including cricket, badminton, tennis and indoor bowls.

Ted played an active part in the life of the village. He served as an Otford Parish Councillor, and he was also Chairman of the Otford Village Memorial Hall committee. He also helped with fund raising for Otford Primary School.

Ted had close links with St. Bart's, where he served as a sidesman for many years. We remember his contribution to the life of the church and village with gratitude.

### **Michael Jones, 1932-2016**

Michael was born in Forest Hill in London in 1932 and he spent his childhood years there. He stayed in London despite the bombing raids, and he recalled exploring bomb sites and collecting shrapnel with his friends.

For his school days, Michael attended Alleyn's School in Dulwich. He was an RAF cadet and he learned how to fly. On one occasion he crash landed a Vampire jet. On a different occasion he was replaced by another cadet in the squadron leader's plane which was then involved in a fatal mid-air collision.

For his career, Michael worked with the firm of Mather and Platt for over 40 years. This was a company dealing with fire protection. Michael was initially involved in technical sales, and latterly in advertising. He retired in 1994.

Michael met his wife, Joan, at a dance hall in Alderley Edge, and they got married in 1959 in Hazel Grove, near Manchester. They lived for 47 years at Poynton in Cheshire. In the early family years they enjoyed European trips with their son and daughter in their VW camper van.

Michael enjoyed cars, motorbikes and aeroplanes, and he took his children and grandchildren to air shows and motor shows, and for rides in his Morgan. Michael was a member of the Round Table and enjoyed a busy social life. Michael and Joan travelled widely, including trips to America and Canada, and to Australia to visit their daughter and her family.

Michael and Joan came to Otford in 2013 to be close to their son and daughter-in-law. He was one who saw the best in everyone, and was always committed to his family and friends.

## OUT AND ABOUT...



### OTFORD SOCIETY

**O Come All Ye Otford.** The Otford Village Society is hosting a Christmas Party

at the Otford Memorial Hall on Saturday December 3rd at 7pm, for the whole community to come together. It'll be a celebration of all the things that make Otford great. There will be beers and wines from local producers, wine tasting, music and a dazzling array of fabulous raffle prizes from a range of local shops, restaurants and businesses. Local magician Chris Harding will be wowing the guests as he works the room, there will be a wine tasting hosted by The Mount Vineyard in Shoreham and Santa (admittedly less-local!) will be there to meet the

kids. The ticket price (£15 adults, £7.50 children aged 3-16) includes a hog roast, PLUS all money raised from the event will go to the Memorial Hall refurbishment fund. Tickets available by contacting [events@otfordsociety.org.uk](mailto:events@otfordsociety.org.uk) or calling 07930374332.



### OTFORD EVENING WI

The Real Downton Abbey is the title of Ian Porter's talk at our next meeting which is on the 10th of November at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall.

Visitors are most welcome and if you need more information call our President on 01959 524831.

## OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



It's been an exciting start to term in Year 4 at Otford Primary School. We've been exploring life in Ancient Egypt which has taken us on an archaeological dig to discover what hidden secrets lie in the school field. We found different "treasures" from different time periods as we dug deeper.

We've dressed up as people from the time and begun to experience what it was like to work, live and serve in a time without machines or electricity. We spent an afternoon enjoying the delicacies of an Egyptian queen's banquet – complete with servants, plays, dances and even the trial and punishment of a fiendish conspirator!

Class 4P have also been busy preparing and performing an excellent assembly for key stage 2 and their parents. It followed four children travelling back in time to find themselves face to face with the River Nile, a pharaoh and a few pyramid workers. Some children had researched and written about unique aspects of Egyptian life, and they shared their pieces with everyone; some children learnt poems and some scared us in their "mummy" outfits! All of the children worked hard to put it together and performed brilliantly. Well done, Year 4!



## PUZZLE PAGE

Remembrance Day this year will have a special significance. It comes almost exactly a century after the Battle of the Somme finally ground to its inconclusive end (18<sup>th</sup> November). The unbelievable slaughter of the Somme – more than a million men were killed or wounded – made it perhaps the bloodiest battle of history. The incessant bombardment of

heavy artillery, the suicidal waves of attack by unprotected soldiers, the introduction of the first tanks in battle, all contributed to the vast number of casualties. So did the pointless efforts of both sides to break what was in fact a five month stalemate. This was a battle nobody won but a million men lost. 100 years on, we shall remember them.



Remembrance  
Day  
Significance  
Century  
Battle  
Somme  
Inconclusive  
Slaughter  
Million  
Killed

Wounded  
Bloodiest  
History  
Bombardment  
Heavy  
Artillery  
Suicidal  
Waves  
Attack  
Soldiers

Tanks  
Casualties  
Pointless  
Stalemate  
Remember  
them

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Lemon juice

Remove skins from fish and place in a blender. Add cream cheese to the ratio of half the weight of the fish. Add lemon juice. Blitz until smooth.

Serve with toast or, as I did for a party, on small little gem lettuce leaves garnished with sliced pitted black olives.

ENJOY!

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

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Mags Southgate 01959 524720
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing 01959 522327
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed 01959 523439
<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>	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

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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  
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### CHOIR

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

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