



St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News

May 2016 www.stbartholomews.co.uk 50p

SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

| May | 8.00am | 10.00am | 3.00pm | 6.30pm |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 May 6th after Easter | Holy Communion | All Together Worship | - | Evensong |
| 5 May Ascension Day | - | - | - | Holy Communion 8pm |
| 8 May Sunday after Ascension | Holy Communion | Holy Communion | Messy Church | - |
| 15 May Pentecost | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | - | Evensong |
| 22 May Trinity Sunday | Holy Communion (BCP) | Holy Communion | - | - |
| 29 May 1st after Trinity | 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 in Church for All Together Worship. Crèche is available every Sunday.

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.

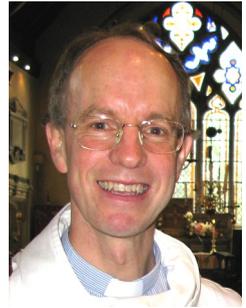
HOLY COMMUNION Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

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

Cover photograph taken by Richard Worssam
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 Magazine No. 05 Volume 86

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

The Queen has just celebrated her 90th birthday, and in June there will be further national events to mark her official birthday. On the eve of her birthday, Prince William gave a television interview in which he spoke of the qualities of the Queen which have left an abiding impression upon him. He highlighted her devotion to duty, her service, her tolerance and her commitment to others.



The Queen has always endeavoured to live her life according to the values arising from her Christian faith. This has been an abiding source of inspiration to her. She has communicated this over the years through her Christmas broadcasts, and most recently through the publication of the booklet "The servant Queen and the King she serves" which we will be circulating in our parish.

In recent weeks the BBC has been conducting a series of interviews with a variety of men and women who are also turning 90 this year. As we look back over the decades we can see how their life stories encompass so many significant events in the life of our nation and world history. I have good friends in our congregation who belong to this number.

Amongst them, also, I think of my parents. I am very grateful for their example, and the way they have lived out their values in word and deed. In particular I think of my mother who died at the beginning of April (and thank you to everyone for your kindness and support at this time). There is much that I could write, but in the space I have available I just want to focus on her deeply held faith which has had a profound influence on our family.

My younger brother and I were talking and we realised that for both of us a key factor in our sense of vocation into the ordained ministry has been the quiet example of our mother. She was never pushy about her faith, and yet we were both deeply influenced, almost at a subliminal level, by her Christian life.

My mother, in turn, always treasured the memory of the faith of her parents. They were committed church-goers throughout their lives and the family imbibed these Christian values from an early age. Recently, Mum wrote a note to me saying: "Something you may not know: my mother prayed that one of her sons would become a priest, but it didn't happen. Instead, two grandsons are ordained, which seems to show that God's timing is different from ours!"

This has made me reflect on the importance of the family in nurturing the faith of children (as highlighted in Vicki's series of articles, "Faith in the Family" pp. 10 & 11). This emphasis on the family is found in several places in the Old Testament e.g. "Teach my words to your children, talking about them when you sit at home..." (Deuteronomy 11:19). In the New Testament there is a wonderful example of this faith that stretches across the generations in Paul's second letter to Timothy in which he writes, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." (2 Timothy 1:5)

So I give thanks for my mother's faith, and for the faith of my grandparents, too, and for all, including the Queen, who have set us such inspirational examples of living out their faith in word and deed.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*



DIARY FOR MAY 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

The Vicar is on Extended Ministerial Development Leave until the end of August

1 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

10.00 am All Together Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

2 Bank Holiday

4 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)

5 Ascension Day

8.00 pm Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

7 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

8 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sunday after Ascension

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

3.00 pm Messy Church (Church Centre)

9 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

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

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

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

14 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

15 Pentecost/Whit Sunday: Christian Aid Week

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

16 7.45 pm Coffee and Chat (17 Leonard Avenue)

8.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee (5 Colets Orchard)

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

22 Trinity Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) The Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge

10.00 am Holy Communion The Ven. Clive Mansell,

23 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

- 25 9.30 am 'First Steps;' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) coffee afterwards
 8.00 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 28 12 noon Baptism of Orson Reed
-
- 29 **The First Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Adie McCall)
 10.00 am Morning Worship
- 30 **Bank Holiday: Village Fete**
 7.45 pm Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue)



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

- 10th April Jimmy Lee **Ashby**
10th April Freddie George **Ashby**
10th April Henry Nelson **Ashby**
17th April Harry **Sargent**

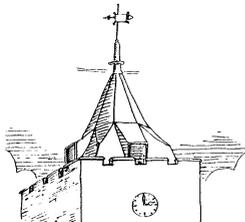
WEDDINGS (Our Congratulations)

- 16th April Terry **Symes** and Carly **Stewart**
23rd April Joseph **Hanger** and Anna **Purdy**

FUNERALS (Our Sympathy)

- 6th April Beryl Worssam (aged 91)
7th April Doreen Morgan (aged 90)

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



ASCENSION DAY (5th May) and PENTECOST (15th May)

On Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, we think of the completion of Jesus' ministry on earth and his return to our heavenly Father. It is, in effect the other side of the coin from Christmas. At his ascension, Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, which we focus on at Pentecost. This is also when we celebrate the birthday of the Church. You are warmly invited to join us for these two important Christian festivals. (Details on page 2)

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on Saturday, 7th May at 9.00 am. We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools, too!

MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church event is on Sunday, 8th May at 3.00 pm. Messy Church is particularly suitable for families with children of primary school age.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTION:

15th-21st May

We hope you will be kind and generous to those who give up their time to deliver and then collect envelopes on behalf of Christian Aid, which gives us all an opportunity to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. We are grateful to our magazine distributors for

undertaking this task. Please leave the filled envelopes in the Parish Church Office.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMBERS OF OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH WILL BE COLLECTING IN THE FOLLOWING ROADS THIS YEAR:

Bubblestone Road, The Butts, The Old Walk, Evelyn Road, Flowerfield, Hopfield Close, Knighton Road, Sidney Gardens, Tudor Crescent, Tudor Drive, Warham Road, Well Road and Willow Park. (Magazine distributors do not need to take envelopes to deliver in these roads. Thank you.)

BIG CHURCH DAY OUT

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May at Wiston House near Worthing.

An outdoor Christian music festival for all ages with lots of activities and all styles of music. Join us for just one or both days. Website: www.bigchurchdayout.com and speak to Mags Southgate (524720) about tickets.

CIVIC SERVICE

The date of the annual Civic Service is Sunday, 12th June at 10.00 am at St. Bartholomew's Church as the country celebrates HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday. We warmly invite you to join us at this service.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

Saturday, 18th June at 2.00 pm

The Church Fair will be held this year on The Green and the surrounding areas from 2.00 pm. There will be the usual array of stalls and attractions. Proceeds will go to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's so please book the date in your diary and come and support the church. If you can help in any way, please contact Colin Fleetwood (523582), Margie Torry (524463) or the Parish Church

Office (523185). Further details of the Fair will follow in next month's magazine.

Vicar and Churchwardens for overseeing the life and mission of St. Barts.

YOUTH WEEKEND AT KENCH HILL: 8th-10th July

This year's youth weekend will take place from 8th-10th July at Kench Hill near Tenterden. The cost of the weekend will be £40 per child for the whole weekend. If you can only come for the day speak to Mags Southgate 01959 524720 about day rates. Leaflets about the weekend are available in the Church Centre.

APCM UPDATE

At our Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 17th April, Margaret Lidbetter and Russell Edwards were appointed as Churchwardens. We give thanks for Margaret's continuing service in this role and we welcome Russell as a new churchwarden, giving thanks for his contribution in many areas of church life.

Four new members were also appointed to the Parochial Church Council to serve for a three-year term: Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Nick Page and Mags Southgate. Please remember the newly constituted PCC in your prayers as it exercises its shared responsibility with the

REDECORATION AND RE-ORDERING

We are most grateful for the very generous response of church members to the re-ordering appeal at the beginning of the year. 80% of those who received a Pass-it-On folder or a letter responded, and 71% of respondents made a pledge or donation. We were seeking a target at this stage of £65,000 from congregation members, and this now allows us to continue in faith. We are still awaiting responses from some trusts. Thank you, also, to all those who supported the Antiques and Collectibles Valuation Day and the Easter Flowers Gift Day.

Over the summer there will be background planning work and we aim to go out to tender in the autumn. We are planning for the work to start in January 2017 and for it to be complete by Easter.





DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

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

Did you know that Sevenoaks District Council has the busiest planning department in the county? We process 2,500 applications every year. We have also been rated the most effective in the county by processing the greatest percentage of applications within government target times and having the lowest proportion of decisions overturned on appeal.

We try to work with the parish councils to ensure that as far as possible development is acceptable to our villages in terms of density and design. We encourage parishes to put together neighbourhood plans to put local people more in control of local development. Otford has a very successful Village Design Statement, which was put together with wide consultation throughout the village, and has been used many times to successfully overturn planning recommendations at the Development Control Committee.

As you know the District is 93% Greenbelt and 60% Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This means that anywhere with these designations has very strict planning guidelines about what anyone can actually build. Otford has a lot of Greenbelt and AONB surrounding the main village; and within the village itself it is protected by conservation areas. Otford is quite well protected in terms of planning policy.

However, that does not mean that everything built in the village is to our liking and we can all find examples of buildings that should never have received planning permission. Generally the village is still beautiful because it is protected most of the time.

We have got much tougher in using our enforcement powers both with people who have built structures without planning permission and in improving the area by tackling grot spots. If you know of any grot spots that need tackling please let me know.

There is finally good news around the Otford Tower. I appreciate that it has taken the District Council a long time to commit to securing its future – but we have finally done so. We have now completed the first stage of the repair works to make it structurally safe and weatherproof.

We are now in a position to move to phase two and we have managed to secure funding from Historic England to complete some of the conservation works. So it is great that the Otford Tower will finally take its rightful place as one of our historical gems in the Darent Valley.

With best wishes,

Michelle



LYRICS AND LIVES: HYMN WRITERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES

Psalm 23

We all have a favourite version of this psalm. It might be that from the King James Bible of 1611, the Psalter, or one of the metrical versions in the hymn books that we enjoy singing. Whichever we prefer, the image of the caring, guiding, shepherd father is one we all find supportive and comforting.

The original Biblical Hebrew version is attributed to King David, the shepherd boy, and is still a part of the Shabbat ceremonies for practicing Jews. Many Christians sing it at funerals or read it at the graveside whilst members of the Orthodox Church have it as part of the preparation for Eucharist.

But why do we have so many versions?

Luther regarded the psalms as the Bible in miniature, and hymns and psalms had been sung for many years in services. However, the French priest John Calvin recognised the power of music in worship. He wanted easier versions of the psalms so that the whole congregation would be able to join in singing them instead of this being the preserve of a select group of musicians. Thus whilst in Geneva in about 1556 he supervised the collecting of metrical psalms to form the Genevan Psalter for use in reformed churches.

The exiled dissenter John Knox was in Geneva at the same time and through him the metrical psalms found their way back to Scotland. The Scottish Psalter was then put together in the

late 16th and early 17th centuries and it is from this that we have the best known version of psalm 23, "The Lord's my shepherd...."

Since then many other eminent writers and clergy have been inspired to compose their own versions, several of which are in our present hymn books. These include 'The God of love my shepherd is...' by the metaphysical poet George Herbert 1593-1633, 'The King of love...' by Sir Henry Baker 1821-77, priest and editor of Hymns Ancient and Modern, and 'The Lord my pasture shall prepare,' by Joseph Addison 1672-1719 co-founder of the Spectator.

Other versions have fallen out of use including those by Sir Philip Sidney, of Penshurst, and "My shepherd will my need supply," by Isaac Watts 1674-1748.

A member of the Nonconformist Church, Watts was barred from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, but later became a Minister. When making the Psalms of David into metrical hymns Watts felt they should always have a strong Christian perspective. He is credited with as many as 750 hymns some of which are still sung today.

His style of composition established a tradition of hymn writing that was a great influence on his successors both Anglican and Nonconformist, including Wesley, Perronet and Newton.

Gillian Shilling

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

May:

Growing in confidence

Pause for thought: After he had risen and before his ascension, Jesus spent time with his disciples, showing them how the Old Testament scriptures pointed to his death and resurrection, but also explaining that he had work for them to do first in Jerusalem and then in the wider world. They were to be his witnesses, teaching others to follow him and baptizing them. Jesus would be with them through his Holy Spirit and they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Spirit to come to them. This happened in a dramatic way with a rushing wind and tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost and is described on page 15. It was a tremendously joyful day, as the disciples felt the warmth and life-giving spirit of Jesus surge inside them, causing them to overflow with thanks and praise. They would no longer see Jesus, but he was with them in a new and vibrant way.

Take the time to think of the occasions when you may have experienced this life-giving force (perhaps in a less dramatic way) and how you might explain the feeling to the children in your life. Do such experiences breathe new life into your faith and actions? Can you think of a time when you feel that you were given the confidence and the words to speak up for God?

Plan a Pentecost Party!

The colour red is traditionally associated with Pentecost. Why not come to church or Sunday Club on 15th May wearing something red?

Carry on the theme at home by planning a family meal that is mostly made from red ingredients!! Family members could be responsible for different courses. For example, a starter of sliced red and orange peppers with a dip or tomato soup, a main course of spaghetti Bolognese/chili con carne, a pudding of sliced red berries on meringues. You could paint small tongues of fire, cut them out and scatter them on the tablecloth as a decoration.

Table talk: Tell the story of Pentecost in your own words. Can you retell it round the table with every member of the family taking part?

This might be a chance to share your 'Pentecost' experiences with your children. Have they experienced something similar? What does everyone think is the difference between happiness and joy?

Just a minute!



Like the fishermen James and John, Simon and Andrew, many of the disciples were not highly educated men used to making eloquent speeches. But after the Holy Spirit had come to them, they found the confidence and the right words to address the crowds, telling them about their Master and inviting them to be baptized.

On a car journey, play a family game of 'Just a minute.' Each person tries to speak on a given subject for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation! The others can challenge the speaker for any of these three reasons and, if correct, take over the subject

matter for the remaining time! Whoever is speaking at the end of the minute gets a point. Link this with the idea of the eloquence of the disciples after Pentecost.

Make a simple spring windsock!



You will need: A4 coloured paper, glue or sticky tape, crayons or felt tips, scissors, coloured tissue paper or ribbons, string

Decorate a rectangle of coloured paper and roll it into a cylinder shape. Stick in place. Cut thin strips of tissue paper as streamers or lengths of ribbon and stick to the inside bottom of the cylinder. Make two holes in the top and thread the string through for hanging. Hang your windsock somewhere where it will catch the breeze and watch the streamers blow! Link with the idea of the rushing wind in the story of Pentecost.

Swap experiences of hearing a strong wind blowing. What must it have been like for the disciples when they heard this sound of a violent wind blowing *inside* the house?

Fun in the bath!



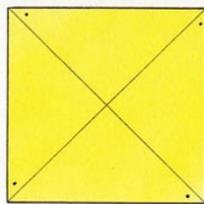
While your toddler is in the bath, have fun together playing with some toys that need to be blown on/into to get going. Have a

toy boat race in the bath water, blow soapy bubbles together, or blow on hand held windmills. Show what a difference your breath makes to each. Explain that God breathes into

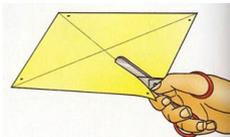
us to help us to spring into action and to be able to help him with his work in our world.

Make a Windmill

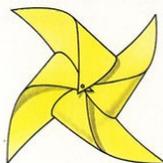
You will need: a pencil, a ruler, a piece of thin card (10cmx10cm), a pin, scissors, a small bead, a stick about 25cm long.



Draw two pencil lines, one from each corner to the opposite corner. Make one small pin hole in each corner and one in the middle where the lines cross.



Cut along each pencil line toward the centre. Cut half way along each line.



Bend over each corner so that all four corner holes are on top of the centre hole. Push the pin through the holes.



Thread the bead onto the pin behind the windmill. Push the point firmly into the stick.



Vicki Howie

IN CONVERSATION WITH... DOUG AND SHEILA DICKERSON



On the morning of Saturday 28th May bells will ring out over Otford as a quarter peel is rung in celebration of Sheila and Doug's ruby wedding. They have been residents of the

village ever since their marriage in 1976 and told me that, on the fine spring day when they first walked into their house in Willow Park, they knew instantly it was the place for them. The decision to buy in Otford is one they have never regretted; they love living here and, right from the start, were very involved in community life.

Sheila and Doug met in a pub when they were both in their forties. At that time Doug was working in London whilst Sheila was a social worker based in Tunbridge Wells. Although Sheila finished her career in charge of a team of social workers, she had begun her working life as a secretary. When an early ambition to switch from being a secretary to becoming a teacher was thwarted, Sheila found a job in the Youth Department of the Baptist Church, which also involved helping to run summer schools. From there she was invited to work for The World Council of Churches in Switzerland, where she took the minutes of the executive meetings in the General Secretariat as well as at the annual World Assembly meetings. After two years abroad, Sheila returned home to undertake a training course for mature students in social work; a move which led to a fulfilling career.

Doug's lifetime career in shipping allowed him to visit many different parts of the world. His final position was as the Regional Manager for the Port of Baltimore, a job in which he was responsible for marketing the port throughout the UK and Scandinavia. He very much enjoyed both the work and the extensive travelling it involved.

Sheila's faith has always been an important part of her life; having grown up in a Baptist family, she was encouraged into churchgoing from an early age. On arrival in Otford she was keen to join St Bartholomew's and says she felt at home as soon as she first walked into the church. Sheila told me that she has always been conscious of God's guiding hand and support in her life and has never made any life changing move without first praying. She especially enjoys attending the Wednesday morning communion service which she described as 'a quiet, contemplative, peaceful service'. When I asked Doug about his church involvement he replied that he likes to think of himself as a 'buttress of the church'; he is someone who supports it from the outside.

There can be few couples in Otford who have been more active in village clubs and societies than Sheila and Doug. Doug has been chairman of the Gardeners' Society for about twenty years and chairman of the Short Mat Bowls Club for even longer. He is a former member of the Art Group (Sheila is still a member) and also finds time to volunteer as a steward at Ightham Mote (where he is a Room Guide Coordinator) and at Chartwell. As well as being in the Art Group and Gardeners' Society, Sheila loves singing with the Kemsing Singers; she has been part of the choir for thirty years and is now vice chairman. Furthermore both Sheila and Doug

enjoy attending the coffee mornings held every Saturday morning in the Club Room of the Village Hall. They told me that it is a meeting place for friends and is welcoming to all newcomers.

Both Doug and Sheila are truly talented artists; the walls of their home are decorated with many examples of their beautiful work. Whilst Sheila produces finely observed botanical watercolours (as well as stunning embroidered pictures), Doug's work is more varied but equally impressive. He has even drawn cartoons for the National Trust which were used by Chartwell to attract children to their 'Churchill and the Boer War' Children's Trail.

One of the things that Sheila and Doug most value about Otford is its community spirit and friendliness. Sheila recounted that, when Doug was in Maidstone Hospital last year, so many people offered her lifts that she never had to drive herself. They love living here with their

two cats Susie and Kittie; the most recent family members in a long succession of rescue cats.

When I asked what tips they could give for a long and successful marriage, Doug and Sheila agreed that you should do things together as well as apart, that you should be supportive of each other's interests, and that you should respect each other and allow for individuality.

Doug and Sheila – we all wish you a very happy ruby wedding anniversary!

Christeen Malan

(The photo below was taken at a lunch held to celebrate Sheila's eightieth birthday and shows two of her three brothers and other family members.)





IN MEMORIAM



Beryl Worssam, 1925 - 2016

Beryl was born in 1925 in Friern Barnet in north London, the youngest in a family of three children, with two older brothers. The family moved to Orpington the following year and here Beryl attended Teacan House School and then Bromley County Grammar School for girls.

Beryl was 14 when the Second World War broke out. Her father worked in the Estate Duty Office and this was evacuated from London to Llandudno, and so in 1940 the family moved to North Wales to be with him. Beryl completed her schooling at a convent school run by the Loreto Sisters.

On leaving school in 1943, Beryl worked at the Estate Duty Office as an assistant examiner. After the war, the EDO was relocated from North Wales back to London in 1947 and the family returned to Orpington. Beryl continued in her role at the EDO until 1953, based in an office at Somerset House.

Beryl then worked as an Assistant Actuarial Clerk for two years with Legal and General in Fleet Street. Then she moved to another job as an Actuarial Assistant with the Medical Sickness Society in Cavendish Square. She worked here for six years, dealing with insurance for doctors and also some statistical analysis of various illnesses.

Beryl met her husband Bernard on an Intervarsity Club outing to Arundel on the August Bank Holiday of 1958. They got married on Easter Day 1960 at St. George's Church, Bickley. For the first few months of their marriage they lived in Haslemere, and then in December 1960 they moved into a newly built house in Horsham, West Sussex.

In April 1961, the twins Anthony and Richard were born. Beryl gave up paid employment and devoted herself to looking after the family. Her youngest son, Nicholas, was born in August 1965.

The family continued to live in Horsham for 18 years, moving to a larger house in 1972. Beryl was actively involved in the life of Horsham Parish Church.

In 1979 the family moved to Edwalton, on the south-eastern outskirts of Nottingham, when the British Geological Survey was relocated from London to Keyworth in Nottinghamshire. When Bernard retired in 1986, he and Beryl came back south and settled in Otford, which Beryl had known from her childhood days in Orpington.

Beryl took an active part in village life, being a member of the WI, the Mothers' Union, the Historical Society, and NADFAS, helping with the Derby and Joan Club, and being closely involved in the life of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Her family meant a great deal to her, and as the years passed, Beryl's family grew to include two grandsons and two granddaughters.

Beryl had a deep and abiding faith, and her love and kindness will always be treasured by those who knew her.



ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

The story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

Everything had calmed down since Jesus' ascension. His followers were still not quite sure what to do. Most had returned to their everyday jobs back in Galilee. Some no doubt thought about Jesus' last words to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news", but they also remembered that he had promised that a 'Counsellor' would come to help them.

As life carried on as usual, they found themselves back in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost – celebrating God's giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, 49 days after the Exodus. It was early morning and some had started to prepare breakfast whilst others were getting up, washing, preparing the table. Suddenly a sound like a violent wind rose up and filled the house. Then they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them but they were not harmed by the flames – they just hovered above everyone's heads. As they began to speak to each other, wondering in amazement what was going on, they realised that they were each speaking in different languages.

As it was festival time, Jerusalem was once again full of Jews from across the Roman Empire. The noise and commotion had been noticed by others and when they heard this sound a crowd came together in bewilderment; they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? How come each of us can hear them speaking in our native language? We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed

they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Peter then stood up and addressed the crowd, explaining that this was not drunkenness but the power of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus.

This festival for Christians is now described as the birthday of the church as, after Peter had finished speaking, over 3000 people were converted and baptised as followers of Jesus. They had, at last, begun to fulfil Jesus' command to "Go into all the world" albeit starting in Jerusalem. So why was the coming of the Holy Spirit so important? Well, after Jesus had returned to heaven he knew that they would not be able to continue his ministry without a little help – power from the Holy Spirit. After that day, Jesus' followers had power from God to travel further afield to take the good news of Jesus' salvation across the Roman Empire. Without the power of the Holy Spirit this would not have happened and Christians believe this same power is available to us today. A power that can, and does, transform lives.

Mags Southgate, Reader



MISSION MATTERS...CMS - FAITH GORDON

Faith is our mission partner, through the Church Mission Society, in Recife, Brazil. She is working with local churches developing business and training programmes that meet the spiritual, social, educational and employment needs of the various slum communities in a holistic and sustainable way. However, Brazil is going through a very difficult time at the moment. On 17th April there was an impeachment vote against the president Dilma Rousseff. She has been an unpopular leader in a country facing a severe economic crisis. She has been accused of juggling the accounts to make her government's economic performance appear better than it was, ahead of her election campaign two years ago - charges she vigorously denied. Those who support Dilma tend to be the working classes, especially of the Northeast of Brazil, whilst those against are more likely to be white and middle class. Prayer points:

- Faith works amongst the poorer people of Recife, a city in the north east of Brazil, many who feel that Dilma and her government have been on their side and have lifted many out of poverty. Let us pray that as there is a shift in the government the poorest will not be forgotten.
- Pray for Faith's work as she aims to help those in her community to learn new skills that will enable them to start-up businesses.
- Pray for Faith and the team in Recife who are organising children's holiday camps on the theme of the Olympics. The hope is that children from different economic backgrounds, those that are

middle class and those that live in favelas, will be able to form friendships and build links between the communities through experiencing the love of God.

- Pray for the volunteer youngsters from the UK who are going out to participate in and help lead the sports holiday camp which will feature sports, crafts and bible activities. This is a great opportunity for people to experience a different culture and deepen their faith. Faith says, "We are really praying that God will bring many volunteer helpers from across the world, who have a desire to see God's kingdom established and come with a heart to have fun and train the children and adolescents."

Please pray that enough volunteers sign up and for the children who are going to attend. Pray that God will be already working in their hearts and that he will be glorified from this event for generations to come and that through it a new unity will be found and that God will be glorified through the lives of the attendees.

Mags Southgate



THE NIGHT SKY IN OTFORD MAY 2016

If you look due south at the start of May, around 9.30pm, you will see the planet Jupiter shining brightly at an altitude of forty-five degrees. As the month wears on, the planet moves further to the west whilst the Sun sets later and later which means that you will need to look for Jupiter later. The giant planet moves only slowly with respect to the background stars, so the map from last month is still valid. It is by far the brightest object in that part of the sky so cannot be mistaken for anything else.

Every 116 days the Earth, Mercury and the Sun all form up in a line with Mercury in the middle, to bring about what astronomers call an inferior conjunction. This is something that can occur two or three times each year, so it is in no way uncommon nor is it, in fact, spectacular. That is unless the alignment of the three bodies involved is absolutely spot on! If it is, then we will get a rare opportunity to see tiny Mercury passing in transit across the solar disk which will be the situation on Monday 9th May. The event is visible in its entirety from the UK and begins at 12.12 BST and concludes at 19.42 BST (7.42pm) so you can see it lasts for a considerable period of time. Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar System and because of this it will be difficult to see during the transit. It will appear as an extremely small black dot moving very slowly from east to west (left to right). The diagram shows the Sun's disk with a line marked for each hour to indicate Mercury's path along it.

Before I go any further, I must repeat my previous warning that it is extremely dangerous to look at the Sun using any optical aid at all. You risk blindness if you look at the Sun, even briefly.

However, if you still have the eclipse glasses from last year's solar eclipse it is perfectly safe to look at the Sun through them providing that

you check beforehand for damage. Discard them if they have holes or scratches. An alternative to this, which should overcome any weather issues, is to watch on-line using one of a number of specialised web sites that are carrying live feeds. A few examples are given below.

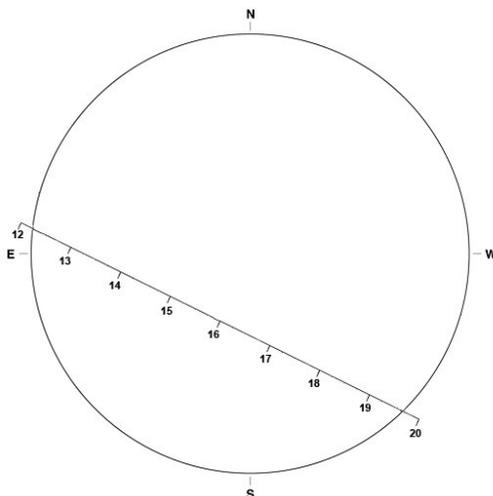
<https://main.slooh.com/event/transit-of-mercury/>

<http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/bepicolombo/mercury-transit>

<http://serviastro.am.ub.edu/twiki/bin/view/ServiAstro/TransitMercuri090516>

The next chance to see a transit of Mercury will be 11th November 2019, although it will not last nearly as long as the coming one due to the Sun setting just after 4pm. After that you will have to wait until 13th November 2032. On that occasion the transit will be underway at sunrise and complete by just after 11.00am, so it would be wise to try and at least get a glimpse of a rare event this time around.

Brian Mills FRAS



OUT AND ABOUT...



OTFORD EVENING WI Our Annual Meeting will be held on the 11th of May at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall.

Do come along and hear what is planned for the coming year. Our President can be contacted on 01959 524831 for further information.



Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning. Our next Social Gathering will be in The Woodman on 16th May from 7.30pm when we shall be

showing the film "Les Choristes" (The Choir) with English subtitles. Do join us.

If you would like to join the car-sharing weekend visit to Hardelot and the Bay of the Somme with hospitality on 1st-3rd July 2016, please contact

Jane Lawrey via the Parish Council Office as soon as possible. Alternatively you may prefer the coach trip on Saturday 3rd September 2016. More details next month.



Saints and Sinners

Saturday 4th June 2016 at 7.30pm
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*My sermon today comes from
Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*

PUZZLE PAGE

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

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Sunday

May

Rogation

Beat

Bounds

Asking

Blessing

Seed

Land

Romans

Processed

Cornfields

Spring

Earthquake

Storm

Prayer

Cross

Boundaries

Crops

Harvest

maps

BEACOM FAMILY FAVOURITES

Pork in Mustard a la Beacom



Serves 4

Ingredients

4 boneless pork chops - I trim off all the fat.
You could use pork fillet instead.

1 peeled and chopped onion

1 chicken stock cube - Oxo is fine but as I am
gluten free I use a Kallo one

About 200 grams HALF FAT creme fraiche

About 2-3 heaped teaspoons wholegrain
mustard

A little oil / butter for frying

Method

Gently fry the onion in the oil/butter until
soft then add the pork to the pan. Turn meat
several times for about 2-3 minutes cover
and cook for about 10-15 mins or so
depending on the thickness of the meat.

There will be some meat juice which you can
discard but I tend to leave it as it makes the
sauce runnier.

When the meat is cooked remove it from the pan
into a serving dish. Add to the onion still in the
pan, the creme fraiche, mustard and stock cube
and stir. When combined pour over the pork.

Serve with rice or creamy mashed potato, carrots
and a green vegetable for colour.

ENJOY!

Joan Beacom

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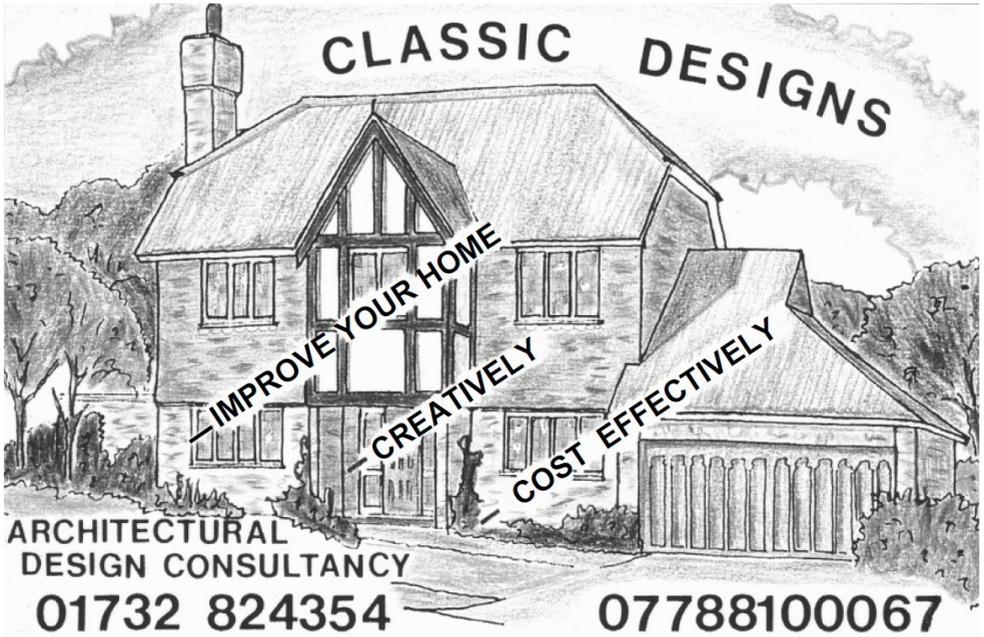
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| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| VICAR: | Richard Worssam 01959 523185 |
| READERS: | Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Mags Southgate 01959 524720 |
| READER EMERITUS: | Peter Downing 01959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

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