

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



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SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

June	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
5 June 2nd after Trinity	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
12 June 3rd after Trinity	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	
19 June 4th after Trinity	Holy Communion	Morning Worship		Evensong
26 June 5th after Trinity	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-

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
 Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services (see page 37)
 Magazine No. 06 Volume 86

READER'S REFLECTION

Pondering on last month, I became aware of how many special days we enjoyed. May started with a holiday – time away from work, time for family and leisure. The month ended with another break and this was the day when we held our annual village fete. This occasion generated a spirit of pulling together to produce an event that attracts large numbers of visitors to our beautiful village. The organisers earn our grateful thanks for their work and for the funds raised to support the needs of the village and its residents. Their sense of service is greatly appreciated.

The election on 5th May to select the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Kent Police area also provided an opportunity to remember that we are blessed with people who devote time and energy to serving us in so many different ways. Their public spirit and social awareness contributes to the smooth running and ethos of our local society.

On this same day in May, the Christian Church celebrated Ascension Day, the day when we mark the beginnings of the Church as Jesus completed His earthly ministry and commissioned His disciples to continue His work. This commissioning was completed at Pentecost, celebrated this year on 15th May. It was on the very first Day of Pentecost, after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, that the disciples were empowered to preach and teach about the life-style example that Jesus had begun. A week later came Trinity Sunday, the day we celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Week by week, in our churches and our Home Bible Study groups, we try to deepen our knowledge and appreciation of that mission Jesus set in motion.

Looking ahead, we know that June will have its own special days, notably when we celebrate the official 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth. Throughout her reign she has readily said that her faith has seen her through whatever has confronted her. She has tried to do what is right and faced the future with confidence because of her faith.



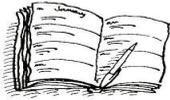
In her younger days she met the Indian guru Mahatma Gandhi. I can't help feeling that the way she has carried out her royal duties reflects her Christian faith and the advice of Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others".

So I give thanks to the Queen and all those people who serve others in any way at all in their jobs and in their daily lives.

With best wishes,

Margaret Lidbetter,
Churchwarden and Reader





DIARY FOR JUNE 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

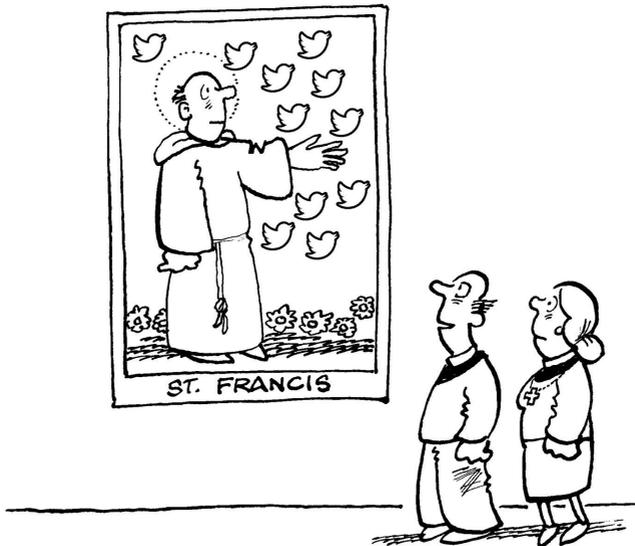
The Vicar is on Extended Ministerial Development Leave until the end of August

- 1 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd. Chris Reed
- 4 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 5 The Second Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)
- 10.00 am All Together Worship
- 6.30 pm Evensong
- 6 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 7 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 8 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) coffee afterwards
- 10 Magazine material for July/August edition by today, please, to the Church Office, st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 11 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 12 The Third Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)
- 10.00 am Civic Service (Bill Lattimer)
- 13 7.45 pm Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 15 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) coffee afterwards
- 8.00 pm Trek in Cambodia - talk by Tony Grogan (Church Centre)
- 18 2.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (The Green)**
- 19 The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)
- 10.00 am Morning Worship
- 6.30 pm Evensong
- 20 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 21 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

- 22 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed) coffee afterwards

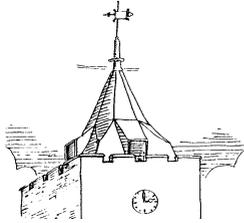
26 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (The Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge)**
10.00 am Holy Communion (The Ven. Clive Mansell)
27 7.45 pm Focus (17 Leonard Avenue)
29 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)
8.00 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on Saturday, 4th June 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!

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.

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.



Saturday, 18th June at 2.00 pm

The Church Fair will be held on The Green and the surrounding areas from 2.00 pm. The Committee would be grateful for all the help

you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of Church or in the Church office, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so that they can be sorted and priced.

Alternatively, arrangements can be made for them to be collected.

Books: Colin Fleetwood, 523582

Bottles: via the Church Office

Craft: Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117

Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves: Susan Reid, 523234; Hilary Fothergill, 524120

New Gifts: Mags Southgate, 524720

Plants: Sue Stephenson, 523593

Raffle: Andrew Hill, via the Church Office

Sweets, small toys or items suitable for

Children's prizes: Christeen Malan, 522654, Deborah Vigis, 523331

Teas: small cakes and fruit cakes to Joan Beacom 524304.

Toys, DVDs, CDs: Margie Torry, 524463

White Elephant: Heather Stanley, 523194

There will be the usual Children's Art competition with the theme 'The Seaside' for age groups 7-11 and under 7s. Contact Christeen Malan, 522654. Bring your most beautiful rose by 2.30 pm on the day of the Fair and enter the Single Rose competition (entry 50p), open to all.

Anyone willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Colin Fleetwood (523582), Margie Torry (524463) or the Parish Church Office (523185). Assistance with the

setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. Help is also required on the day to serve and wash up in the Church Centre. Please contact Joan Beacom, 524304.

Programmes, price 50p, will be on sale in all the roads in Otford from the beginning of June. Enter the Lucky Programme competition by entering your details on the front of the programme, and place it in the box inside the Church Centre by 2.30 pm on the day.

TREK IN CAMBODIA, NOVEMBER 2015



As you know, each year I take on a sponsored challenge to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. On previous occasions I have trekked in the Canadian Rockies, Costa Rica, Inca Trail in Peru, Mount

Kilimanjaro, Annapurna Circuit in Nepal and many other treks!

Between 11th-20th November 2016 I shall be putting my hiking boots on again and joining around 40 people in a new challenge in the rural landscape of Kerala, South India. The event, and months of preparation, will be tough but I am doing this in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

You may be interested to learn what taking part in a 6-day trek means and view some of the sights we met in Cambodia. I will be giving a presentation on my trek in Cambodia in the St. Bartholomew's Church Centre on Wednesday, 15th June at 8.00 pm All are welcome and there will be no charge for this event. There will be an illustrated talk lasting no more than 1 hour. Refreshment will **not** be available. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tony Grogan

ST BART'S BELLRINGERS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN DISTRICT STRIKING COMPETITION

Recently eight local bellringing teams met at Leigh to take part in the annual Striking Competition. The St Bart's band has often entered before and, once, we came a creditable second in our section.

We have to ring a set piece which is judged for accuracy, i.e. the evenness of spaces between each 'dong'. The winners are the team with the fewest errors so, the lower your score, the better.

This year we won the Called Change section and, to our delight, our score was the lowest of all entries in the whole competition.

Very well done to the Otford band!

*Bobbie Fairclough.
Tower Captain*





DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

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



As well as trying to manage residential development across the district we also try to encourage businesses to locate, grow and stay here. We would like to have a vibrant community with local

jobs and opportunities, although we are aware that many people who live here do commute to London and other places.

We have invested in a new team to help us deliver our economic aspirations. We are trying to use our own plans to invest in property, not only as part of our self-sufficiency agenda, but also to help regenerate and redevelop parts of the district.

We have been consulting on a masterplan for the redevelopment of Swanley and Hextable utilising our own land and buildings as well as working with other land owners. Swanley is a dementia-friendly town and we will also be doing more to make it even more dementia-friendly. Plus some of our housing associations are developing dementia-friendly homes there – so really exciting things are happening in the north of the district. Our dementia-friendly work is part of our health objective of helping people live independent lives for as long as possible.

We are also focussing our efforts on Sevenoaks Town. Subject to planning permission we are hoping to:

- provide a new decked car park in Sevenoaks Town by redeveloping the Bradbourne car park opposite the train station;
- bring a much needed hotel to Sevenoaks on the site of the current Sennocke car park opposite the train station;
- redevelop the Buckhurst 2 car park to increase the number of spaces available for workers and visitors to Sevenoaks.

Did you know that our district has many tourist attractions, but that we lose a lot of income from them as we have nowhere for tourists to stay? We are hoping that by increasing the amount of hotel accommodation we will be able to keep our tourists for longer – helping our restaurants, pubs and other small businesses – not only in the town, but also in the surrounding villages such as Otford.

You can't really have regeneration unless the district is clean and tidy. We are one of just three districts in Kent to employ our own refuse collectors and street cleaners. This helps to control costs and helps to ensure it maintains its unique position of being the only council in Kent that collects rubbish and recycling every single week.

Our survey of residents in 2015 indicated that 93% of respondents were satisfied with our waste and recycling service, compared to a national average of 77%. I know this is broadly true as you tell me that you are satisfied with our refuse collection service.

With best wishes,

Michelle

LYRICS AND LIVES: HYMN WRITERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES

Charles Wesley 1707-88

No look at writers of hymns would be complete without some consideration of Charles Wesley. The youngest of nineteen children many of whom died young, he was the third surviving son of Samuel and Susanna. His father was a poet and clergyman and perpetually lacking in money. His mother was the daughter of a nonconformist but herself preferred to be part of the Anglican Church.

The children were home educated by Susanna who also laid the foundations of her children's faith conducting regular family prayers and reading them her husband's sermons in his absence. Aged nine, Charles went to Westminster School under the care of his brother Samuel. He was elected a King's Scholar and was a quick learner but rather lively.

In 1726 he went to Christ Church Oxford under the tutelage of his brother John. It was here that he and others began to acquire the name "Methodist" because they were part of a group of students who had a distinctively methodical approach to religious study, prayer and helping the disadvantaged. Charles was a good scholar especially in Latin. After graduating he eventually became ordained, then joined his brother in a mission to Georgia. It was not a successful trip for him as he was too strict in his ideas and actions for his listeners.

After his return to England he had a conversion experience in 1738 and became aware of the Holy Spirit at work in his life. He wrote "The Holy Ghost.... with us resides.... by his grace he guides." This feeling of the

sanctifying indwelling of the Holy Spirit affected his preaching and hymn writing from then on. "Love divine, all loves excelling" dates from after this conversion and encapsulates his new outlook.

He now felt he had the strength to spread the gospel to ordinary people and, as well as writing hymns, he went with his wife and brother John into the mission field in England preaching to large gatherings. Sadly Charles became ill and had to give up the field preaching. He lived in Bristol for a while then moved to St Marylebone in London where he carried on his priestly ministry. However, he refused to split from the Church of England despite the influence of his brother John and lived and died an Anglican.

In the course of his life Charles is credited with writing 6,500 hymns. Many have appeared in the Methodist hymnals and have been translated into many languages. We regularly use Wesley's hymns in our hymnals.

And his children? Charles' sons Samuel and Charles were both child prodigies. Charles was the organist to the English Royal family. Samuel was named the "English Mozart" and his son Samuel Sebastian was one of the foremost composers of the C19th and wrote many well-loved choral works.

Gillian Shilling



FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

June: Putting God first

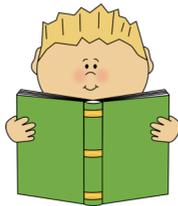
Pause for thought: Read the story about King Josiah on page 15.

Although he had been King of Judah and faithful to God from an early age, it took an unexpected find for him to realise how far he and his people had strayed from God's laws. During some repair work in the Temple, the High Priest found a copy of one of the first books of the Bible in which the Ten Commandments were written. After hearing them read aloud, the sorrowful Josiah set about putting things right, including removing all the idols from the land. He realised that the behaviour of his generation, not just the bricks and mortar of the Temple, was in need of repair. He was a king who put God first.

We are fortunate to have a queen who makes no secret of the fact that her life is anchored in and guided by her Christian Faith. What do we do and say in our daily lives that might show the importance of our own faith to others within our families?

Reading aloud

When we listen to a story (even a familiar one) being read aloud, it can bring it alive and impact on us in a new way. Have a family hunt through your bookshelves to see how many Bibles and Bible storybooks you can find. Do you have one that is accessible to children, such as The Children's Bible in 365 stories by Mary Batchelor? If not, you might like to visit a Christian bookshop, in order to choose one. Our nearest shop is



situated only ten minutes away on the A21 at Pratt's Bottom (BR6 7SQ) and there is also one at Tonbridge (9 Quarry Hill Parade, TN9 2HR). Our Christian bookshops need our support and you might be pleased to discover their range of cards with wording appropriate for different occasions plus gifts.



Write the Ten Commandments on separate pieces of paper and hide them around the home or garden in advance. Tell the

story of Josiah in your own words and then see how many of the Ten Commandments everyone can remember! Have a family treasure hunt to search for them all. Sort them into the following two categories:

Loving and obeying God

Do not worship other Gods (Today this might mean money, sport etc)

Do not make idols to worship

Do not take God's name in vain (Treating God's name with respect)

Keep the Sabbath day holy

Respect your parents (Since God made families and gave parents responsibility for their children, duty to God includes showing care and respect for parents)

Loving others

Do not murder

Be faithful in marriage

Do not steal

Do not tell lies about others

Do not covet (wanting something that belongs to someone else so badly that you feel jealous)

Older children might like to look through any newspapers or magazines that you may have to see how the various stories indicate this generation is keeping to/ straying from these laws.



Plan a tea party for grandparents or neighbours to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Decide on a menu (eg cucumber sandwiches, homemade jam tarts, scones, cup cakes iced in red, white and blue)

Look out some old teacups, saucers and plates in different patterns. A tiered cake stand would be good - you can buy cardboard ones in the village.

Make some attractive paper bunting using instructions on the Internet

Make your own invitations and send them through the post!

Make up a quiz by looking up some information about the Queen on the computer

While you are busy cooking or crafting, talk about all the qualities that you admire in people of the Queen's generation. One of these might be their ability to keep going despite all the ups and downs of life. How

good do family members think they are at persevering? Chat about the sort of things that distract us when we are supposed to be doing homework, practicing music or doing a job. How could we overcome this? Ideas might include keeping going until a certain time, switching off a mobile phone, working towards the reward of a TV programme.

Bedtime story: The Day the Queen came to tea!

Help young child to dress up a doll or soft toy with a homemade crown and cape. Make up a story together about the Queen coming to tea at your house. First ask: What food would you make for the Queen's tea? What decorations would you make to decorate the house? Would you practice bowing or doing a curtsy? What do you think the Queen would be wearing? Where would you serve her the tea? What questions would you like to ask the Queen? Would you sing Happy Birthday to her? Have a practice! Then tell the story using the ideas your children have provided. You could ask the question, "What do you think the Queen likes doing the most?" Helping people, perhaps? If so, do you think she might help you do the washing up?!

God Save the Queen!

Older children might like to find *all* the verses for the National Anthem. Which words might remind us of the story of King Josiah?

Vicki Howie

IN CONVERSATION WITH...SUSANNE BEARD

The long road to St Bartholomew's ...



A 'cradle Anglican' and lifelong churchgoer, Susanne's Christian faith lies at the core of her life.

Unsurprisingly, therefore, finding the right church at which to worship has always been a high priority for her wherever she

has lived. In our conversation together she was keen to tell me about the route she followed to reach St Bart's.

For twenty years Susanne and her family were based in Hong Kong; whilst her husband, Andrew, was the director responsible for the design and implementation of the Lantau Link, including the Tsing Ma Bridge (the longest combined road and rail span bridge in the world), Susanne worked in the psychology department of the university. In many ways her journey to St Bart's began in Hong Kong when Susanne became a member of the beautiful little Anglican church, St Stephen's Chapel in Stanley. As well as singing in the choir, Susanne taught in the Sunday school and her children went to Crusaders. She spoke warmly of the 'fantastic vicar' who was so welcoming and who embraced people of all nationalities and of 'all faiths and none'. Indeed, Susanne so loved the inclusivity of St Stephen's that, on returning to England, she knew it would be hard to find another church where she could have the same sense of belonging. This was the ideal she was searching for.

On arrival in England in 1996 Susanne attended services at a variety of churches to try to find another St Stephen's but none rose to the mark. In fact the first real step towards St Bart's happened rather indirectly. Susanne walks regularly with a group of girlfriends in Knole Park and one of the women told her about a choir she had recently joined - the Mill Lane Gospel Choir. Susanne missed the singing she had enjoyed in Hong Kong and so went along to try it out. There she sat next to 'a wonderful lady' called Pam Dullage. Pam invited her to the Methodist Church in Otford but Susanne was unsure that this would be right for her so Pam told her about St Bart's which she described as 'a friendly church with a lovely lady vicar'. Susanne had known several female vicars in Hong Kong all of whom had won her admiration – she told me they had all been 'good eggs and down to earth – lovers of souls as they say'.

The next step in the journey occurred on a Bank Holiday Monday in 2006 when Susanne just happened to pass the Church Hall in Otford and saw that a sale was taking place linked to the Parable of the Talents (part of the 'Building On' project). This parable has always been important to Susanne so she paused to take another look. In the entrance porch stood Nobby Brackett who welcomed Susanne 'as usual Nobby can!' He explained to her what was going on and pointed out Pat Hopkins, the vicar. Susanne went to speak to her and immediately felt at ease in her company. Susanne then walked on to explore St Bart's and found it to be a beautiful church with services to meet everyone's needs. She decided to give it a go and worked her way through the different types of service. A little later, when Pat retired and there was an interregnum, Susanne's help was sought in preparing lunches for prospective

incumbents. Since then she has never stopped helping. Current roles include singing with the music group, Messy Church, Sunday Club, occasionally helping with EPIC, cooking, flower arranging, reading and saying prayers.

Susanne said we are 'so blessed' to have Richard as our vicar now; she admires his ability to find the classic Anglican 'middle way' and spoke enthusiastically about the 'wonderful sermons' he preaches. She now feels 'hugely part of the church community' and said the music group has been 'such a blessing' in her life. After her long search, she has clearly found a new 'home' to match St Stephen's Chapel!

Reflecting on 'the prods' that led her to St Bart's, Susanne quoted a friend of hers who said, 'If God tells you something once you

should think about it, if he tells you twice you should really pay attention, but if he tells you three times you had better jolly well do it'. A similar approach applies to the use of our talents – a subject on which Susanne has firmly held views. She believes that God gave us talents for a purpose and that whilst using them might be hard work, the flip side is that we will be richly rewarded in return. We should not ignore God's prompts to put them to good use!

Christeen Malan

Susanne helping with a 'Building On' fundraising event at Chevening Gardens, July 2007





IN MEMORIAM



Doreen Ivy Morgan, 1925 - 2016

Doreen was born in 1925, met and married Bill and whilst not having children themselves, the couple acted in loco parentis to their nephews, Michael and Julian, who were boarders at Sevenoaks School before going on to university, because their parents worked abroad. The boys regarded Doreen very much as a replacement mother.

As a resident in Sydney Gardens, Doreen filled her days helping others. She became a volunteer helper at Dunton Green Primary School, helping children with their reading.

For many years she was a volunteer at Sevenoaks Hospital, giving it up when she reached her 90th birthday. For a while she also helped out at our village Lunch Club.

Among her interests was bowling, which she played for many years. She was extremely hospitable and welcomed many people to her home to share a meal, showing her love of cooking and entertaining. Her friends and family will remember her lively conversation and interest in and understanding of others. She remained active and interested in life until she passed peacefully away surrounded by her nephews and their families, who will miss her greatly.

Berney Baughen, 1927-2016

Berney Charles was the second child of Charles and Gladys Baughen. Unfortunately, his parents split up and Berney and his older brother were placed at a Shaftsbury Home school. Berney was put in Royston at first and then Bisley. Life was tough at the school but it stood him in good stead.

When he left school at 14 he worked as a clerk in an advertising agency. A couple of years later he met Alice and they were married on 1st December 1945 (he was 18 and she was 17). It was also about this time he served in the Royal Navy on HMS Sharpshooter.

With a wife and three children to look after, Berney moved the family to Orpington in about 1954. It was a brave move at a time when it wasn't usual to buy your own home.

After serving his country, Berney learnt about the print trade design. In the second half of the 50's, Berney suggested to Save the Children Fund that they should print Charity Christmas cards and they agreed. Berney was also responsible for introducing Christmas cards to Oxfam.

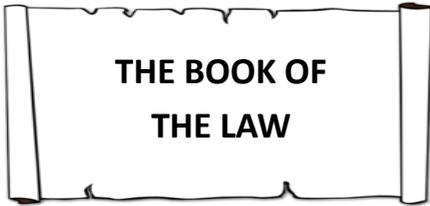
It was around this time that the family moved to Downe. This was the start of their love affair with gardening. They became involved with Irises in 1983 and joined the British Iris Society of which Berney became President. He gained over 150 BIS awards and the American Iris Society's top award.

Berney and Alice moved to Knighton Road, Otford in 2005 but he still continued growing and hybridising Irises up until the end of 2015.

On 1st December 2015 they achieved a milestone with their Platinum, or 70th wedding anniversary. And during this long period of married life apart from being blessed with three children of their own they also had three grandsons and one granddaughter and eventually five great-granddaughters were added to the family.

On 6th March the sun set on Berney's body but his spirit and inspiration will continue growing.

ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES



To whom it may concern

"I am Josiah, King of Judah. I was eight years old when my Father was killed. Until I was sixteen there was a regency. For as long as I can remember I wanted to do God's will and I was much blessed in having the prophet Jeremiah, and Zephaniah a kinsman from my own royal house, to advise and guide me. There was much abuse of religious practices in the nation and we started to try to tackle the problems one by one. What really gave impetus though was a chance discovery in the Temple of a "Book of the Law". I had sent my agent to arrange for the payment of the Temple masons and carpenters and he found that an ancient scroll had been unearthed. We consulted with the High Priest and showed it to a prophetess named Huldah who confirmed that this was a sacred document relating to the teaching of Moses and it showed how much our nation had drifted from God and that doom would come.

This is what I did about it.

- I tore down the temple chambers which were being used by male prostitutes
- I burnt those sacred vessels which were used for worshipping alien Gods
- I demolished the high places where Baal was being worshipped

- I banished witches and all others involved in the occult
- I executed the priests who were conducting idolatrous worship
- I desecrated the place where child sacrifice took place
- I restored the Passover which had not been celebrated for 300 years

All this I did in accordance with the teaching of the Book of the Law. The prophetess Huldah said that doom would not come to the nation until after my death. Nevertheless I pray that God will not hold my people to account for the sins of our forefathers and of ourselves."

Thus might Josiah have written if he had composed his memoirs. He lived from 640-601 BC. The "Book of the Law" was probably what we know as the book Deuteronomy. The astonishing list of abuses that he tackled showed how far the kingdom had fallen. Given the presence of the sex workers in the Temple and the dedication of the artefacts to satanic purposes, it is hard to see how this wonderful building could be called in any real way The House of God.

We might conclude that when a nation turns its back on the best influences of the past it is sowing the seeds of its own destruction. Baal worship was attractive because it made no moral demands. It encouraged you to enjoy depravity.

By the same token a rediscovery of God's call to us can change the lives not only of individuals but of communities, even in the face of many vested interests and deeply engrained practices such as confronted Josiah.

MISSION MATTERS...SCRIPTURE UNION

Scripture Union is an international mission movement that was founded over 140 years ago. They work in over 120 countries making God's good news known to children, young people and families and encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. Their goal is that all may come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need.

The Scripture Union story

In June 1867 Josiah Spiers spoke to fifteen children in a drawing room in Islington, London, pioneering a new approach to sharing Christ with children. These meetings grew rapidly and soon the Children's Special Service Mission, or CSSM, was formed, later becoming Scripture Union.

Tom Bishop, was involved in a similar meeting in South London and met Spiers in Spring 1868. They were to work together for the next forty years, establishing a ministry which by 1893 had distributed 13 million children's leaflets in fifty languages all around the world.

Later on in 1868, Spiers went on holiday to Llandudno in North Wales and spontaneously held a children's meeting on the beach. He drew the text 'God is Love' in the sand, invited children to decorate it, and then told them a Bible story. The beach mission was born.

In 1879 CSSM introduced a system of daily Bible reading, the Children's Scripture Union. Initially members received an annual membership card with a list of daily readings and suggestions for prayer. Later, children's magazines were produced with explanatory notes. Booklets of notes were published for troops in the trenches during the Great War from 1914-18, and led to the first issue of Daily Notes for adults in 1923.

The first Boy's Camp was held in 1892 in Littlehampton. The following year, the Caravan Mission to Village Children (CMVC) was started, using a baker's cart to travel from village to village. The CMVC became part of CSSM, but both names were dropped in the 1960s when Scripture Union became the name of the movement as a whole.

After the second world war, SU developed a new kind of ministry in state schools, the Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF), paving the way for the schools ministry which is so significant today.

Pioneering and developing ministry has always been a feature of Scripture Union's ministry, and it continues today, via websites and related digital ministries such as [WordLive](#), [LightLive](#) and [SchoolsLive](#). The context may change but the need of children and young people remains the same.

As a church we use Scripture Union resources in our children's work, adults use Bible reading notes and members of the congregation have been involved in Beach missions.

Over the summer please pray:

- For the children and young people who attend holidays and beach missions, that they would meet with Jesus
- Pray that all those involved in preparing Bible reading guides, whether in print or digital form, will be inspired and able to help readers engage with the text in lifechanging ways
- For those SU partners working in schools, that they would make good contacts and build meaningful relationships with young people in their school environments

THE NIGHT SKY IN OTFORD JUNE 2016



Some of the terms used in astronomy can be extremely confusing to the man or woman in the street. One such that I've used in these articles before is the "ecliptic". This can be described as the plane of the Earth's orbit

around the Sun. However, it is equally true to refer to it as the yearly path of the Sun against the stellar background. Most people are aware that the constellations in the night sky change gradually throughout the year because, for instance, we refer to Orion, Taurus and Gemini as being "winter" groups. So you may wonder where these constellations are at other times of the year. The answer is that they are above the horizon during the day; in fact at the summer solstice on June 21st, the Sun lies on the border between Orion and Taurus. This change is brought about by the yearly motion of the Earth around the Sun which gives us a slightly different view of the sky each night until after a year we are back where we started. By looking at fig 1 you can see on day one that an observer

on the night side of Earth is looking towards a particular group of stars but by day two we have moved on a little in our orbit leaving our observer looking at a very slightly different portion of the sky. This is a rather simplified explanation which I'll expand on another time when I talk about the difference between the "sidereal" day and the "solar" day.

The Moon and planets are found in a narrow band that centres on the ecliptic called the zodiac. The reason these bodies are found in a narrow strip of the sky is because their planes of rotation are very similar. To put it another way, if you drew a series of ellipses (the planets' orbits) on a sheet of paper and then looked at it edge on, you wouldn't be very far from the truth. Mercury's orbit has the largest deviation from the ecliptic and that is only seven degrees.

If you look out a little after 10pm on June 21st, the line of the ecliptic will be obvious because it will be marked by the three planets Saturn, Mars and Jupiter stretching from the south to the west as shown in fig 2. Three bright stars are also shown to help with identification. They are Antares (c), Spica (b) and Regulus (a).

Brian Mills FRAS

Fig 1

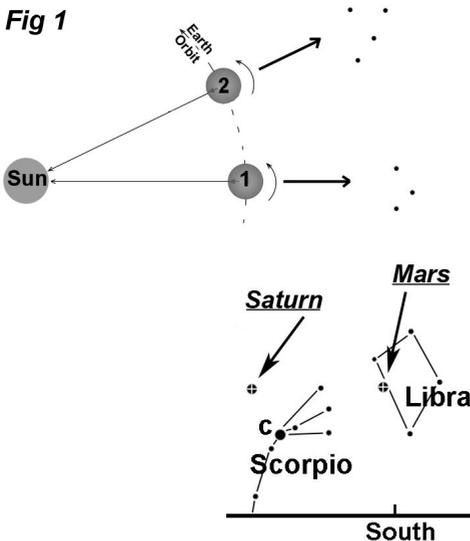
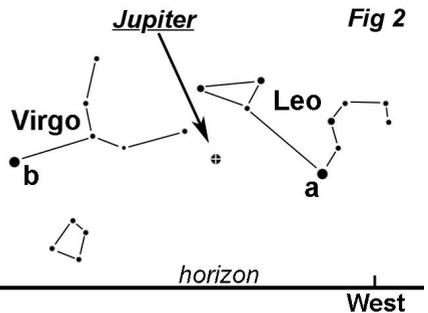


Fig 2



OUT AND ABOUT...



OTFORD EVENING W.I. will meet on Thursday, June the 9th at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall when our speaker will be Lucy Allen.

Her subject is 'From Titanic to Harry Potter' - sounds intriguing.

We are a friendly group and visitors will be made very welcome, so if you need any more information please contact 01959 524831.



DISCOVER ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

The South East Open Studios event takes place in June across the county.

Two Artists who live and work in Otford warmly welcome visitors to come to their workplaces on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during June (3rd 4th 5th and on 10th 11th 12th and 17th 18th 19th)

For Paintings, Prints and Cards visit Ann Bridges at 6A High St. (above Willow Residential Estate Agents, next to Pond View Tea Rooms). Opening hours 10.00 - 5.00pm.

For indoor and outdoor Sculpture (Glass, Ceramic, Resin and Bronze) visit Angela Bishop at 5 Broughton Road .

Opening hours 11.00 - 5.00pm.

For more information visit www.seos-art.org or contact Ann (07906 310021) or Angela (07967 965202).



OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

Following on from the great success of last year's day coach trip to Hardelet we are now looking forward to Saturday 3 September 2016 when the children will be able to enjoy more activities with Isabelle from the Office de Tourisme or, if they prefer, to take part in the Boucles d'Hardelet running races (1 and 2 kilometers for the children and 10 kilometers for the adults). You may prefer to explore the village and the beach area by yourself. We could even challenge our "Twins" in a petanque tournament. Let us know what you would like to do.

Just £38 per adult, children FREE (plus £5 per adult, £10 per family if you have not yet paid your subscription for 2016). Please contact Jane Lawrey for an application form. (kl@sevmail.co.uk)

FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the Thursday 5th May the whole of Year 4 had an Anglo Saxon day. We went into the Hall and a storyteller recited the story of Beowulf. Beowulf was a Knight who lived in the Danish countryside in a small village far from the capital. He heard that a monster Grendel had laid a terrible curse on the country. Beowulf gathered his men and

rode off to protect the King. Whilst Beowulf was riding to the capital, Grendel savagely slayed all of the Kings' Knights and wounded the King terribly. On arriving in the capital Beowulf set a trap for Grendel, and ambushed him, ripping off his arm. Grendel fled to the icy pool where his mother lived, and Beowulf hunted Grendel to

the pool and killed him. Beowulf was triumphant and was treated as a hero.

During the rest of the Anglo Saxon day we had to sketch in gold silver and bronze an Anglo Saxon helmet. Anglo Saxon helmets had nose plates to protect soldier's faces in battle. There were lots of battles in Anglo Saxon times

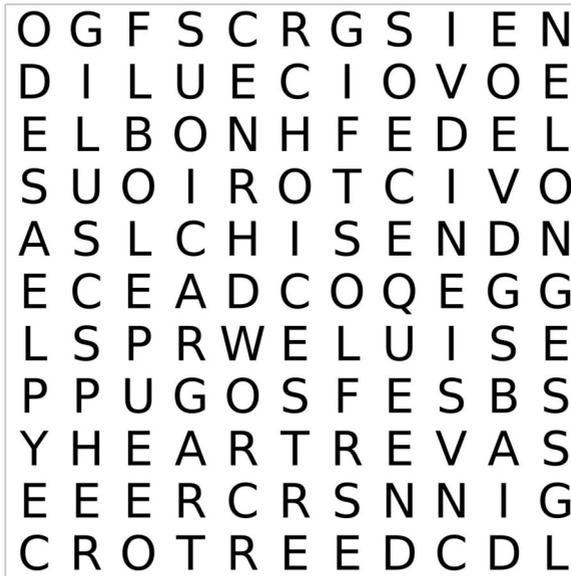
between the British, the Romans, the Picts and the Scots. Most of the battles were about land and power.

I really enjoyed the day because we took part in lots of exciting activities and I increased my knowledge about the Anglo Saxons.

Max W, Mallards, Class Year 4

PUZZLE PAGE

In honour of the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, this month we are basing the Wordsearch on words found in the national anthem of the United Kingdom: 'God Save the Queen'. The anthem dates back to London in September 1745, and first appeared as 'God Save the King' during a time of political tension. Both the words and tune are anonymous, but about 140 composers, including Beethoven, Haydn and Brahms, have used the tune in their compositions.



God
Save
Gracious
Queen
Long
Live
Noble

Send
Victorious
Happy
Glorious
Reign
Choicest
Gifts

Store
Pleased
Defend
Laws
Cause
Heart
Voice

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Sweet Potato and Butternut Squash Soup

Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS

1 pkt pre-chopped sweet potato and butternut squash mix 350 g (Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose all sell this) I find the butternut squash too hard to cut!

1 small onion chopped

1 carrot peeled and chopped

1 pint water

1 stock cube

Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

Put all ingredients into a saucepan and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10-15 mins until soft. Blitz in a liquidiser or with a blender.

Add 2 fluid ounces/ 50 ml of orange juice if required, I find it adds to the flavour.

Heat and serve with a swirl of creme fraiche.

Enjoy!

Joan Beacom

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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)