

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

July/August	8.00am	10.00am		6.30pm
3 July – 7 August	Holy Communion	Sunday Club Celebration Service — All Together Worship	-	Evensong
10 July – 14 August	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
17 July – 21 August	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
24 July –	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
31 July	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 at the St Bart's Youth Weekend 2015

Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services (see page 37)

Magazine No. 07/08 Volume 86

READER'S REFLECTION

The summer holidays! Children are excited about the long break from school, and often a time away in Britain or abroad. Parents also look forward to it, though by the end of August many are desperate for school to start again! Summer is a time for families to be together having fun, and yes, sometimes getting bored and quarrelsome.

I wonder what 'family' means to you? What if you don't have a nuclear family of your own, or they live a long way away? Summer can be difficult for people in that situation, as normal weekly events are suspended for the holidays. It's easy to feel isolated.

Perhaps we need to expand our vision of what 'family' can mean. Especially when it comes to bringing up our children. Many of us struggle with parenting, feeling like failures when our kids get into trouble or lack motivation. Particularly when it comes to bringing up children in our Christian faith. I've been involved recently with some research on this topic. Many parents don't know where to start, and they are looking for help.

Godparents can of course be a great help in children's faith journeys. Sometimes godparenting has been all about the presents! But many go far beyond this, staying in close touch with the child, praying for them and helping them to learn about Jesus. Grandparents do a brilliant job too. But could we widen the circle of those who support in this way?

I recently came across an idea which might help. Inspired by the African proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child', a Christian couple have set up a website called 'The Life Village' to promote the idea of a big and active extended family to support each child. The idea is that

the parents approach people who have particular skills or interests or resources and ask them to contribute these in support of the child. An older couple say that they will provide



parenting advice when requested. A young cousin offers to encourage musical gifts. A single friend who lives nearby takes the child out for treats, particularly at times when Mum and Dad are very busy. A keen football fan introduces the child to the highs and lows of supporting a team. There are many more examples on the website: www.thelifevillage.com.

It's easy to see how this idea can bless those who have no traditional family network close at hand, as they become involved in a child's upbringing. But don't feel that this is the only way you can reach out to isolated neighbours this summer. Why not invite someone round for a barbecue? Who knows, it might even stave off that family argument about whether the meat is under or over cooked!

*Bill Lattimer
Reader*





DIARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2016

There will be no said service of Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays during July/August

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

JULY

- 2 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 3 **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
 - 8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**
 - 10.00 am **Sunday Club Celebration**
 - 12.30 pm **Parish BBQ (Church Centre)**
 - 6.30 pm **Evensong**
- 4 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 5 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 6 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed), coffee afterwards
11.00 am 'First Steps' Summer Praise Service (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
followed by Teddy Bears' Picnic
- 8-10 Church Youth Weekend at Kench Hill
- 10 **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
 - 8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**
 - 10.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**
- 11 7.15 pm Men's Walk (meet in Church car park)
7.45 pm Summer get-together (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed)
- 17 **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
 - 8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**
 - 10.00 am **Morning Worship**
 - 6.30 pm **Evensong**
- 18 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 19 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 20 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed), coffee afterwards
- 24 **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
 - 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP) (The Revd. Canon Chris Dench)**
 - 10.00 am **Holy Communion (The Revd. Canon Chris Dench)**
- 25 7.45 pm Coffee and discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 27 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed)
- 31 **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
 - 8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Adie McCall)**
 - 10.00 am **Morning Worship**

AUGUST

- 1 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson) coffee afterwards
- 6 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 7 The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)
10.00 am All Together Worship
1.30 pm Wedding of Alex Rose and Jennifer-Anne Chambers
(Rev. Elizabeth Robertson)
6.30 pm Evensong
- 8 7.45 pm Coffee and discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 10 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson)
Magazine material for the September edition by today, please to the Church Office, st.bartholomews@otford.net
- 13 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 14 The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)
- 15 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 17 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall), coffee afterwards
- 21 The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)
10.00 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Evensong
- 22 7.45 pm Focus (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 24 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall)
8.00 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)
- 28 The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)
- 29 7.45 pm Bank Holiday meeting
- 31 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall)



Registers



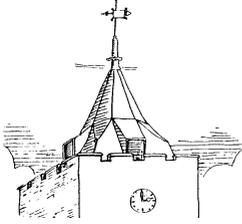
BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

28th May Orson Jacob Henry **Reed**

FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)

19th May John Anthony **Miller** (aged 87)

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturdays 2nd July and 6th August

Anyone able to support the regular team will be most welcome from 9.00 am together with any useful tools - and even skills!

SUNDAY CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE

This takes place on Sunday 3rd July at the 10.00 am service when the three Sunday Club groups will be contributing to different parts of the service. There will continue to be basic provision for children on all the Sundays throughout the summer weeks.

PARISH SUMMER BBQ AND BRING & SHARE LUNCH IN THE CHURCH CENTRE

Sunday 3rd July, 12.30 pm

You are warmly invited to our parish summer BBQ at the Church Centre from 12 noon onwards. The burgers and sausages will be provided and the rest will be on a bring and share basis (and please bring your own drinks). We invite those with the surnames A-K to bring a pudding and those with the surnames L-Z to bring salads and savouries. Do come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a relaxed afternoon as the summer holidays approach.



MEN'S GROUP WALK

11th JULY

Our ever popular evening walk with pub stops will be on Monday, 11th July. We will meet in the church car park at 7.15 pm. No need to let us know but if you want to make sure we do not go

without you, please let Clive know in the office.
01959 523185

Douglas Howie will be leading us again. The last three years the forecast has been pretty bad but it has cleared up quickly and we have had a really good evening. So don't be put off by bad weather (in the worst case we can always adjourn to an Otford pub!).

Put it in your diary now, don't delay

THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE & HIKE Saturday 10th September

This will be held between 10.00am and 6.00 pm. Potential sponsors will be most welcome. We are looking for a rota of people to welcome visiting cyclists and walkers to sign them in. If you can spare an hour or two, please contact the Church Office on 01959 523185. The money we raise is divided between Friends of Kent Churches and our parish.

PARISH PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

A new leaflet to guide our many visitors to St Bartholomew's can now be found on the table by the new door. The aim is to provide brief information about the various things to be seen both inside and outside the building. The extension, built since the previous leaflet was published, is included in it. In the event of any reordering the leaflet will be revised.

A longer, illustrated guide to the church is in preparation. Another volume covering the organists and music of St Bart's is also on the way.

The authors would be pleased to have any extra information which may be relevant to either publication and a note of any errors in the current leaflet. Please pass these, in writing, through the church office.

ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

The Rich Young Man (Mark 10)

I recently overheard a group of young children talking about what they wanted to be when they grew up. The usual jobs were voiced – a teacher, a policeman, a doctor, a hairdresser. Then one boy mentioned an unusual job. He wanted to be a philanthropist! When the other children asked him to explain, he said, “I’ve heard that a philanthropist is a person with a lot of money who uses it to help less fortunate people.” He was essentially correct. My dictionary gives the definition, “A person who performs charitable or beneficial acts for the benefit of mankind.”

I smiled to myself as I heard this conversation and I thought of an incident told in the Bible about Jesus meeting a rich young man. It’s rather a tragic story . . .

The young man told Jesus that he kept God’s Commandments and led a good life. He asked, “What else do I need to do to get eternal life?” Jesus told him, “Give all your wealth to the poor. Then come and follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sadly. Then Jesus commented to His friends, the disciples, “It’s hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” The young man was being asked to choose between wealth and God, and wealth won.

So he wasn’t as good as he thought! He couldn’t make the necessary sacrifice of sharing his wealth. His wealth made his life very comfortable. It gave him power and prestige. When Jesus told him to get rid of that wealth He was touching the basis of the young man’s security and identity. He kept the Commandments and lived a good life, but his

love of his wealth kept him from being perfect. It kept him from understanding that he would be even more secure if he followed Jesus. His problem wasn’t so much his wealth as his love of it. His covetousness destroyed his ideals and made him settle for less.

He certainly wasn’t a philanthropist. His wealth wasn’t for sharing. The boy with his group of friends had somehow understood the message that the rich young man had failed to grasp. Because we live in a consumer-driven society, the love of wealth and possessions can hold us back from recognising how we can benefit ourselves by helping others. We are blessed to be a blessing to others, if we choose, because,

It’s not what you’d do with a million

If riches should e’er be your lot,

But what you are doing at present

With the pennies and pounds that you’ve got!

Margaret Lidbetter, Reader

Give away my wealth, then follow you?
HA, HA.. very funny, now seriously
what should I do?





DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

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

At Sevenoaks District Council we are determined to preserve the range and quality of services that you, our residents, tell us that you want. We keep costs down by making constant savings and working in partnership with others – but always by focussing on you – the customer.

We have set our budget for 2016/17 – which is balanced for ten years without relying on Government financial support by way of revenue support grant or New Homes Bonus. We believe we are the first financially self-sufficient council in the country.

Our Licensing Partnership with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Councils is now in its sixth year and the London Borough of Bexley is about to join the partnership.

We had some excellent news last month – we have become the first local authority to secure the new Investors in People (IIP) Platinum Award. IIP introduced the new tougher Platinum standard last year in order to single out the very best employers; SDC has become the first public sector organisation to achieve the award and one of only four organisations in total.

This is particularly impressive considering that it was achieved against a background of huge efficiency savings and redundancies.

As part of our independent living agenda (helping people to live in their own homes for as long as possible and out of hospital) we have launched two new dementia friendly initiatives.

The first is the Shop Safe scheme which is designed to help vulnerable people and those living with dementia – and to give peace of mind to their relatives and friends. Businesses are encouraged to join the scheme (which involves

completing a simple form that also gives them free advertising on our website) and to display a Shop Safe, Stay Safe sign advising people that they can enter that business and receive help if they need it.

Residents who sign up provide details of a family member, friend or carer to contact in the event of an emergency. They are also given a keyring with a unique code and, if they need help, businesses can call Sevenoaks District Council with the unique code and the Council will call their emergency contact.

It would be fabulous if as many businesses in Otford signed up to the scheme as possible.

The second dementia friendly initiative involves the Council training taxi drivers and community transport volunteers to help passengers with dementia.

We also managed to scoop two prestigious CCTV industry awards: the 'Operators Team of the Year' and the 'CCTV Management and Innovation Award' at this year's CCTV User Group Awards in Warwickshire on Tuesday 24th May 2016.

The 'Operators Team of the Year' award recognised outstanding work resulting from two incidents. The first was the Westerham Costa Coffee car crash last Christmas and the second was the major bomb hoax at the Sevenoaks branch of the Santander Bank in February. In both cases the CCTV control room was able to relay vital live images and intelligence to Kent Police to aid their response.



With best wishes, Michelle

LYRICS AND LIVES: HYMN WRITERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES

John Bell and the Iona Community

We sing John Bell's hymns on a regular basis. Their modern style sets them apart from the rest and they need to be understood in the context of the Iona Community within which Bell works.

Iona is a tiny Scottish island jutting into the Atlantic. Over the last 1,500 years it has been home to a succession of Christian communities and is the burial ground of Celtic kings.

The first Abbey was founded in 563 by the Irish prince St Columba. From here he and his followers evangelised Scotland and helped to establish the Celtic church of the day.

Much later, over a period of many years the Abbey was sacked and the monks murdered by invading Norsemen but by the 11th century it was their converted descendants who rebuilt the Abbey and it became a place of pilgrimage for thousands.

The Abbey was suppressed during the Reformation and fell into disrepair but was eventually passed to the Church of Scotland in 1899. Since then it has gradually been restored and grown into a centre of peace and pilgrimage. It was rededicated in 1959 in the presence of the Queen.

The driving force behind the modern rebirth of Iona was George Macleod, a soldier turned priest. He served in the parish of Govan, on the Clyde, during the interwar depression and saw for himself the social problems and alienation caused by poverty. He wanted to close the gap between real life and theoretical theology, trying to interweave the spiritual and

material. Thus with a group of unemployed craftsmen from his parish and some trainee priests, and under the guidance of architect Ian Lyndsey, he set out to restore Iona's Abbey. From this group came the beginnings of the Iona Community.

John Bell's hymns also seek to join man to the spiritual. As a member of the Community he follows the pattern of working away from the island, (many work in industry or in mission), whilst participating in the common rule of prayer and study. The general aims of the Community are mission, the ministry of healing, political involvement and worship. This all helps to explain why these ideas are found carefully intertwined in his hymns.

John's own role is to lecture in theology in universities and parishes at home and overseas. However, his primary concern is the renewal of worship at the grass roots. He is interested in experimenting with new forms of worship and his Glasgow based Wild Goose Resource Group aims to equip clergy and congregations with new material relevant to worship in the modern age. His music plays a vital part in bringing people of all ages and denominations to Iona to renew their spiritual strength in a busy world.

Gillian Shilling



FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

The Riches of Summer

Pause for thought: The Bible tells the story of a rich farmer in Luke 12:13-21. God blesses him with rich soil, plentiful crops and overflowing barns. Does he use his wealth to bless others? No, there is no mention of anyone else in the story. He stores it all up for himself to enjoy at a future date. But his plans come to nothing because he dies suddenly. Poor man! The farmer is rich in worldly terms but in God's eyes he is poor. Jesus says that the richness of a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Instead, we are to set our hearts on what is important to God – and he will provide us with what we need.

We all long for a rich family life. However, it is all too easy to become obsessed with things that, in the end, are not really important, (being the last one in the office, being a slave to housework, etc!) instead of spending valuable time with our families.

Take time to think what aspects of life may have become unwieldy. Perhaps the summer months and some time away from the usual routine are a good opportunity to get things back into perspective.

A summer ramble



Enjoy a family hike up Otford Mount or along the footpaths and see how many fields and barns you can spot. Tell the story of the 'rich fool' in your own words, building in lots of repetition, ie the farmer grows so many crops that his old barn can't hold them all, so he tears it down and builds a bigger barn. The following year, he grows even *more* crops and

the new barn is *still* not big enough, so he builds an even *bigger* barn, etc. Get everyone to describe their idea of a huge, grand barn with fancy additions! Imagine the party he was planning – for himself!

At the end, you could chat about the following things:

- In what ways do you think the farmer was rich? (Soil, crops, money)
- What do you think he was *not* rich in? (Generosity, friends, love)
- What do you think happened to all the food and money he had squirreled away for himself? (Rotted, eaten by mice, etc)

Garden art

The summer is a great time to be creative. Before the children break up, why not invest in some new paints, crayons, drawing pads and craft items for those times when they are wondering what to do.

Try drawing the story of the foolish farmer on a fine day in the garden. Take a big piece of paper (A3) and draw round a side plate to make a circle in the middle. Then everyone in turn takes a crayon for a circular wiggly walk around the outside of this, crisscrossing other people's lines so that you create lots of spaces for drawing.

Now read the story slowly from the Bible (Luke 12:13-21), pausing at the end of each section for three minutes. Invite everyone to draw whatever comes to mind in one of the spaces each time. This might be a person, a building, a plant, an animal, a colour or a symbol.

At the end of the story, discuss as a family what

you think the story is all about (greed, perhaps). Decide how you will express this in a final drawing that you all complete in the circle in the centre. This might be based on one of the other drawings, or it could be an entirely new one.

The shopping game!

During the holidays, we may need to take children to the supermarket with us. Turn this into a useful game by getting them to look around the house and make a list of fruit, vegetables, cleaning stuff, etc needed, thereby avoiding waste. They might think up various recipes for the week that require similar ingredients. At the shop, ask for their help in filling the trolley and resist impulse buys! Once home, get them to help putting the things away and explain how to store different types of goods. What would happen to the various items if you put them in the wrong place?



You might like to buy something to donate to our local food bank, Loaves and Fishes. Non-perishable goods can be left in the marked box at the back of church. Can everyone think of things in life that cannot go off, be stolen, etc?

At a family meal, encourage everyone to improve table manners by offering food to others before taking it for themselves!

A rich family life

Here are some ideas that might contribute to a rich family life:

- Book a weekly/monthly babysitter so that parents can have a couple of hours alone together!
- Create a memory box in which to store

a few items that remind everyone of certain stages in their lives (eg special artwork, concert programmes, tickets, photos) or things that were important to them

- Make a collage of family photos to hang on the wall
- Create strong family traditions
- Have regular family games eg Scrabble, hide and seek
- Camp out in the garden and cook sausages on a camp fire



Do not worry: Paper flowers

You will need: cardboard cups cut from an egg carton, coloured paper, yellow tissue paper, green straws, orange paint, glue, blue tack

Paint the cups orange and leave to dry. Cut petal shapes from the coloured paper, glue to the base of the cups and leave to dry. Scrunch up small pieces of the tissue paper and glue inside the cups. When dry, press blue tack to the back of the flower and press a straw in place for the stalk.

Link with the idea that since God clothes the flowers so beautifully, he will certainly see that we have the things we need.

Vicki Howie

IN CONVERSATION WITH...TONY GROGAN

A few years before he was due to retire, Tony was in the gym when a poster on the wall caught his eye. It was advertising a charity walk in Patagonia and, although Tony never participated in that particular expedition, it marked the beginning of his commitment to raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support (in memory of his sister, Shirley) through sponsored trekking and climbing. There can be few other people who, on reaching the age of sixty, annually undertake arduous walks in often remote places whilst cumulatively raising many tens of thousands of pounds for a good cause. Tony says that his wife, Pam, is fully supportive of his activities – especially since she often flies out with a friend to have a parallel holiday before joining up with Tony at the end of a trek!

So far Tony has been to the Canadian Rockies, Costa Rica, Peru, Mount Kilimanjaro, Nepal, Romania (Carpathian Mountains), the French Alps, the Jordan desert, Cuba, Iceland and Cambodia. Usually he walks a minimum of 100 kilometres on each trip (not to mention the continuous training and preparation beforehand) and there have been many memorable steep ascents! Tony considers himself very lucky to have been able to go to such interesting places and to have met so many 'lovely people'. Whilst Tony clearly relishes the challenges he undertakes, his dedication and good work have also been recognised by Macmillan; in 2014 he was awarded the 'Douglas Macmillan Award' which only goes to those volunteers who make an exceptional and outstanding contribution over a significant period of time. In November this year Tony will be putting on his hiking boots again to trek through the tea plantations and rural byways of Kerala, South India. If you would like to sponsor him, please go to -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TonyGrogan-india>



Tony told me that one of the pleasures of walking for Macmillan is the fact that he does not have to organise the expedition. After fifty eight years in the Scout Association, acting variously as Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner, District Chairman, and Chairman of the District Safety Committee, Tony is very happy to let someone else do the planning! Although Tony is modest about this, it should be mentioned that his loyalty to the Scouting Movement was recognised in 1996 when he was awarded the Silver Acorn; an award given only to those who have served for many years and whose service has been 'specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding'.

Tony is still involved with the Scouts as Chairman of the District Safety Committee for the Borough of Croydon – a very responsible role since Croydon has 42 Scout Groups, many with their own premises, as well as two camp sites. However Tony is well qualified to fill this position since he has over 50 years' experience in civil and structural engineering as well as 27 years' experience as a Health and Safety Professional. These skills have also been of great benefit to St Bart's; Tony has spent many years on the Fabric Committee and has played an invaluable role in the Church's building projects. He has also been Sacristan at St Bart's for 22 years.

Brought up in a committed, churchgoing family, Tony's Christian faith has always been important to him. He told me that 'he has never slackened in his beliefs' and that 'for me prayer really works'. Not wishing to force Christianity on anyone, he nevertheless believes that faith borne out by example can be a powerful influence. He spoke of how, as a Scout Leader, he would encourage boys who were open to Christianity to arrange a service and that, over time, three of those boys went on to become church ministers.

Tony's desire to make the most of his life is not only influenced by his faith but also by his longstanding involvement with the Freemasons with their emphasis on morality, charity and truth. Interestingly his wish to put his talents to best use has taken him in some surprising directions, not least when he volunteered for the 2012 London Paralympics and ending up acting and dancing on stage, in an excerpt from the Tempest, with Sir Ian McKellen and a little girl in a wheelchair! After the Olympics the Mayor set up 'Team London' to encourage continued volunteering; as a member of this team Tony has helped with sponsored runs and

cycle rides, as well as doing a stint each year as a team leader welcoming summer arrivals at Gatwick Airport.

Tony also continues to work part time as a professional Health and Safety Manager. When I expressed my amazement at all he manages to do, he replied simply, 'That's how I choose to live my life.'

Christeen Malan



MISSION MATTERS...



HAGEP (Hope Alive Girls Empowerment Programme) is extremely grateful to St. Bartholomew's Church for the kind donation that was received from the Church's mission fund. Below is some information about HAGEP and the work that they do in Kenya:



There are 600 million girls living in the developing world. Two-thirds of the world's uneducated children are girls, and two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Around the world, girls and women continue to suffer from a lack of economic opportunity; inadequate healthcare and education; early marriage; sexual violence; and discrimination. Every girl has the right to an education, but sadly this is not a reality for many girls. Too often poverty, early marriage, teenage pregnancies and lack of sanitary facilities prevent girls from receiving the

education they deserve; therefore they don't rise to their potential. HAGEP (Hope Alive Girls Empowerment Programme) is an NGO working to bring back hope to bright girls from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

HAGEP was set up by two sisters who come from a needy family. They both benefitted from charity sponsorship programmes which enabled them to complete their school and college studies, and now they have successful jobs. These sisters are so grateful for the help they received to get where they are today, and decided they wanted to help other needy girls to continue their studies and not miss out on education.



Everybody who works for the organisation does so voluntarily, and these volunteers often give large amounts of their time and money to help empower needy girls in the Kakamega region of Western Kenya. HAGEP seeks to equip young women in the following ways:

- **Sponsorship programme:** providing school fees for bright girls to attend secondary school.

- **“Pledge a pad” initiative:** menstrual hygiene management training and distribution of sanitary pads in schools (girls often have no access to sanitary products, and therefore will miss up to a week of school every month. Providing them with sanitary pads helps to keep girls in school and ensure they don’t miss out on their education).
- **Life skills training programme:** lessons for teenage girls to equip them with the skills needed to be successful in the future.

contact them at hopealivegirls@yahoo.com or through their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/hagep.girls/



Whilst a lot of organisations in Kenya are set up by westerners, HAGEP is entirely run by Kenyans who can relate to the situations that these needy girls are in. They have far more cultural awareness of the circumstances these girls face than any westerner ever could. It is wonderful to see these women who have worked hard to get where they are today and want to do everything they can to ensure that other young girls can make successes of themselves, instead of marrying young and missing out on their education. If you want to know more about what they are doing, or to support their organisation financially, you can

A bit about us:

We are Rich and Harriet Bell, and baby Tobias has recently joined our family! We live in Kakamega, Western Kenya, where Rich works as an engineer building an office for an NGO, and Harri volunteers with HAGEP as well as running teacher development sessions. We are very involved in our church here, helping with the Sunday School and Bible studies. We love Kenya, pizza, beautiful places that God has created, sunshine and hearing people’s stories about their lives. If you’d like to get in touch, you can email us at harrietbell22@gmail.com



OUT AND ABOUT...



GIRLGUIDING OTFORD would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and bought cakes and drinks from them at Otford Village

Fete or donated Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers to them recently. Your support is greatly appreciated.

There are four very active units in the village, catering for girls aged 5 and up, but there are also long waiting lists for them and most of the units in the surrounding area. If you are female, aged 18 or over and would like to find out more about volunteering with Girlguiding locally to help girls reach their full potential, whilst having plenty of fun along the way, please contact them by registering your interest at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/register_your_interest.aspx

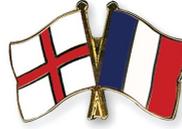


OTFORD EVENING WI will meet on July 14th in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Marilyn Bass will tell us about The Role of the RNL and its history and the training of the crews and lifeguards.

We will also be meeting on Thursday, August 11th in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, when Don Dray will give a lighthearted look back at The History of the British Seaside - an important part of our social history.

If you would like to join us please contact 01959 524831 for further information.



OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL-HARDELLOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The coach is booked for Saturday 3rd September 2016, leaving Otford at five

to six in the morning, crossing by ferry, but returning before 8.30pm, so that you will be able to have an early night!

It will be a fun day out, visiting our twin seaside town in France, between Boulogne and Le Touquet, for adults (£38) and children free (plus £5 per adult, £10 per family, if you have not yet paid your subscription for 2016) Please contact Jane Lawrey (kl@sevmail.co.uk) for an application form.

Our next Social Gathering is Monday 18th July from 7.30pm at the Woodman in Otford. Come and join us for a drink and a chat and hear more about our plans.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

A big thank you to all who made St Bartholomew's Fair such a great success. To all who gave things, those who worked so hard on the stalls, and of course to all who came and supported us on the afternoon itself. Thank you!

THE NIGHT SKY IN OTFORD JULY 2016



I spoke last month about how our view of the night sky changes as the seasons pass and how the Sun moves through the constellations over the course of a year. To understand more about

these subtle changes we need to look at the difference between a *sidereal* day and a *solar* day. Quite simply the former refers to the Earth rotating once by 360° . The latter is defined by the Earth rotating until it has returned to the same point with reference to the Sun. As we'll see the two are slightly different.

Using the diagram (which is viewing the solar system from above) imagine an observer standing at point "A" on the Earth on July 1st at noon looking towards the Sun which is due south. After approximately 23 hours 56 minutes the Earth has moved on slightly in its orbit around the Sun but has rotated 360 degrees on its axis so that it is pointing to exactly the same spot in space as it was the day before at noon. This is the definition of a *sidereal* day. To our observer though, the "day" will not be complete for another 4 minutes which is when the Sun will again be due south at point "A".

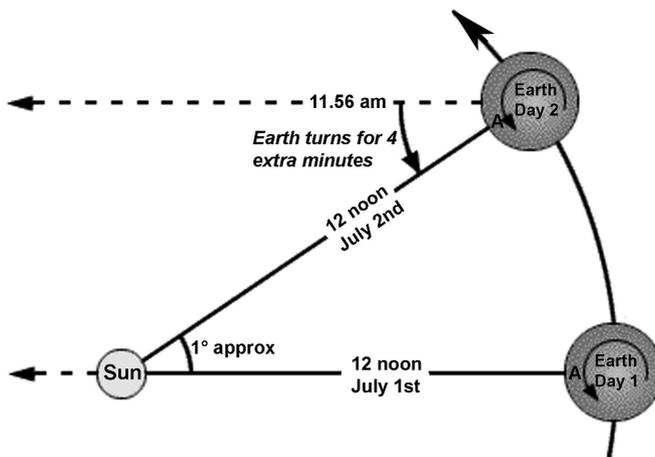
This will mark the completion of a *solar* day. Of course the Earth has to rotate for an extra 4 minutes the next day to bring the Sun back to the meridian again at noon and so on *ad infinitum*.

The Earth's motion around the Sun explains firstly why we see a slightly different part of the sky each night and secondly the apparent motion of the Sun along the ecliptic against the background stars (even though we can't see them). I say apparent because, of course, the motion is entirely the Earth's and not the Sun's. If for a moment we ignore the brightness of the Sun our observer on July 1st would see it amongst the stars of Gemini. Six months later with the Earth on the other side of its orbit our observer looking at noon would see the Sun in the constellation of Sagittarius.

However, the position of the Sun is made more complex still by something known as "the equation of time" which we'll look at later.

Don't forget that if you want to find Saturn and Mars, last month's map is still valid. The two planets are roughly due south at 22.00 at the start of July, but only 18° above the horizon.

Brian Mills FRAS



FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA

On 18.5.16 Nuthatches and Nightingales went to Lullingstone Roman Villa. I was very excited as soon as I saw it. Myself and Charlie were in the same group. When we got to the villa the video started. I went "aaaahhhh!", as it scared me. Next the villa went very dark red because the Roman Empire was defeated. There were 4 stages that have been added to it. It started with the early villa, next the baths were added, then the west wing and finally the Christian villa.



We all dressed up as Romans. I dressed up as the Emperor Hadrian. I felt brave like a Roman.



There was a model of the villa made of plastic which you can move around. It looked like when it was standing in 43AD. Next I made a love heart mosaic from tesserae which was magnetic. Then we went back to school.

We were all given goodie bags. Inside was a pencil, a rubber and a replica of a Roman coin, which I think is a 5p.



The end



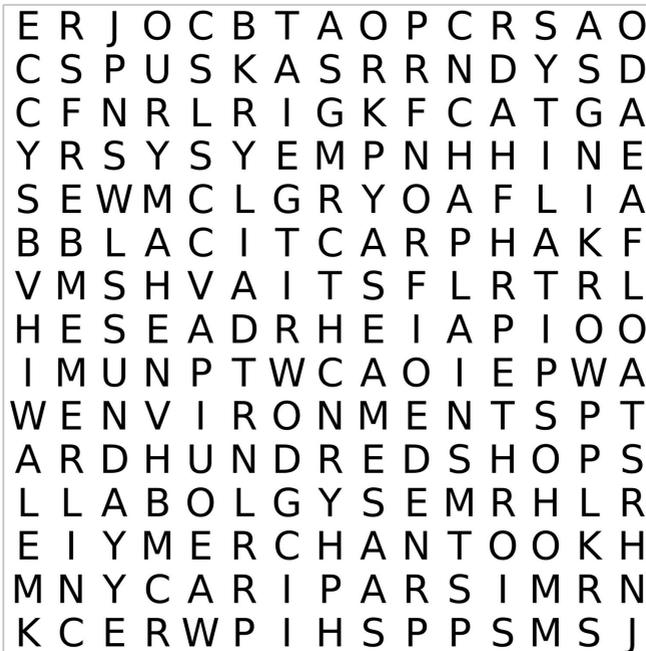
by Aaron



PUZZLE PAGE

10th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).



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Easy Flapjack

8 oz (200 g) butter

2 generous tablespoons golden syrup

8 oz (200 g) soft light brown sugar

10 oz (250 g) thick milled porridge oats

5 oz (125g) SR flour

Pre-heat the oven to 160 deg. C.

Grease, then base line, a 13" x 9" Swiss roll tin with baking parchment. The tin should be a minimum of 1" deep.

Melt the butter, sugar and syrup in a large pan over a medium heat stirring from time to time. Do not allow it to boil or you will have toffee!

Remove the pan from the heat and add the oats and flour, mixing well.

Using the back of a wooden spoon press the mixture into the prepared tin towards the edges.

Cook for 15 – 20 minutes until golden brown but keep checking towards the end of the cooking time as it burns easily.

Remove from the oven and immediately mark into squares – if you allow it to cool first the knife will stick.

Leave in the tin until completely cold before turning out.

Enjoy!

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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)