

# St Bartholomew's Church

## Oxford Parish News



September 2018 [www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)

£1

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
2nd September Trinity 14	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
9th September Trinity 15	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Messy Church	-
16th September Stewardship Sunday	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
23rd September Trinity 17	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
30th September HARVEST	Holy Communion	Harvest Festival	-	-

### SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14)

**INFANT: 3-7**

**JUNIOR: 8-11**

**SENIOR: 12-14**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cover photo by Richard Worssam: Combine Harvester at work in Otford  
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## READER'S REFLECTION

*Celebrations are always fun and the last few months have seen three celebrations all relating to my work life. The NHS had its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, I met with physiotherapists I graduated with 30 years ago and I was awarded a 25 years long service award from my employing trust (although it has changed its name at least 5 times and I have changed my role even more times!)*



It has been an opportunity to reflect on what the NHS means to patients, the wider public and to me. The NHS grew out of a post war landscape; Aneurin Bevan, its founder, famously said 'no society can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means' and that has remained a basic tenet of care. Almost all of us have contact with the NHS, whether it be routine care through our GP or pharmacy, in times of emergency through the ambulance service and hospitals, at times of joy such as the birth of children, or times of sadness such as at the end of life. What most of us remember at such times isn't the organisation but the people we meet, how they made us feel their clinical knowledge is important but so is their ability to connect with us as fellow humans.

I have always felt that working in the NHS is a bit like being involved with church life. Every day I work with a huge variety of people who all have an individual part to play, their roles are unique to them and they all need to do their bit to achieve the best for a patient. In a hospital it will be the doctor who comes to review your clinical condition, but it will be the nurse who sits with you in the middle of the night when you can't sleep, and the housekeeping staff who will offer you a cup of tea. The radiologist will take your X-ray, but it's the physiotherapist who will get you up and moving and the occupational therapist who will talk to you about your home and how to get you back there. In addition, there are all the staff you never see, the medical

secretaries, the IT guys, the site estates team. Every one of them is part of the NHS, each of them has a skill that the others don't and each of them needs to give of their best to achieve the best outcome.

That is also a picture of the church, a group of individuals, all with their own God given gifts, and the church works best when we are all working full out for God. Jesus worked in community with his disciples, he knew their strengths and their challenges, he knew that they needed each other and were much better together. That is the same today, whether we are thinking about the NHS or about our own church. So the challenge for me is to think about what is my contribution, what part am I being asked to undertake – both at work and at church. What about you?

Dawn Hallam



## DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

**Morning Prayer is said on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week in Church at 9.00 am**

- 1      9.00 am      Churchyard Working Party  
10am - 12 noon      Church Hall Options Appraisal Open Morning (in the Church Centre)
- 2      The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am      Holy Communion  
10.00 am      All Together Worship  
**12.00 noon      Baptism of Olivia Hammond**  
**6.30 pm      Evensong**
- 3      7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)  
4      8.00 pm      Homegroup (Park Farm House)  
5      9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)  
10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)
- 7      2.00 pm      Wedding of Simon Hallett and Katarzyna Juraszek  
4.00 pm      Magazine Editorial Team
- 8      10-6.00 pm      Friends of Kent Churches Ride & Stride  
6.00 pm      EPIC (Church Centre)
- 9      The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am      Holy Communion  
10.00 am      Holy Communion  
**12 noon      Baptism of Mila Knight**  
**3.00 pm      Messy Church (Church Centre)**
- 10     7.45 pm      CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)  
**Magazine material for the October edition by today, please, to the Church Office,  
st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 12     10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) Refreshments afterwards
- 16     The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity: Stewardship Sunday**  
8.00 am      Holy Communion  
10.00 am      Morning Worship  
**12 noon      Baptism of Darcie and Edie Shaw and Arlo Boulton**  
**6.30 pm      Evensong**
- 17     12-2.00 pm      Soup Lunch (Church Centre)  
7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 18     8.00pm      Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 19     9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)  
10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)  
7.45 pm      Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

**23 The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.00 am      Holy Communion**

**24 7.45 pm      CAMEO**

**26 10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) Refreshments afterwards**

**30 The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival**

**8.00 am      Holy Communion**

**10.00 am      Harvest Festival**



*Registers*



**BAPTISM (Our Welcome)**

**15th July      Yasmine Jones**

**29th July      George Bates**

**29th July      Toby Bates**

**29th July      Lily Barber**

**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

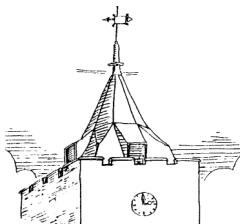
**20th July      Tracey Hubbard (aged 50)**

**22nd July      Ruth Gwendoline Barclay (aged 96)**

**3rd August      Shirley Martha Pickin (aged 85)**

**9th August      Freda Vera Kane (aged 88)**

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

**Saturday, 1st September.** Anyone able to support the regular team will be most welcome from 9.00 am, together with any useful tools.

### 'FIRST STEPS'

This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodists and our own Church and includes the opportunity for a chat, refreshments and also a short Bible story with singing and activities for the children, including games and crafts. It meets fortnightly at Otford Methodist Church Hall. The new term starts on 5th September.



### MESSY CHURCH, Sunday

**9th September, 3.00pm**

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday 9th September

in the Church Centre. This is suitable for families with children up to the age of 11. Do come along for some messy fun!

### SOUP LUNCH

The next Soup Lunch will be held on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, 12- 2pm in the Church Centre. Do come and join us for a chat over some homemade soup and bread, and a light dessert. Our coffee-time guest is Dr Charles Shee who spent many years as a hospital consultant, and was Clinical

Director for acute and emergency medicine at Farnborough. Since retirement, he has developed a deep interest in medieval history and archaeology. Please sign your name/s on the list at the back of church or ring 01959 523185. Minimum donation £5 per head.

### THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE & HIKE

#### **Saturday, 8th September**

This will be held between 10.00 am 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.



### HOSPICES OF HOPE'S Annual Fun Run and Stroll in Knole Park

St Bartholomew's supports Otford based charity, Hospices of Hope. In 2016 the charity celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and held a "one off" fun run in Knole Park to celebrate this. This has now become an annual event and this year's Fun Run/Stroll in Knole is on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Registration is at 1.30 with the race starting at 2.30.

There is a 5k or a 2K option available. Whilst there will be a (token) prize for the fastest runners, the emphasis is on fun for all ages rather than speed and many participants opt for a leisurely afternoon's walk through the beautiful deer park.

Our mascot Bagpuss takes the 2K route and

hopes that many families will join him. There will be medals for all course finishers and flapjack from the Tearooms afterwards. Tickets are £12.50 for adults and £8 for children (if bought in advance) with concessions for families. To book please contact [events@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:events@hospicesofhope.co.uk) or phone 01959 25110 or using our online booking facility.

If you would like to support the event but do not want to walk or run then we are also looking for volunteers to help on the day.

It would be lovely if some of you could join me at this event.

*Sam Barnett*



**HARVEST SERVICES.** These will be held on Sunday, 30th September. This year we are again supporting the Diocese of Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal with financial gifts. Leaflets and gift aid envelopes are available at the back of church. We will also be supporting the Sevenoaks Food Bank (Loaves and Fishes) with tinned goods.

Bishop James writes:

"This year Rochester are continuing to support some of the poorest and most marginalised

people in the world. Your donations provide hope to people in Asia and Africa, including our partner diocese of Harare in Zimbabwe. Here in Kent, the appeal continues to support the inspirational work of Bore Place as they provide new opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Poverty and Hope will also support the work of CMS in Sri Lanka as they strive to eradicate exploitation and abuse. Your generous gift will bring hope to those who need it most."

#### **CHURCH HALL OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

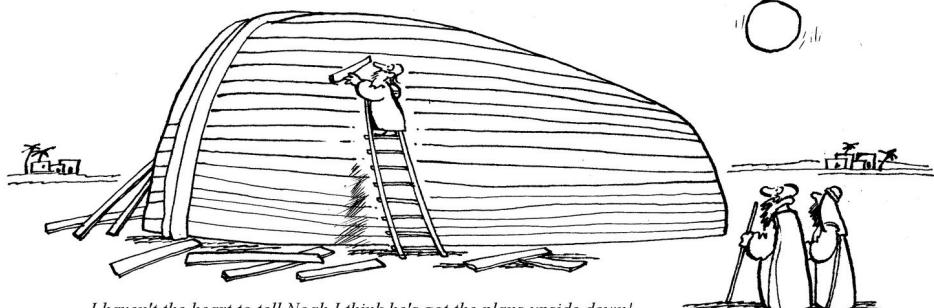
Open morning on Saturday 1st September, 10am - 12 noon in the Church Centre

#### **SAVE THE DATE! CHRISTMAS PUDDING WORKSHOP**



Afternoon of Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Church Centre

Do join us for a festive time making two Christmas puddings – one to take home and one to sell at the Christmas market. All are welcome! Dads and sons, mums and daughters, g'parents with g'children, come with a partner or on your own to meet others! Light refreshments! More details to follow in the October magazine.



## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### September: Let's stay connected!

**Parents' pause for thought:** Read about the True Vine in John 15 – amongst chapters that give great insight into the mind of Christ. We can best encourage our children to maintain their faith by modeling and sharing the reasons for our own commitment to church-going, Bible reading and prayer, ("I feel like a lie-in, but I'm going to church as I always come away feeling better . . ." "I'm too busy *not* to pray!" etc)

Take time to think of all the ways in which we keep a human relationship going (spending quality time together, supporting each other's goals, etc). How does that inform our aim to stay close to God?

Our children will be distracted from their faith at times by their social lives, travels, etc and pushing them can prove counter-productive! But we can always give a gentle reminder and we can trust that with a strong foundation of faith in their early years, they will return to it at some point.

**'I am the true vine':** Wonder about *Ancient Wisdom - Modern Lives* (opposite) together as a family:



I wonder if you could describe/draw your perfect garden? What fruit or vegetables would you grow in it?

If you could be a fruit tree or bush, what would you choose to be?

What would the gardener need to do to keep you healthy and producing lots of fruit?

Can you imagine Jesus being the main stem of the vine and us the branches?

Do you think that a branch that has fallen from the vine can go on to produce grapes all on its own?

I wonder what behaviour of ours could be called good fruit? (Being loving, telling others about God, etc)

Do you think we can keep that up if we are not staying close to Jesus? What happens if we run out of our own strength, courage or patience?

**In the garden:** If you are doing some autumn pruning, talk about the reasons for this (shaping the plant, giving it more air, encouraging it to grow more/be more fruitful). Chat about God shaping us for our own good. (Mention constructive criticism from a teacher/parent as an example.) If you are filling a watering can, chat about God filling us with his love and joy and us pouring it out on others!

**In the car:** Name as many fruit and veg as you can beginning with A,B,C, etc.

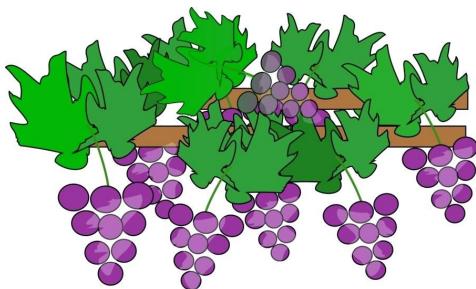


How many things can you think of that need to be plugged into a source in order to keep working? (An electric kettle, etc). Chat about how we can keep close to Jesus. Also, how we can depend on him to give us the strength to do something hard, such as loving someone we find annoying, etc!

**Meditation:** Sit quietly and imagine you are a fruit tree growing in a garden. Now God the gardener comes to admire you. What does he find? What delights him? What disappoints him? Ask God for the particular help needed to produce good fruit!

## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

**Jesus says, “I am the true vine”.**  
**(John 15)**



It's nearly harvest time! In and around Otford we are lucky enough to see fields of corn, trees laden with apples, allotments overflowing with produce and even grapes on the vine at Mount Vineyard in Shoreham.

Jesus often used his surroundings as visual aids to explain important spiritual ideas to his followers. Perhaps it was the familiar sight of bunches of grapes ripening on the branches of the vines that inspired him to explain one particular truth: the need for us, his disciples, to keep close to him.

“Imagine that I am the vine (the main stem) and God my Father is the gardener,” he said. “All of you who believe and trust in me are like my branches, bearing good fruit. When others look at you they will see, not bunches of grapes, but many acts of kindness and displays of patience, gentleness and truth, humbleness and self-control, and they will know that you are drawing strength from me.”

“For just as a branch that is broken from the vine cannot bear fruit by itself, so you need to keep connected to me in order to reach your

full potential. Otherwise you will dry up and wither like a branch that lies on the ground.

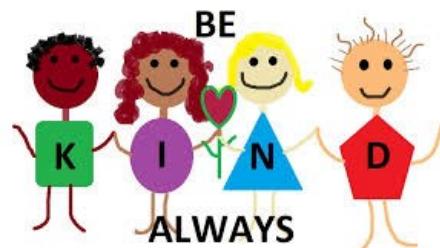
“Keep loving me and obeying my commands and you will stay close to me. Think about my words and let them live in you. Then my love and joy will flow into you just as the life-giving sap of the vine flows into the branches.

“And don't forget, a good gardener prunes his plants to help them be more fruitful, and he cuts off those branches that don't bear any fruit.

“My friends, I command you to love one another just as I have loved you. I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”

In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel is described as a young vine-shoot planted in the Promised Land. The Prophet Isaiah showed that its kings and people had often broken away from God. Instead of producing good fruit, God the gardener found only the bitterness of bad fruit – evil thoughts and actions, disobedience and selfishness.

*Vicki Howie*



## THE POVERTY AND HOPE APPEAL 2018

The Bishop of Rochester launched the Poverty and Hope Appeal in May. He wrote "At the heart of the gospel is Jesus' call to love one another and look after those who are most vulnerable. One way that our diocese responds to this call is through our annual Poverty and Hope Appeal."

This year we are concentrating on supporting, in prayer and financially, projects in the DRC, Burkino Faso, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and, as always, Commonwork Trust. Rather than providing short-term relief, the overseas projects have development as their focus.

Two of the projects are new this year. As a diocese we are at the start of a three year programme to help the Church of England work to support victims of modern slavery and exploitation. The project in Sri Lanka is closely related to this. Also new is the work in Zimbabwe, which includes Rochester's companion diocese of Harare. This project seeks to improve the lives of those living with HIV.

Our projects in the DRC and Burkino Faso continue. The former teaches people how to engage with local authorities so that their rights are recognised and met. Things are improving rapidly. People have safe places to trade and clean running water. Meanwhile, in Burkino Faso gifts of animals and assistance with agricultural improvements mean that many families have sufficient money for the children to go to school for the first time.

Here in the diocese Commonwork offers justice and global citizen education to school children and also helps vulnerable young people fulfil their potential. If you are involved with a school

do get in touch with Commonwork and see all that they can offer.

Over 95% of the money we raise goes to the projects which are generally overseen by one of our partner organisations, Christian Aid, USPG, CMS and Commonwork. They ensure the money is well spent and report to the Poverty and Hope Committee, led by Bishop James, regularly.

More information about all the projects is available on the website or contact [povertyandhopeappeal@googlemail.com](mailto:povertyandhopeappeal@googlemail.com). We are delighted to provide speakers for Sunday services, small group meetings and school assemblies.

*Debbie Cooper (Poverty and Hope Appeal coordinator).*

Note: This annual appeal is one of the two main ways in which our diocese walks with our neighbours in different parts of the world. The other is through our Companion Diocese links with Estonia, Harare (Zimbabwe) and Kondoa and Mpwapwa in Tanzania. Many parishes, schools and communities enjoy friendships with our Christian sisters and brothers in these places. For more information, please contact Mike Fawcett (email: [coordinator.cdsg@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.cdsg@gmail.com))



## THE GOOD FRUITS OF LATE SUMMER!

### Chilled Courgette and Yoghurt Soup (serves 4-6)



*This is a delicious soup for a starter or a snack, to use up a surplus of courgettes! Buy some extra natural yoghurt for the garnish!*

Melt a good knob of butter or margarine (about 50g/2oz) in a large pan.

Add a few sliced salad onions and 500g/1lb courgette slices and fry gently for 5 mins.

Add 500ml/1 ½ pints chicken stock, a sprig of mint and seasoning to taste.

Bring to the boil, lower the heat, cover and simmer for 20-30 mins.

Reserve a few courgette slices for garnish.

Puree the soup in a blender or food processor, or rub through a sieve.

Pour the soup into a large bowl, stir in 150g (5oz) natural yoghurt.

Chill in the fridge for 3 hours or as long as you can wait!

Serve in chilled soup bowls, decorated with the reserved courgette slices and a swirl of natural yoghurt, accompanied by your favourite bread.

### Herby family tomato salad



*If you have a lot of tomatoes, make this salad dish and keep in the fridge for all the family to help themselves. You could serve it on toasted crusty bread, add to a pizza or use as a sauce at a bbq!*

Dice some ripe tomatoes and place in a shallow dish. Drizzle over some good quality olive oil and a little malt vinegar.

Season and set aside for ten mins.

Sprinkle over your favourite herbs (such as chopped dill and flat-leaf parsley).

Add some feta cheese, crumbled.

## IN CONVERSATION WITH ... PETER DOWNING

### Focussing on family, church and the actuarial profession

Those who know Peter may be surprised to learn that he can claim to be a true Cockney; he was born in 1934 at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, within earshot of Bow Bells.

His early days were spent in North East London. In 1939, at the outbreak of WW2, Peter's father insisted that his wife and young son leave London to live with her parents in Sevenoaks thus beginning Peter's long association with the town. Peter's grandparents' home was in Bradbourne Park Road, Sevenoaks.

Peter's grandfather had been the lay pastor of the Congregational Church in North Woolwich, and had married Peter's parents in 1932, so Peter's upbringing was in a very Christian environment.

Peter initially attended Oak School in Granville Road – which soon after the war became Granville School in Bradbourne Park Road. To get away from the German flight path to London, the Downings then spent a couple of years with relatives in Harrold, Bedfordshire where Peter's brother, Michael, was born. On their return to Bradbourne Park Road Peter started at Winchester House School, a prep school then in Granville Road. At thirteen, he was sent as a boarder to Bishop's Stortford College; he had been a severe asthmatic as a child and his parents had received medical advice that the air north of the Thames would be better for him than in Kent.

Although he excelled at Mathematics, the family could not afford a university education, so he joined the Commercial Union Insurance Company (now Aviva) in Cornhill as a junior

clerk in the Head Office Life Department and began studying to become an actuary. Two and a half years later, after a holiday to Germany and Switzerland, he developed a 'wanderlust' which prompted him to travel to Winnipeg, Canada, where his mother had relatives. He vividly recalls waving farewell to his mother at Marylebone Station - little realising that he would never see her again - within ten weeks of his departure she had died of a brain tumour.

Peter soon found employment in Winnipeg with Monarch Life Assurance and stayed for two years until 1958. With a glowing reference from the company's chief actuary, Peter returned to Sevenoaks where he continued to study for his actuarial exams whilst working for two smallish firms of consulting actuaries.

The next significant date for Peter was Whit Monday 1959 when, at his local tennis club, he noticed a young lady and at the end of the afternoon went to speak to her. The young lady in question had an identical twin sister and Peter wasn't entirely sure whether he was talking to the right one – the right one being the twin who had treated him at Guys Hospital for a knee injury before he went to Canada. When she asked if he was the young man who had always brought a book with him to revise for his exams, he knew she was the one and they subsequently got engaged!

They married in January 1961 in Plaxtol Church and settled in Deakin Leas in Tonbridge. Six months later Peter qualified as an actuary. He was now working for Bacon and Woodrow – a leading British firm of Consulting Actuaries. He only moved company once more - in 1966 he joined Victory Insurance to head up their Life Division, staying for 27 years until his retirement.

From a very young age, Peter's Christian faith has been 'the central pillar' of his life. Both his parents had been involved in the Congregational Church; his father as a long serving Boys Brigade Officer and his mother in various roles, including as a Sunday School teacher. Peter was a Congregationalist lay preacher from the age of 21. In 1966, he and Pat moved to Sevenoaks and started attending St George's Church, Weald. Then, in 1996, Peter became a Reader in the Church of England (he was licensed in Rochester Cathedral on the same day as Betty Reed). He served once as treasurer and twice as church warden of St George's Church and calculates that, in different capacities, he was probably on their PCC for forty years.

Although he retired from full time employment in 1992, Peter went on to serve as Chairman of the Trustees of a smallish (£50 million) pension

fund for 8 years and then as Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Hospital Canteen. He also joined Sevenoaks Probus Club (he is a Past Chairman) and thereafter Sevenoaks Rotary Club.

In 2006 Peter and Pat moved to Otford and became members of St Bartholomew's Church. Although his preaching days are now behind him, Peter still enjoys 'the privilege' of reading a lesson in church and leading the intercessions, and Pat is on the rota of readers and assistant servers at communion.

Peter came from a musical family and has always loved choral singing, not least as a member of an auxiliary choir that sang in St Paul's Cathedral twice a year (including in Handel's Messiah and Bach's St Matthew Passion). He later sang as a bass in St George's Church choir and has enjoyed singing in the choir at St Bartholomew's (until 2012) and amongst the congregation.

Pat and Peter (a self-styled 'family man') have been married for 57 years and are extremely proud of their family - their two children, Andrew and Julia, and their three grandsons - the eldest of whom got married just over a year ago

*Christeen Malan*



*Peter, Pat, son and daughter*

## THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

### 'Sunday Afternoon' Linocut by Hugh Ribbons

I've been thinking about Paradise, more specifically, the concept of a Paradise Garden. Monty Don, of BBC's *Gardeners' World*, is planting one (and carpets are often designed with one in mind). Flowers and shady fruiting trees with flowing water are arranged inside a border creating a balance of structure and greenery.

According to my Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, the word Paradise means 'walled garden' (Old Persian). Categories of gardens in the Bible are listed on the pages as The Garden of Eden, The Garden of Love (*Song of Songs*), The Garden of Gethsemane, The Garden of Jesus' tomb and the Celestial Paradise (garden).

We're all familiar with this poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney (poet and hymn writer 1858-1932) that ends with the lines '...One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on Earth'.

Each biblical garden is individual and symbolic with different events taking place within each one, including when Jesus is mistaken for the gardener. Much more could be written here about them in turn, but starting at the beginning the author has this to say: 'If the Garden of Eden is an image of divine provision, it is paradoxically also a place for human labour. The Garden is a place prepared for humankind, but also a place requiring ongoing human upkeep'.

Just recently, I received a complimentary copy of a beautiful new publication called *The Illustrated Garden* by Alan Marshall. A couple of my garden-based pictures have been included along with works by 68 other artist-printmakers. Here is one contributor's piece called 'Sunday Afternoon' by Hugh Ribbons, a Kent-based printmaker.

Ann Bridges  
Local Painter-Printmaker  
[www.ann-bridges.com](http://www.ann-bridges.com)



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

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

Hopefully you will have received your summer edition of 'In Shape' which details the local plan process and how you can have your say on the future of the District. If you have not taken part in the consultation you have until 5pm on Monday 10 September to do so by visiting our website at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan) or you can write to the Council at Planning Policy, SDC, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG or email: [planning.policy@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

The Government has told us that we should aim to build nearly 14,000 homes in the District between now and 2035 – more than a four-fold increase on our current plan. We have no choice but to comply.

We are prioritising land in our existing built up areas and land that has already been built on to build new homes. We have to recognise that at best this will only provide half of the homes needed as the District is 93% Green Belt. That means we have to look at other areas known as 'exceptional circumstances' – land that has been put forward by landowners during our call for sites.

By considering these sites, we have the potential to secure significant funding from developers giving us a once in a generation opportunity to improve existing infrastructure and community facilities for existing residents. If we do not include enough homes in the local plan we are in danger of having the plan rejected by the planning inspector leaving the District vulnerable to development by appeal anywhere in the District; and/or landowners going direct to the inspector to have their sites included in the new local plan whether Sevenoaks District Council knows about them

or not, or has previously rejected them.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances'. SDC has set the bar high taking it to mean community facilities that will benefit existing residents. Examples could include a secondary school, improved transport, leisure facilities or a health centre.

Once everyone's comments have been considered by our Planning Policy team after the consultation closes on 10 September, we will publish our final version of the plan. You will then receive another opportunity to comment on the final plan. This version of the Local Plan will be submitted to the Government and considered at a public examination in spring 2019. If approved by the Government it will be adopted by the Council later in 2019.

The current consultation on the draft plan is an extra consultation added to the process by the Council - we know that there are difficult choices to be made and we want to make sure residents understand the process and help shape the new plan. 14,000 homes by 2035 is a lot of homes and without a plan in place the District is very vulnerable – so it is our duty as your elected representatives to take difficult decisions to ensure we can provide as many homes as possible while protecting the character and rural nature of our District.

With best wishes,

*Michelle Lowe*





## IN MEMORIAM



### Tracey Hubbard 1968 - 2018

Tracey was born on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1968 in Farnborough, Kent, the youngest of four children. At school, Tracey was very good at gymnastics. She became an active member of Orpington Gymnastics Club and took part in competitions all over Kent.

Tracey trained as a hairdresser in Hayes. Later on she worked as the housekeeper at Lullingstone Castle.

Tracey met her husband, Adrian, in 1983 at her sister Brenda's wedding. They married three years later in Knockholt. At first they lived in St Mary's Cray and after a couple of years moved to East Hill in Knatts Valley. After six years of marriage they started a family, with the birth of Georgie-May and then Candy-Anne. The family then moved to Otford where they lived in the Charne. After the death of her father, the family moved to Hale Lane to support her mother and the family have lived there ever since.

Tracey took a real pride in her home and garden. She loved gardening, and she won the "Best Kept Front Garden" in Otford in 2006 and 2008. In her home, Tracey kept everything in a neat and tidy fashion. She was also very practical, being good at decorating and skilled in sewing.

Tracey was also very organised, with a list for everything. She had a great fashion sense, and an eye for colour co-ordination.

Tracey was a keen pet-owner. Latterly she had two bichon frise, that were very much part of the household.

Tracey was confident and outgoing. At family gatherings she would take to the mic and enjoy karaoke, singing along with gusto, often with her sister-in-law Sally.

Tracey's family meant a great deal to her. She had a heart of gold and she was devoted to the welfare of her daughters and her grandchildren, Amarni-Lee and Leonard-Lee. She was a good listener – friends and family felt they could talk things through with her.

Tracey showed real determination and courage in her life. She was diagnosed with Crest syndrome when she was just 29, but she didn't let this get her down. Even when she had to give up driving in the last couple of years, and then undergo surgery in November last year, she was still determined to make the most of life. Tracey was an amazingly strong person. In the face of great pain and discomfort she still focused on others – something of which her family are truly proud.



## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S YOUTH WEEKEND – JULY 2018

**Sun (lots of it), beautiful surroundings, great people, wonderful food and football – what more could you want?**

Our Youth Weekend away at Kench Hill, near Tenterden, was another amazing time of fellowship, making new friends and learning more about our relationship with God. The theme this year was 'mentors': relationships between the young and the older generation. We looked at the stories of Elijah and Elisha, Ruth and Naomi, Moses and Joshua, Paul and some of his companions, Eli and Samuel and Jesus and his relationships with some of his friends. We thought how important those cross-generational relationships are and how much the young learn and are inspired by older generations. To carry this theme further, on Saturday afternoon we invited older members

of the church family down to Kench Hill for afternoon tea. The older youngsters made scones in the morning, with the help of Russell's mum, Brenda, and the younger ones iced and decorated buns. As England were playing one of their World Cup games, many of us watched it together, cheering on England - 8 year olds to 80+! Those who did not want to watch had the opportunity of doing some craft activities in the shady garden: stained glass window painting, decorating ties, making friendship bracelets. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, many getting to know each other for the first time. Another lovely aspect of the weekend is that many of us who were part of Sunday Club and YPF years ago still return for the weekend and now take on leadership roles – this again is inspirational for the younger ones, to see what God might be calling them to do in the future. Thank you for your prayers – it really was a blessed weekend.

*Mags Southgate*



## OUT AND ABOUT

 Our September meeting is on Thursday, 13th at 7.30pm in the Club Room, and our speaker this month is Sheila Farmer who will tell us about her experiences of working as a professional costume maker.

Visitors are very welcome to join us, and if more information is needed, please contact our President on 01959 524831.

This year our Table Top Sale is on Saturday 6th of October, in the Memorial Halls from 9.00 to 12 noon. Entrance 50p.

Contact Chris on 01959 522485 for a table.



Following last year's successful revival, Shoreham Music Festival will take place on the 14th and 15th September.

Friday 14th September—The Holywell Quartet  
Saturday 15th September—The Damian Singers  
7:30 pm at Shoreham Church

Each concert will be followed by live mellow jazz and refreshments at the Old Vicarage (immediately next door to the church).

Do come along to one or both evenings.

Tickets priced £12.50 (each evening), to include jazz, available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, Shoreham Village Shop, or via [ticketsource.co.uk/shoreham-music-festival](http://ticketsource.co.uk/shoreham-music-festival)

**THE 1940S SOCIETY** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Otford Memorial Hall, 8pm

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### OTFORD – NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Do you like France, but maybe not sure about joining a Twinning Association? Let me tell you a little about how it works.

My first encounter with the Twinning Association was a day trip to France – all I had to do was get to Otford Pond by 6.30am & I would be transported to France. The French hosts greeted us like old friends and we were treated to a very good buffet lunch with wine. Most of the hosts speak very good English, so they didn't have to endure my school girl French. We then had options of playing boules or visiting a biscuit factory (which I did), followed by a tour of Hardelot. It is a very elegant resort, with a beautiful wide sandy beach. We had tea & cakes before departing & I was home by 7.30pm that evening – what a great day out.

I then offered to host a French guest a year later and I have now become good friends with my French visitor. When the French visit us, our local group plan various activities, so I just had to provide 2 nights bed & breakfast. Last year, the group took the French to Farnborough, Hants (by coach) to visit the Benedictine monastery where Emperor Napoleon III, his wife & son are buried. We also managed a visit to Farnborough Hill School, where Empress Eugenie lived for 40 years. We all enjoyed the trip as much as our French friends. This year,

the French requested a trip to Windsor – another interesting day out, as we shared the experience of visiting the Castle, had a great pub lunch & then a tour of Eton. The French love our pubs!

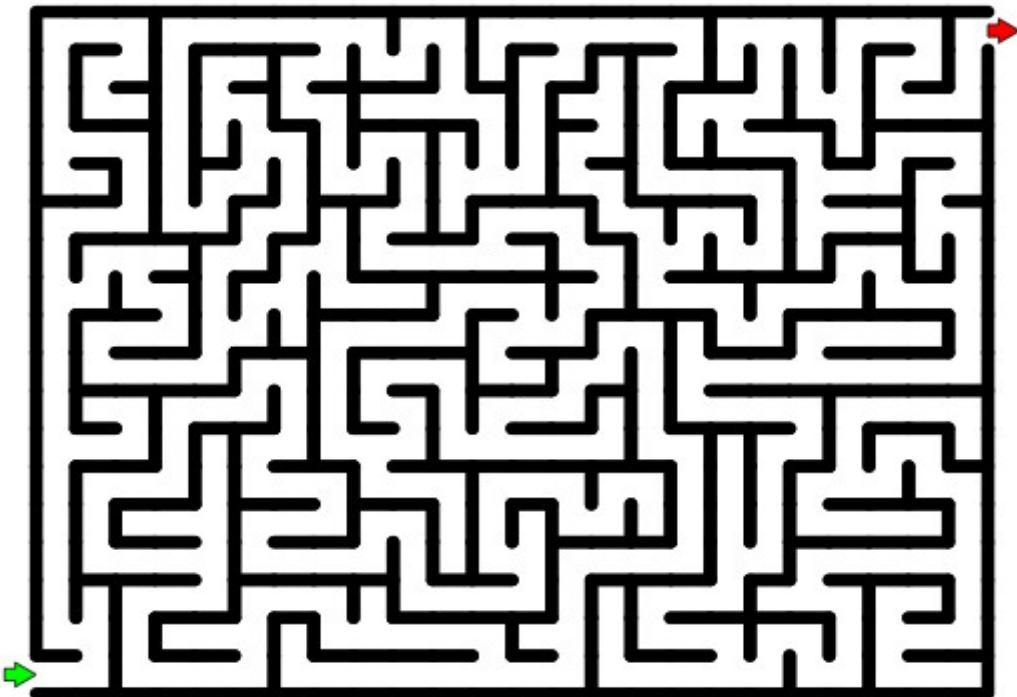
So, if you would be interested in joining our group, please come along to our next social meeting, to be held at the Woodman Pub in Otford on Monday 24 September, from 7.30pm Alternatively, you can contact Jane Lawrey via [clerk@otfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@otfordpc.co.uk)



**THE KEMSING SINGERS** are giving a concert in aid of The Hospice in the Weald on Saturday 20th October at 7.30pm in the Otford Methodist Church, High Street, Otford. This is the concert

that was due to be held last March but which was postponed due to bad weather. The concert is in memory of Sue Choudhury, a much missed alto of the choir and a staunch member of the Methodist Church who died in 2017. The programme of light classical and show music will include favourites by John Rutter, a selection from Oliver, The Rhythm of Life and a medley of Simon and Garfunkel hits. This will be followed with a chance to mingle and enjoy refreshments provided by the Methodist Church. Ticket purchased for the March performance will be honoured or can be obtained from 01959 523752 or any member of the Kemsing Singers or at the door.

## SEPTEMBER PUZZLE



## GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MEMBERS OF OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

When I was invited to write for the church magazine my first thought was, 'Why am I fascinated by plants?' I know very well that boys do or don't like gardening because, when I helped at a school for boys with emotional or behavioral problems, some came willingly to help in the walled garden, although most thought the idea appalling and did not participate. There was no sense of wonder for some boys; a 'sensitive plant' that collapsed when touched, or a cotton plant with fluffy seeds, raised no interest in many of them. I gradually discovered that the keen ones had experienced growing things when much younger. It was something pointed out by Aristotle, various monastic orders, and even the botanist Richard Dawkins, that the things boys learnt before they were seven influenced them all their lives.

My interest in plants started as a young child when I was allowed a small patch of our garden and given flax and marigold seeds; the flax seeds were black and shiny and so smooth that they seemed wet; the marigold seeds were like little commas. This interest was sealed when in the early war years of khaki and blackouts I went on a school trip to Kew Gardens. There for the first time I saw fuchsias and coleus; a riot of colour and form I had only seen before in Christmas decorations.

Later, on holidays in the Swiss Alps I saw edelweiss outside a mountain hut, growing thicker than the daisies in our lawn, and a wet alpine meadow scattered with many wild orchids. And on Chile's coast, wild fuchsia bushes - the parent of our fuchsia plants – but with flowers a small fraction of the size of our ones.

In so many other countries I saw native plants but never the variety of plants that we have in England, due to our plant hunters travelling all over the world. We are spoilt for choice and life is not long enough to try all varieties and so a gardeners' society provides information and inspiration throughout life.

Enjoyment of plants can crop up unexpectedly and not just in gardens. Recently when in hospital with pneumonia in a tropical country, I saw palm trees in a quadrangle in the centre of the building reaching nine floors high. I was on the seventh floor and have never been so close to the giant leaves – although separated from the heat and humidity by a glass wall.

If you have young children or grandchildren you may be able to open a whole new world of wonder for the rest of their lives by giving them some seeds. 'All things bright and beautiful' will then have a deeper meaning.

*Gardening tip:* For early blooms in May and June next year, some annuals such as godetia, larkspur, nigella, calendula and coreopsis can be sown now.



John Allen.

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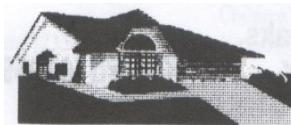
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## Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam 01959 526865
	Bill Lattimer 01959 522058
	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831
	Mags Southgate 01959 524720
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing 01959 522327
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid 01959 523234
	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831
	Donna Worssam 01959 523185
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed 01959 523439
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831
	Russell Edwards 07933 352044
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:</b>	Kevin Grafton 01732 452117
<b>SACRISTAN:</b>	Tony Grogan 01959 523649

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### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Heather Stanley 01959 523194  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris 01959 522813  
Min. Sec: Mark Holmes 01959 522080

### **PARISH OFFICE**

*Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm:*  
Susan Reid, Clive Southgate  
01959 523185  
Email: st.bartolomews@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:* st.bartolomews@otford.net

### **CHOIR**

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

### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK**

**'First Steps'** (for parents/carers with pre-school children)  
*Contact:* Naijen 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

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The Vicar and the Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Joan Beacom, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Mark Holmes\*, Margaret Lidbetter\*, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Ben Southgate, Mags Southgate, Heather Stanley

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