

St Bartholomew's Church

Otford Parish News

October 2018

www.stbartholomews.co.uk

£1



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	6.30pm
7th October 19th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	Evensong
14th October 20th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-
21st October 21st Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evensong
28th October Last Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-

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.

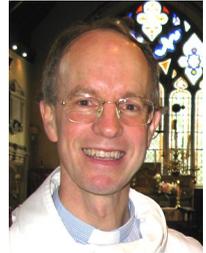
Vicar's off duty day: Monday

Cover photo by Colin Bowdery

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VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

This year marks two significant 100-year anniversaries. We are very aware of the forthcoming observance of the end of the First World War 100 years ago - I'll be focusing on that next month. This month I want to highlight the centenary of women being granted the vote.



The roots of this go back even before Queen Victoria began her reign. In 1832 a petition was presented to Parliament asking for votes for women. However, the Great Reform Act passed in the same year only gave the vote to a restricted range of men. Over thirty years later, in 1866, the Women's Suffrage Committee collected 1500 signatures on a petition which was presented to the House of Commons by the philosopher and MP John Stuart Mill. He proposed an amendment to the Second Reform Act of 1867 to enable both men and women to vote. Again, this was unsuccessful. Although bills in favour of women and the vote were presented on an almost annual basis from 1870 onwards, the Third Reform Act of 1884 still denied women this basic right.

There was a growing sense of injustice and from the mid-19th century onwards women up and down the country started to organise themselves into groups to campaign for the right to vote. They sought to do this through peaceful means of public meetings, publications and petitions. They were known as suffragists.

By 1900, 58% of men were entitled to vote, but still no women, despite the valiant efforts of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies under the leadership of Millicent Fawcett. In 1903 the tempo changed when Emmeline Pankhurst and others founded the Women's Social and Political Union. With their motto "Deeds not words" they were prepared to go beyond peaceful constitutional means and they adopted a more radical approach. They were dubbed the suffragettes. Their actions included some civil disobedience. This led to some of the leaders being imprisoned and they responded by going on hunger strike. Other infamous

events included the death of Emily Wilding Davison when she stepped in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913.

The First World War brought a change in focus, but also an increasing role for women in society, with nearly two million women doing jobs that had previously been done by men who had been sent to war.

The decisive change came in 1918 with the passing of the Representation of the People Act. Although this still carried some restrictions (only women over 30 who met a property qualification could vote) nonetheless, about two-thirds of the total population of women (8.5 million) now had the right to vote. Ten years later, the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 finally gave men and women over 21 the same voting rights.

So why am I focusing on this in a church magazine article? The reason is that the Church of England has also been on a journey over this past century to redress gender injustices and inequalities. It was only three years ago, in 2015, that the Rt. Revd. Rachel Treweek, the Bishop of Gloucester, became the first woman amongst the Lords Spiritual, the Bishops who sit in the House of Lords. From 12th-18th November, UK Parliament Week will be held with the theme of celebrating women's voices in democracy. (See ukparliamentweek.org) I think we can also celebrate the fact that 60 years after women were first admitted to the House of Lords, the Church now includes women Bishops among their number.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2018

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

- 1 7.45 pm CAMEO (58 High Street)
- 2 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 3 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 4 2.00 pm Otford School Harvest Festival (in Church)
- 6 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

7 The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All Together Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

- 8 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 9 8.00 pm Readers' and Revs' team (The Vicarage)
- 10 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

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

- 11 2.00 pm Otford Ecumenical Committee (Otford Methodist Church)
- 12 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Team (The Vicarage)
- 13 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

14 The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

- 15 Leonard Avenue Homegroup visit to Blackpool
- 16 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 17 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 7.45 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 20 6.30 pm Quiz Night (Church Centre)

21 The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

- 22 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 24 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards

28 British Summer Time ends: PUT CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

28 The Last Sunday after Trinity: Bible Sunday
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Holy Communion
12 noon The baptism of Henry and Thomas Simmons

29 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
30 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
31 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
2.30 pm Ecumenical Fellowship meeting



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

2nd September	Olivia Hammond
9th September	Mila Knight
16th September	Darcie Shaw
16th September	Edie Shaw
16th September	Arlo Boulton

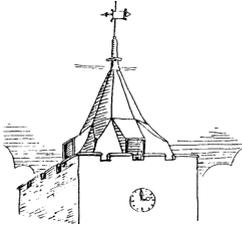
WEDDING (Our Congratulations)

7th September	Simon Hallett and Katarzyna Juraszek
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*Every week they gathered for
Bible Study*

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday, 6th October. Anyone able to support the regular team will be most welcome from 9.00 am, together with any useful tools.



MESSY CHURCH,

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday 25th November, 3pm in the Church Centre. This is suitable for families with children up to the age of 11. Do come along for some messy fun!



CHRISTMAS PUDDING WORKSHOP

Sat 3rd November 3pm

Church Centre £10

Do join us for a festive couple of hours making two Christmas puddings - one to take home and the other to donate to the Christmas market. All are welcome! Dads and sons, mums and daughters, grandparents with grandchildren, come with a friend or on your own to meet others! Afternoon tea provided! Sign up sheet in church or ring Joan Beacom on 524304. If possible, bring a 1-pint pudding dish. Handout available when you reserve your place/s.

ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The October Ecumenical Fellowship meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st October at 2.30 pm in St. Bartholomew's Church Centre.

The meeting will commence with ... 'a little light piano music', followed by light refreshments and a chance to chat. We welcome offers of cakes and help to serve the refreshments. Please speak to Margaret Lidbetter (01959 524831).

This event is free and is for everyone, so come yourself and bring your friends.

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

This will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday, 24th November from 10.00-12 noon. Stalls will include: gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; cakes; bulbs (the growing kind!); Christmas sweets and chocolates and a herb and spice craft stall. A super Christmas raffle is also planned. Please put this date in your diary and come and enjoy a happy time with your family and friends, joining together in support of our church work.

NOVEMBER SOUP LUNCH

The guest for our coffee-time interview, at the November Soup Lunch, is Heather Stanley. At St Bart's we know her as the mastermind of our Reordering project, and our new Church Treasurer. We'll find out more about how, as a structural engineer, she has been project manager on many far larger-scale, and even high-rise constructions.

Do join us on Monday 12th November (12-2pm) - in the Church Centre - and enjoy the delicious homemade soups and bread, with a light dessert, in very congenial company.

There will be a list to sign up on, at the back of church.

AUTUMN QUIZ AND SUPPER

On Saturday 20th October at 6.30pm there will be our ever popular quiz and supper. Teams of between 6 and 8 people will be welcome. See church notices for further details.

ST BART'S CHURCH HALL APPRAISAL

As you may have read in the Parish Council newsletter, St. Bartholomew's Church has been carrying out an appraisal of the options for the Church Hall. A recent survey has shown that it is in need of major refurbishment both internally and externally. We have therefore embarked on a consultation process as to its future, as sadly the church doesn't have the required funds and is an infrequent user of the Hall. The first phase was with the church members and the users of the hall. This took place over the summer and ended with a presentation on 1st September of their unattributed comments and our initial thoughts. Two broad options emerged from this phase: renovation of the Hall or converting it into social housing. There are no plans to sell the Hall.

We would also like to hear from the wider village community as to your views on the future of the Hall. Here are some questions you might want to consider. If you feel that the Hall could be refurbished, what facilities would make the Hall an attractive place for the village and how might this be financed in these straitened times? If on the other hand, you favour social housing, who should this target and again, how might we finance these options?

You can make your comments via a dedicated email address; churchhallconsultation@otford.net; or you can

fill in a response form on the Church website: www.StBartholomews.co.uk. The consultation period will run from now until the 3rd November. The replies will be collated for an open meeting on the 17th November in the Church Hall between 10.30 -12.00 noon.

The goal is to find a long-term viable solution that brings benefit to the community and that fulfils the original covenant for the Hall.

Church Hall Options Appraisal Team

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, ASSISI & RAVENNA

21st-29th October 2019

The Vicar, together with the Revd. Andrew Procter, will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Ravenna from 21st - 29th October 2019. We will begin with 4 nights in Rome, focusing on Peter and Paul whose final days were lived here. We will then have two nights in Assisi, home of St. Francis, set amidst the tranquillity of the Umbrian countryside. We will finish in Ravenna, capital of the western Roman Empire in the 5th century and featuring some magnificent Byzantine mosaics. The cost of this 9-day pilgrimage is £1,895 and this includes flights, accommodation with breakfasts and suppers, and all travel with our own guide and all entrance fees. Brochures are available on the information stand in the main entrance.

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

Esther: The girl who spoke up



Esther was a beautiful young Jewish woman. She had been adopted by her cousin, Uncle Mordecai, and they lived in Susa, ruled over by King Xerxes.

The king was a tyrant and he had banished his wife, Vashti, in a fit of anger

because she dared to disobey him. But when his anger blew over, his courtiers tactfully brought a bevy of beauties to the palace. They were to receive a makeover! Whoever pleased the king most would become the new queen!

Esther was among them. For her own safety, Mordecai had warned her not to let on that she was Jewish. Every day, he walked near the palace, keeping an anxious eye on his young relative. Esther impressed the court and the king with her beauty and good sense, and he made her his queen.

One day at the gate, Mordecai heard of a plot to kill the king. He told Esther, who warned the king and the incident was recorded in the royal logbook.

Soon the king was distracted and forgot to see Esther so often. During this time, a powerful and ambitious nobleman called Haman, was enraged that a certain Mordecai, a Jew, refused to bow to him, (only to God). Haman had no idea that this fellow was the queen's uncle and he cleverly managed to persuade the king to seal a new law ordering the death and destruction of every Jewish person, man, woman or child, throughout the land.

Mordecai was shocked at the news. He sent a message to Esther, urging her to go to the king and to beg mercy for her people. Esther felt afraid. "Don't you know that I could be put to death for approaching the king without being summoned?" she wrote. But her Uncle replied, **"Think again! Perhaps you became queen for this very reason – to save our people!"**

Esther fasted and prayed. "I *will* go to the king," she said, "and if I perish, I perish!"

She put on her royal robes and approached the king. He saw her, was pleased, and asked for her request. Brave Esther calmly gave the king and Haman an invitation to dinner. Meanwhile, power-mad Haman had some gallows built, intending to hang Mordecai, who was still refusing to bow!

It so happened that the king could not sleep the night before the dinner party. So he read the royal logbook and was reminded that Mordecai had once saved his life.

At dinner, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your request?" Then Esther spoke up. She courageously revealed her family background and race and asked for the Jewish people to be saved.

The king was furious to hear of Haman's wickedness and ordered him to be hung on his own gallows. He explained to Esther that his law, ordering the death of the Jewish people, once sealed, could not be changed. But he allowed them the right to protect themselves – and they did so, sadly showing their enemies no mercy. To this day, they still celebrate Esther's courage in speaking up and risking her life for her people.

Parents' pause for thought: Try reading the book of Esther – it's only eight short chapters!

God is never mentioned but he is at work in the story!

We want the children we know to feel that anything is possible for them. How can we inspire them to think BIG? Sometimes young people feel that there is no point in asking for (eg) that work experience, extra help from a teacher, a famous person to support their event, etc. Esther prayed first, made herself look smart, and asked with confidence. She aligned herself with God's will and he did the rest!

Family story Read the story opposite together as a family. Here are some conversation starters:

I wonder if you have ever done something in a fit of anger and then wished you hadn't!

Why do you think Esther was made queen? Was it just her good looks?

Do you think Esther took a big risk in speaking up? What might have happened?

What do you think about the way she went about it? Did she just blurt out her request?

I wonder if we could all try praying before important events/days (Check in later to see if it makes a difference)

On a journey Look out for *road signs*. What do they mean? In the story, the king "just happened" to read about Mordecai saving his life the night before Esther spoke up for the Jewish people. Do you think this was just a coincidence, or was God at work? Swap stories about things that have happened to you that you feel may have been a *sign or nudge from God!*

Strong women What do you think the following women achieved, perhaps against the odds? Emmeline Pankhurst, Marie Curie, Beatrix Potter (and see the family film *Miss*

Potter), Mary Ellis, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Malala Yousafzai

Try to find out!

Book Club Want to be inspired? Try:

Ten girls who changed the world By Irene Howat

Ten boys who changed the world By Irene Howat

She persisted By Chelsea Clinton

At a meal Do you believe Esther became queen in order to save her people? Chat about things in your lives that may have happened for a good reason.

Prayer: Make a stand and introduce *Grace* before a meal and a *bedtime prayer!*

Borrow one of two tactile wooden cubes from Sunday Club to encourage this. Children can have fun "rolling the dice" and the family reads the prayer written on the top. Please keep for a week (or two) and then return – but keep up the habit!!

Vicki Howie



AUTUMNAL SPICED APPLE CAKE

A recipe for two cakes – one to keep and one to give or freeze!

- 8ozs/225g butter softened
- 8ozs/225g soft brown sugar
- 4 eggs beaten
- 9ozs/250g SR flour
- 1 level teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 rounded teaspoon ginger
- 1 rounded teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 generous tablespoon golden syrup
- 1lb 2oz/500g Bramley apples – peeled and cored and chopped into sugar lump sized chunks

Pre-heat oven to 180C or 160C fan

Line two loaf tins (or, if you prefer, line one loose bottomed cake tin and adjust the cooking time accordingly)

Cream the butter and sugar then very gradually beat in the eggs adding a little of the flour if the mixture begins to curdle

Combine the dry ingredients and fold into the mixture

Mix in the apple pieces and the syrup

Divide between the two tins and bake for 50-55 minutes until a skewer comes out clean. You may need to cover the loaves if they colour too quickly.

As well as being excellent served with a cup of tea, this cake is also delicious served warm with vanilla ice cream, crème fraiche or custard.



MISSION MATTERS ... THE BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible Society is one of St Bartholomew's long term mission partners.

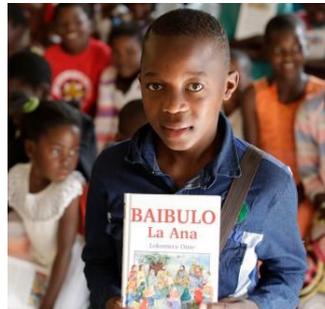
The Society was founded in 1804 following the incredible determination and perseverance of a 15 year old Welsh girl Mary Jones, who, hearing that the Bible was available in Welsh saved for six years and then trekked 26 miles in order to buy one and read the Bible in her own language for the first time. This inspired others including William Wilberforce to create a Bible Society to provide scripture for those who could not afford a Bible and to evangelise God's word.

Since then the Bible Society has indeed done just that, translating the Bible and parts of scripture into hundreds of languages and dialects and opening centres in 143 countries, distributing, educating and helping people to engage with the Bible as, when they do, lives can change, for good.

Internationally there has been huge demand for scripture and Bibles especially in China where, since a more open attitude from Chinese authorities, over one million people every year are finding faith in God. The Bible was once a banned book and believers worshipped in secret. Now churches are overflowing. Demand is threatening to outstrip resources. The Society has printed over 68 million Bibles and has 77 distribution centres. In a society where 51 million adults are illiterate the Society assists local churches to run literacy classes.

In the Middle East and Africa the Society works in some very difficult situations. In Africa the Society continues its work in countries recovering from conflict and dealing with

poverty. Currently children's Bibles are being distributed to churches in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. More than half the population is under 18 years of age. Children attend church in their hundreds. 3000 Bibles are distributed every year but demand means that ten times that amount are needed. One Society worker reported back that he had taken 120 Bibles with him to a church Sunday Club only to find there were 750 children there waiting for him!



'We have a long track record of working in Africa. We have witnessed the power of the Bible to bring hope

and peace to even the most troubled communities. We have seen that God's word can build bridges where there is conflict and offer hope where it is most needed.'

The Society also works to affirm the place of the Bible in society, challenging ill-informed thinking and demonstrating that the Bible can be a force for positive change in today's world.

Something we take for granted, a message we ignore, the book that sits gathering dust. The Bible? The same one that changes lives around the world, and it can change and help ours as well.

www.biblesociety.org.uk

Andrew Hill

IN CONVERSATION WITH ... NICK SLATER



Earlier this year a committee, chaired by Nick Slater, was set up to look at options relating to St Bartholomew's Church Hall. Dating from 1910 the Hall, which is widely regarded as a village asset, was designed in the studio of the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens as a favour to his brother - the then Vicar of Otford, Revd William Lutyens. More recently the 12 metre long Millennium Mosaic was added to the road facing wall of the building.

So why is such an assessment needed? Nick explained that this is because, after the building of the Church Centre in 2007, St Bartholomew's congregation largely stopped holding events in the Hall and, although it is still used by village clubs and societies and by private patrons, the income generated is insufficient to cover its maintenance and running costs. Furthermore the Hall now needs a substantial sum of money spent on it, including work to the roof, guttering, windows and brickwork, not to mention the interior.

Nick told me that this is an ongoing project which seeks to arrive at a consensus on how the Hall should be used in the future. The initial consultation, gathering in the views of Church members on a variety of possibilities, has been completed and, on the basis of the forty replies received, two options have been identified for further research. These are to convert the Hall to provide some form of social housing or to renovate the Hall to encourage greater use of the premises. There is no plan to sell the Hall. An open morning was held in the Church Centre on Saturday 1st September at which the ideas and comments put forward by the congregation were on display, leading to the emergence of the two aforementioned possibilities.

Nick said that the next step is to analyse the different viewpoints with the aim of reaching agreement within the church family. It was evident from our conversation that a huge amount of research needs to be done into the financial and practical implications of each of the options under consideration. Once the committee has done a full analysis will they take their recommendations to the PCC for approval. The Committee would also like to hear from the wider village about the Church Hall and would welcome comments and suggestions as to its future by 3rd November. A couple of weeks later, on the 17th November, there will be an open session in the Church Hall, for the village to see their unattributed comments collated into themes.

I then asked Nick to tell me a little about himself. Born in Sheffield, he said he has spent his life moving further and further south. The first of these moves was when, as a small boy, his family moved to Wembley, North London.

Nick's father had been a bomber pilot in the Far East in the Second World War and, like so many of that generation, was reluctant to speak about it after the war ended. He did, however, go on to have a very successful career in the fashion industry.

Nick and his wife Lucy have lived in Woodlands since 1994, moving there just before the second of their two children was born, partly because Lucy's mother lives in Speldhurst and partly because they had heard that the schools in this area were good. In 2011 Lucy, a former scientist, completed a Master's Degree in Psychology of Religion at Heythrop College, University of London and began searching for a local church to attend. She visited St Bartholomew's, very much liked the service, and was impressed by Vicar Richard's sermon, so much so that she began to attend regularly and encouraged Nick to join her.

With regard to his career, Nick worked for investment banks for twenty years before moving to BP where he stayed for a further twenty years. Latterly he worked in their Treasury function which, amongst other things, was responsible for funding the corporation, hedging risk and analysing project finances. He took retirement in 2016, has since done some

consultancy work, and is now in the second year of a part time four year degree course in Politics, Philosophy and History at Birkbeck College, University of London. He told me he is greatly enjoying the course and the way that it stretches him.

It was on discovering that Nick had recently retired, that the Vicar approached him to see if he could be persuaded to chair a committee to help the PCC come to some conclusions about what to do with the Church Hall. With many years of experience in chairing meetings, analysing different viewpoints and ensuring all voices are heard, Nick says he was intrigued by the challenge of finding a consensus solution to the conundrum of how to make best use of an asset which the Church owns but doesn't use. Working alongside the others on the committee (Margaret Lidbetter, Mike Jones, Janet Hunt and Russell Edwards), Nick sees their role as being to collate the facts and to present them to the PCC – with the ultimate aim of reaching a consensus on a practical way forward to secure a long term future for the Hall.

The committee can be contacted via the email address churchhallconsultation@otford.net

Christeen Malan



THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

The Tulip Tree

Pencil and Watercolour

Ann Bridges

Autumn brings colour into my sketch books in a way that the other seasons can't quite match up to. So many shades of red, yellow, orange, magenta and purple appear in the leaves of our trees that I can't help but gather some up off the ground to take back to the studio.

We have some spectacular trees in the village, particularly near to the church.

Earlier on this year I made several drawings of the strange shaped leaves and unusual flowers of the tulip tree, the tree which in winter becomes 'the tree of light' in remembrance of loved-ones. I wondered if the original planter of it was aware of its association with a story about Adam and Eve.

Some time ago I was listening to Gardeners' Question Time on Radio 4.

The broadcast was coming from the garden at Lambeth Palace, which has one of these lovely trees in the grounds. The tale was told of Eve reaching out for the last tree in Paradise, the tulip tree, pulling off the top point of a leaf in her hand as she took a last look behind her.

This fired my imagination and several paintings were made developing ideas about the Garden of Eden. Here is one of the drawings in my sketch book of our village's Tulip Tree, showing the leaves that are missing their tips.

Ann Bridges
Local Painter-Printmaker
www.ann-bridges.com



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

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

The Alzheimer's Society published a major study in 2014 which found that there will be 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK by 2015. The number of people with dementia in the UK is forecast to increase to over one million by 2025 and to over two million by 2051.

So it won't be long until everyone living in the UK will know at least one person living with dementia. It can be very overwhelming when a loved one is diagnosed with the condition because, despite there being a lot of support available, people do not always know where to turn.

On Saturday 3rd November the District Council will be hosting a dementia support event at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. From 2pm there will be a marketplace with representatives from support services available across the district giving out leaflets and advice about how they can support people. The support services will range from solicitors offering advice about power of attorney, to Admiral Nurses, to people to talk to about supported housing, home adaptations and community support such as dementia cafes.

The marketplace event will be free of charge and you can drop in at any time from 2pm to 6pm for advice and support.

The Riverside Players from Eynsford will be putting on two plays, also on 3rd November at the Stag Theatre, explaining through drama the impact that dementia has not only on the person living with it, but also on their family, friends and carers.

At 4pm the Riverside Youth Group will be performing 'Chocolate Muffins,' written by

Naomi Morgan. The play explores how dementia can affect a child. It will only run for 30 minutes and is an ideal introduction to explaining to children what is happening with a loved one who may have dementia.

After a half an hour interval, at 5pm the adult Riverside Players will perform the comedy drama: 'Bothered and Bewildered' by Gail Young. The play follows Irene and her two daughters Louise and Beth as the girls lose their mum in spirit but not in body.

Tickets are currently available from the Stag's ticket office (01732 450175) at £11 for adults and £8 for concessions. All profits raised will be donated to the Eynsford and Farningham Dementia Café, which meets on the second Friday of each month in Eynsford Village Hall from 10am until 12 noon.

If you, or someone you know, is living with dementia and wants to know more about the support services available across the district, or wants to understand dementia better – please join us on 3rd November.

With best wishes,

Michelle Lowe





IN MEMORIAM



Ruth Barclay, 1922-2018

Ruth was born in Japan in 1922. Her parents were working as missionaries in Japan with the Church Mission Society. She was the only girl in the family, having an older half-brother and 2 older brothers and later a younger brother.

The family returned to England when Ruth was 4 years old and settled in Hoddesdon at Rosehill House, next to High Leigh (now a Christian conference centre). She went to Sherborne School then on to Girton College, Cambridge, where she studied Biology. Ruth had a lifelong interest in nature and especially in plants.

After graduating from Cambridge Ruth taught Biology, initially at Clarendon School in Richmond, then later at Lady Eleanor Holles School in Hampton, Middlesex, as Head of Science. Ruth's next appointment was as Headmistress at Walthamstow Hall, which brought her to Sevenoaks. For health and other reasons she took a career break before being appointed to Wadhurst College as a Biology teacher, rising to become Head of Science.

Ruth was highly regarded as a teacher and liked by her pupils. She brought her passion for nature to her teaching of biology, especially botany.

In retirement Ruth shared her small house with a friend and retired English teacher April Prichard. After April died in 1998 Ruth carried on in the house alone. With her health failing Ruth was initially helped to stay in her own home with valiant help from her neighbours before she moved into Emily Jackson Care Home.

Ruth came from a strong Christian home and she was a committed Christian all her life. She was a regular member of St. Bart's for many

years. As a teacher, during the school holidays she often volunteered to work in Christian camps and houseparties. She also went on biology-related field trips. Sometimes these were run on Raasay – an island off Skye where as children her family had enjoyed many happy holidays. Ruth was keen to share her enthusiasm for nature and her Christian faith with younger people.

Ruth was a keen supporter of a number of Christian charities, especially the Far Eastern Broadcasting Association.

Ruth was a notable artist and drew and painted superbly, her favourite topic being plants and flowers. She also enjoyed photography and she was continually fascinated by the effects of light and colour. Ruth was also very musical and played the piano and sang well. Sadly her arthritis meant she had to stop playing the piano in her later years.

Ruth very much enjoyed her garden and the plants that grew there and the birds that visited. She had a gardener who was sensitive to her aspirations and between them they created a habitat suitable for birds butterflies and hedgehogs.

Ruth was gentle, kind and considerate and her Christian lifestyle serves as an inspiration to all who knew her.



INTRODUCING THE RT. REVD. SIMON BURTON-JONES

OUR NEW BISHOP OF TONBRIDGE

The Rt. Revd. Simon Burton-Jones was welcomed and commissioned as Bishop of Tonbridge at a service at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 2nd September. Here he introduces himself to us:



I am married to Julia, whose career has been in dementia social care as a freelance trainer and author and who is presently the diocesan dementia specialist project officer. We have two children: Tim and Helena. Tim is married to Aislinn.

I was originally an Ely ordinand, served my first curacy in Blackburn diocese in the old mill town of Darwen before moving to Biggin Hill to serve a second curacy. There were vacancies in each of these benefices, meaning I worked with four different vicars while a curate! I then served two incumbencies at St Mary, Bromley and St Nicholas, Chislehurst over a twelve year period before becoming Archdeacon of Rochester and a Residentiary Canon at the Cathedral eight years ago.

I will have some specific duties as Bishop of Tonbridge. These include oversight of the work of mission, community engagement, schools and work with children and young people, articulating our shared vision in Called Together, developing strategy and promoting initiatives. I will also become chair of the Diocesan Board of Education.

You'll get to know me, but it might help to set out four underlying priorities.

1. *Evangelism.* We all have a story to tell about God's saving love. Giving people the assurance to express this confidently and kindly – especially in a culture which is becoming very 'boundaried' around debate – is a core task. There is also work to be done around defending the faith in the public world so we may have helpful things to say around difficult questions raised by friends without being completely stumped. It's a burning desire of mine to relate the Christian faith to the surrounding culture, to make spiritual sense of the profound, era-defining changes going on around us.

2. *Discipleship.* What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ in our generation? Figuring this out in a complex, evolving, precarious world is a matter for open debate and discussion.

3. *Community action.* The Church in the UK is re-discovering its social conscience. An extended period of austerity has magnified some social needs and left space for voluntary agencies to meet them. Being socially active is a sign of the Kingdom of God.

4. *Pastoral care.* We owe one another encouragement and inspiration. I hope to make my mark this way and that you'll find genuine honesty in me when we talk about shared struggles – we're all trying to figure it out on our journey in Christ.

OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING W.I.

Don't miss our annual Table Top Sale on October 6th in the Memorial Halls, from 9am until 12noon. Entrance 50p, children free. Bargains for all.

Our Otford Evening W.I. October meeting is on the 11th of October in the Club Room at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Andy Thomson who will talk about the town of Lewes and Bonfire Night giving us an insight into this vibrant town of mystery and tradition.



KEMSING SINGERS.

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to join a Choir? Kemsing Singers welcome new members. We rehearse on Monday evenings in the small hall at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing starting at 7.30pm. We sing a wide variety of music from light popular songs to the more classical. For more information visit our website [Kemsing Singers.com](http://KemsingSingers.com)



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

The Quiz and Fun Night is a social evening with a 'warm-up' quiz to break the ice, followed by a table quiz with prizes for the winners. Maximum team size is 6 people. The evening starts at **7.30pm** in the OVMH. Please contact the secretary, Janet Finney 01959 523760, for details.



OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting is on 22nd October, entitled 'We Will Remember Them' – The Otford Fallen of the Great War. The speaker is Jackie Howe

Meetings are held in the Village Memorial Hall (with adjacent free parking after 18:00). Doors open at 19:30 when refreshments will be available. Talks start at 20:00. Membership for the year costs £10 and visitors are very welcome at £3 per meeting (there is no charge for students). You are able to renew your membership (or join the Society) at any meeting during the year.



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

OCTOBER PUZZLE

The Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It is in fact a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation - Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 - 1885) was a devout Christian Member of Parliament who spent his life fighting to help ease the miserable conditions

in lunatic asylums, to stop the practice of forcing young children to be chimney sweeps, to stop children working in factories below the age of 10, to stop women and children going in the mines at all, to stop opium addiction, and to provide Ragged Schools for children without any means of education. On the day of his funeral at Westminster Abbey, tens of thousands of poor Londoners thronged the streets to see his coffin go by. He was much loved as The Poor Man's Earl.



- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Piccadilly | Social | Man |
| Circus | Reformer | Factories |
| Statue | Lunatics | Ragged |
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GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MEMBERS OF OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

My Garden

By modern standards I have a large garden. It was laid out by my father in 1926 from what was, I understood, farmland meadow. Indeed, not so long ago, a small boy visiting with his mother looked from the window into the back garden and actually said, 'Look Mummy, a field!' It isn't meant to be quite like that, but there is a large uninterrupted lawn which stretches from the house to the edge of the orchard, and could loosely be called a field.

Much of this area has been in its time, a dig-for-victory vegetable garden, a spacious chicken run, a rounders pitch, a football pitch, a cricket ground, an athletics track, a cyclists and tri-cyclists track for family and neighbours' children, and a place to chase and hide and to run through the garden hose. Once there were two lovely herbaceous borders running down the centre lawn, with a wide grass path in between and a honey-suckle trellis arch (climbing frame!) at the end. The borders were grassed over a while back, as it happened, to give room for a god-daughter's wedding reception marquee. It is now lovely to have green space, and if daisies, clovers and birds-foot-trefoil choose to flower there, they are very welcome.

The orchard with old lichened fruit trees is a mass of daffodils in the spring, followed by cowslips with almost as bright a spread of yellow. The apple trees still produce enough apples to store for ourselves, and more importantly, to throw to the birds in wintery weather. Just leaving apples under the trees is not good enough; they need to be stored away until the frosts come.

The garden was my father's hobby; even so he was generous in allowing it to be a playground. The smaller front lawn was almost bare where children played and thumped tennis balls against the house wall and wore the grass out. We were spoilt in having space, but even if your garden is small, don't let it be too precious, don't pave it all over. Have a picket fence rather than close boarding, a hedge rather than iron railings; be friendly and don't shut your garden behind electronic gates - share the pleasure of your garden with every passer-by.

Fay Plant



Gardening tips: Now is the time to move and divide your perennials. Large clumps can be split, and the best pieces from the outside replanted, the centre being thrown away. Dahlias should be cut down after they have been blackened from the first frost, the tubers dug up and shaken free of soil, then labelled and stored in a dry cool place through the winter.

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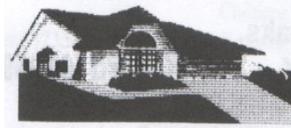
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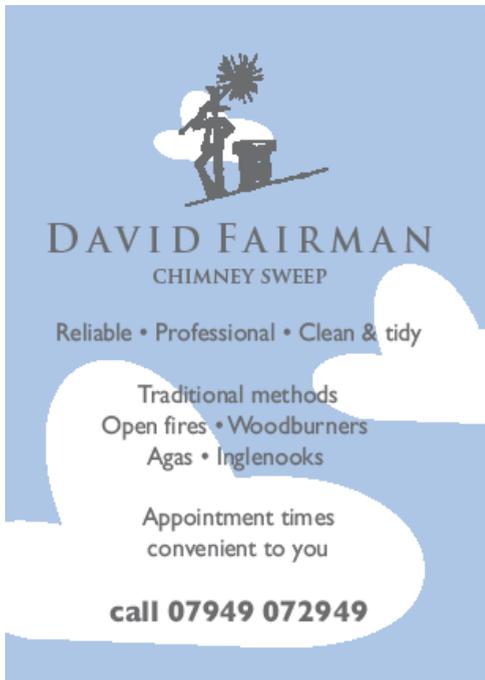
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine in a studio. The background shows other participants and reformer machines. The text is overlaid on a dark banner at the top and bottom of the image.




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