



St Bartholomew's Church Otford Parish News

July August 2019 www.stbartholomews.co.uk £1

SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

July/August	8am	10am	6.30pm
7 July - 4 August	Holy Communion	Sunday Club Celebration Service - All Together Worship	Evensong
14 July - 11 August	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-
21 July - 18 August	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evensong
28 July - 25 August	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion - 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: Matthew, Richard, Donna & Christopher Worssam
taken by Richard Vigis

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VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Embedded in the heart of Anglican spirituality there is an attitude of gratitude. This is conveyed clearly and beautifully in the Book of Common Prayer in the *General Thanksgiving*. It begins, "Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men..."

As I reach the conclusion of my time as Vicar of Otford, I look back with thanksgiving. My connection with St. Bart's goes back 33 years to 1986 when my parents moved to Otford upon retirement. I was serving overseas at the time on the staff of the Hong Kong Christian Council. Through the natural link with Otford I became a St. Bart's overseas Mission Links partner, connected with the Church Mission Society.

On my return in 1989 I lived for 6 months in Otford and worshipped at St. Bart's. Some of the members of the senior youth group then are now in positions of active leadership.

I had met Donna in Hong Kong, and it was when she was visiting Otford in October 1989 that we popped in to St. Bart's when setting off for a walk and I proposed to her. Wonderfully she accepted - and so St. Bart's has some very happy memories stretching back over the years.

Throughout the 26 years of my ordained ministry I have served in the Diocese of Rochester, and always within easy travelling distance of Otford. This is because we always wanted to keep closely in touch with my parents. While living in Pratts Bottom, and then Hartley, we would come over to Otford for Sunday afternoon tea every week, and we'd hear about what was going on in the village and the church.

So when the parish became vacant upon the retirement of Pat Hopkins, I applied for the post and I was delighted to be appointed. As I look back I am very grateful for the friendships made. In Christian ministry it is a real privilege to be alongside people in a deeper way than just casual acquaintance. I have been deeply impressed by friends who have shown such willing service, such commitment to church and

community, such courage in adversity, such generosity in friendship. On a family note, at the time I was appointed my parents were in their early 80s, and it has been a blessing to be closely involved in caring for them throughout their remaining years in Otford.

I will also treasure memories of many special occasions marking the liturgical year such as the celebration of Harvest; the poignancy of Remembrance; the hope of Advent; the joy Christmas and Easter; the expectation of Pentecost; and the enjoyment of many associated social occasions.

I have valued the opportunity to be involved in different aspects of village life. It has been good to serve as a school governor and to take assemblies on a regular basis. It has also been a privilege to work alongside such talented and dedicated church members on a variety of teams and committees.

I have enjoyed opportunities to explore faith and grow in discipleship with both young people and adults through Confirmation preparation, midweek Lent sessions, and preaching through the three-year lectionary cycle. I have treasured the privilege of leading worship, from big civic occasions, to the quietness of Morning Prayer at the start of the day.

St. Paul wrote, "The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." And so as I give thanks for our time in Otford I pray that God will continue to be close to us all and guide as we all step into a new chapter.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

DIARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2019

**Morning Prayer is said on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week in Church at 9.00 am
but not during August**

- 1 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
3 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Dennis Mihill) refreshments afterwards
6 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
9.30 am Tech Team training (in Church)
1.00 pm Wedding of Robert Woolston and Hayley Knight

7 The Third Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
10.00 am Sunday Club Celebration Service
12.30 pm BBQ in The Vicarage garden
6.30 pm Evensong
8 7.45 pm Homegroup(17 Leonard Avenue)
9 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
10 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am 'First Steps' Summer Praise service (in St. Bartholomew's)
followed by Teddy Bears' Picnic in The Vicarage garden
2 .30 pm Funeral of Jean Hankinson
11 7.15 pm Men's Group Walk (meet in the Church Car Park)
12-14 Church Youth Weekend at Kench Hill

14 The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
10.00 am Holy Communion
15 12-2.00 pm Soup Lunch (Church Centre)
7.45 pm CAMEO (16 Tudor Drive)
16 7.45 pm PCC meeting with Archdeacon Julie (Church Centre)
17 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards
7.30 pm Tech Team Training (in Church)
20 6.30 pm Spanish Pop-Up Restaurant (Church Centre)

21 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
10.00 am Morning Worship & the baptism of Alice Johnson
12 noon Baptism of Jacob Sargent
6.30 pm Choral Evensong
22 7.45 pm CAMEO (Patcher's Cottage, 70 High Street)
23 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
24 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd. Chris Reed
25 7.30 pm Quiz (Harri and Rich Bell) (Church Centre)
26 2.00 pm Wedding of Michael Bryant and Victoria Lerner (Revd. Tim Hatwell)

28 The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall)**
10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Canon Brenda Hurd)

29 7.45 pm CAMEO (58 High Street)

31 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed) refreshments afterwards

AUGUST

3 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

4 8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Canon Derek Carpenter)

10.00 am All Together Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

5 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

7 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall)

10 6.30 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

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

11 The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Adie McCall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Canon Derek Carpenter)

12 7.45 pm CAMEO get-together (17 Leonard Avenue)

14 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Adie McCall) refreshments afterwards

18 The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship

12 noon Baptism of James Williams

6.30 pm Evensong

19 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

21 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

25 The Tenth Sunday after Trinity: St. Bartholomew

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion

26 Bank Holiday

7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

28 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Johnson) refreshments afterwards

7.45 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

29 8.00 pm R & R team + Church Wardens (17 Leonard Avenue)

31 Church Hall Working Party



Registers



BAPTISMS (Our Welcome)

2nd June	Rowan Peake
16th June	Eddie Ashworth
21st July	Alice Johnson and Jacob Sargent
18th August	James Williams

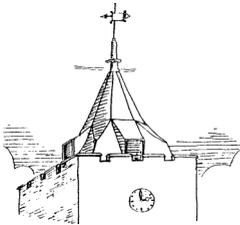
WEDDINGS (Our Congratulations)

6th July	Bob Woolston and Hayley Knight
26th July	Michael Bryant and Victoria Larner

FUNERALS (Our Sympathy)

12th June	Jean Hankinson (aged 86)
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FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



FINAL SUNDAY

Richard and Donna's final Sunday will be on 25th August prior to their move to Pembury. After the 10 am service there will be a drinks reception in

the Church Centre followed by a gathering for lunch in the Vicarage garden.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We are very grateful to all those who came last month to help in the Churchyard and we look forward to seeing everyone again on **Saturdays, 6th July and 3rd August from 9.00-11.30 am**. If anyone can help for an hour or two it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools too!

SUNDAY CLUB CELEBRATION SERVICE

This takes place on Sunday, 7th 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 Sundays throughout the summer weeks.

PARISH SUMMER BBQ AND BRING & SHARE LUNCH - 7th July

You are warmly invited to our parish summer BBQ in the Vicarage garden from 12.30 pm onwards. The burgers and sausages will be provided 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 salads and savouries and those with the surnames L-Z to bring a pudding. Do come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a relaxed afternoon as the summer holidays approach.

ST. BART'S MEN'S GROUP: ANNUAL SUMMER WALK - 11th JULY

The annual Men's group summer walk will be held on 11th July leaving at 7.15 pm from the Church car park. Douglas Howie will lead us on a walk in the local area, taking in a pub or two along the way!

SUMMER SOUP LUNCH

The next soup lunch will be held on Monday 15th July in the Church Centre from 12-2.00 pm

Our coffee-time guest will be Philip Bowcock.

Do come along to enjoy the homemade soup and bread and a light dessert with friends. Minimum donation £5. Please don't forget to sign up on the list at the back of church!

ADVANCE NOTICE

The September Soup Lunch will be on Monday, 16th September in the Church Centre, 12-2.00 pm. Suggested donation of £5.

SPANISH POP-UP RESTAURANT

This will be held on Saturday 20th July from 6.30 pm in the Church Centre. Suggested minimum donation of £20/person. Tables of 6+ or book and we can add you to a table. Come

and enjoy an evening of a variety of Spanish foods and good company. To book, speak to Mags



Southgate.

QUIZ NIGHT Thursday 25th July 7.30pm.

Raising funds for Pursue (a charity set up by Harriet and Richard Bell, Charles and Stella Shee's daughter and son-in-law) supporting community transformation in Kenya.

Put together your own team of up to 6, or just come along and join a team. Tickets are £15 and include a welcome drink and supper (bar available) Sign up at persue.org.uk/quiz

THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE & HIKE Saturday, 14th September

This will be held between 10.00 am-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.

THOMAS BECKET RETURNING TO OTFORD ON SAT 19TH OCTOBER BRINGING KING HENRY II WITH HIM. WELL! WELL! WELL!

850 years after his murder in Canterbury, Becket is coming back to Otford - a place where it's said he particularly enjoyed staying while Archbishop (1162-1170) - in spite of the taste of the water and the songs of its nightingales which disturbed his devotions.

A Turbulent Priest is a musical from the pen of James Cary. It follows the extraordinary story of Thomas and King Henry, their bromance, bust-up and betrayals. In short, plenty to sing about!

But at heart, the show asks questions about the place of the Church in our society. Does the State have final say over what's right and wrong? Should the Church make a stand and speak out? Are Christians prepared to face the consequences of that stand?

James Cary is an award-winning sitcom writer for TV and Radio. He's the co-writer of *Miranda* and *Bluestone 42* for BBC TV and for Radio 4's *Another Case of Milton Jones*. James is also a member of the House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England.

One of his previous plays, *The God Particle*, was performed at Otford Methodist Church last autumn. Following performances at Spring Harvest, Keswick Convention and Brighton Fringe, **A Turbulent Priest** will be on tour this autumn and coming to St Bart's on the evening of Saturday 19th October (6.30pm). Tickets will be available in September *but please book the date in your diary now!*

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

Let's get creative!

The Story of Creation

(Based on Genesis 1-2:3)

A story poem to read aloud, mime and join in the repetitions!

In the beginning, there was nothing. (*Show empty hands*) So God made the heavens and the earth. "Let there be light!" said God. And light appeared!

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the land. But there was nothing growing on it. "Let all kinds of plants grow on the earth!" said God. And they did! There were trees and bushes, fruit and vegetables and colourful flowers.



(Mime growing up, spreading branches)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the sky. But there was nothing shining in it! "Let there be lights in the sky!" said God. And there were! There were brilliant suns, glowing moons, spinning planets and twinkling stars.



(Wiggle fingers like twinkling stars, spin like planets)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the sea. But there was nothing swimming in it. "Let the sea be filled with all



sorts of sea creatures!" said God. And it was! There were crabs and dolphins, turtles, fish and sea-horses all swimming through the water.

(Mime swimming, diving, floating)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

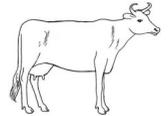


God made the air. But there was nothing flying through it. "Let there be birds!" said God. And there were! The air was filled with birds. There were swallows and parrots, eagles and owls all flying and swooping and hovering (*mime flying, swooping, hovering*)

"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

God made the jungle. He made forests, fields and gardens. But there was nothing moving through it. "Let there be animals!" said God.

And there were! There were big animals and tiny creatures. There were wild animals and friendly pets. (*Mime crawling, galloping, stalking, trotting*)



"That's good!" said God. "That's very good!"

So God made the world. But there was no-one to look after it - no-one to share its joys. "Let there be a people!" said God. And there were! And soon the world was filled with families - Mums and Dads, boys and girls, Grandmas and Grandpas . . . They sowed seeds, they made music, sang and danced, they made clay pots and carved wood . . . (*mime different activities*) . . . and God was very pleased - especially when they made time to walk and talk with him!



"That's WONDERFUL!" said God.

"That's REALLY wonderful!"

And God was so pleased with all that he had made, that he stopped work for a rest and to bless and enjoy it all!

Just for parents/carers: Take time to read the Creation story in the Bible. The summer holidays are a great opportunity for us to

encourage our children to delight in the natural world around us. We can help them to create memories and “summer holiday” traditions that will give them pleasure in years to come!

The Creation story: Read the story above aloud while other members of the family do the mimes. Wonder about it together, as follows:

I wonder if you could leave out anything that God made and it would make no difference to the world;

I wonder which part of the story you like the best;

I wonder how we can look after God’s world;

I wonder why God rested after all his work.

Recreation time for Mums and Dads! As a busy parent, it’s easy to feel we are simply “Emma’s Mum” or “Ben’s Dad”! The more relaxed summer months may be a good time to resume an enjoyable interest or therapeutic hobby dropped through lack of time. Arm yourself with the right equipment (water-colours, walking map, maintained bike, yoga mat, etc) and put aside some time to “recreate” your own identity! If personal prayer time has been short, perhaps now is the time to refresh it!

Recreation time for kids! During the summer holidays, encourage children to find new hobbies for relaxation both now and for their future benefit. For inspiration, you could:

visit a craft store such as *Hobbycraft* for ideas and supplies;

visit a good bookshop or library and search for books that inspire, for example a book on how to draw/make origami animals or a storybook about an animal by Michael Morpurgo;

invest in a Bible story book and start reading one every day;

have a look in the supermarket for “creation-themed” sugar cake decorations, such as stars, butterflies or carrots (for carrot cake!).

On a car journey: On a long car journey, play the alphabet game, with each person naming something that God has made starting with A,B,C, etc. For example, Alligator, Berries, Corn, Daisy . . . You could do the same thing with names of people and countries, for example, Andrew, Belgium, Christopher, Denmark . . .

Plants: Give children a small bed or container to dig over or look after during the summer. Experiment with growing things to eat, such as lettuce, mustard and cress.

Out and about: Splash in the stream at *Ightham Mote* and find Chestnut wigwams, log stepping-stones, wooden dens, etc. Spot the Yeti at the *Himalayan Gardens* at Riverhill and make a Sticky Seed Owl (from Wed 21st – Mon 26th Aug, 11am-4pm). There is much to see, smell, touch and marvel at, at *Lullingstone World Garden*, including the cactus house which contains “alien eggs” and a plant that smells of dog poo!!

Check websites for opening times and events.

Prayer: On a Sunday, talk about the things each person has enjoyed over the past week. Thank God for our wonderful world and for giving us the gift of time to enjoy it.

Vicki Howie





IN MEMORIAM



Michael Till (1964 - 2019)

Michael lived his life to the full, accomplishing so much, and his life touched many people across the globe. The suddenness of his death at 54 was tragic and shocking to friends and family alike. Mike was always kind, generous and very supportive. He was the “glue” that got everyone together. Even with the constraints of living on different continents, he still had time for everyone.

Mike was a devoted husband to his surviving wife, Mercedes, and a wonderful father to Olivia, Camilla, (Elisa, deceased) and Alex. He loved his family profoundly. Fortunately he was able to make frequent trips to see his mother, Barbara, in Otford, especially after his father died from Alzheimers. He was a great support for her.

Mike had a great gift for listening and giving you his undivided attention. He always made you feel special and valued. His compassion was evident with his love for humanity.

Mike was blessed to be born to wonderful parents, Barbara and Peter Till, in 1964, in Orpington. He grew up in Otford and went to Russell House Primary, Solefields and Sevenoaks School. Family holidays at the time included vacations to Scotland and Cornwall where he developed a love of the beach, hiking and the outdoors.

Mike continued his education at Durham University, making the most of undergraduate life. He obtained a degree in economics and psychology. Later he took his Chartered Accountancy exams.

Upon qualifying as an accountant, Mike went to Korea where he worked in Seoul before joining

Arthur Anderson in London and then in Buenos Aires. Soon after, he married Mercedes and wholeheartedly embraced the South American culture. Although separated by continents, he always stayed in touch with his extended family.

In the mid 90’s Mike joined the Commonwealth Development Corporation, helping build enterprises in third world countries. While based in London his daughter Olivia was born, followed soon after by his second daughter, Camilla. The family then moved with Mike’s work to Miami. After a couple of years there, they moved to Bolivia. A few years later, Mike joined Actis and returned to London. The family was there for several years and their son Alex was born. They returned to Buenos Aires where Mike lived until the time of his death.

Mike loved his work and never could quite retire. He had an obvious passion for travel, inherited from his parents. Mike has left behind an amazing legacy, three beautiful children and many happy memories. He will be remembered with respect, admiration and love.

Caroline Hurst (Mike’s sister)



NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Summer Sounds at Otford Primary School

On a warm summer's evening in May, music could be heard drifting from the open doors of the school hall. The musicians of Otford Primary School were performing to a packed room of parents and friends at the annual Summer Concert. Over 35 children, all learning instruments in school, were involved in a variety of musical groups and solo performances. We had pianists, brass players, recorders, violins, guitars and drums. The school band, orchestra and brass group also played. Giving the children the opportunity to stand up and perform to their peers is an important part of learning to play music. They all played confidently and with such enthusiasm. It was a wonderful evening. A collection at the end of the concert raised

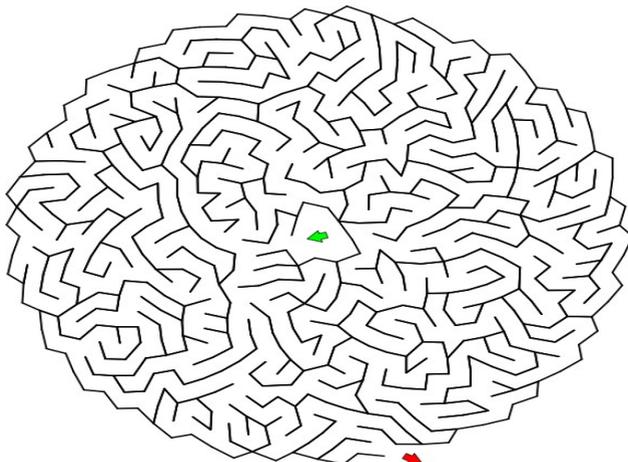
money for Nordoff Robbins, a music therapy charity working with children and young people in London.

Music at Otford Primary has gone from strength to strength over the last few years. We are very lucky to have a dedicated music room with great resources. There are many music clubs on offer including ukulele club, orchestra, keyboard club and Rhythmix music group, as well as whole class ukulele teaching to Year 4 children and whole school singing. In addition to this we have a fantastic group of visiting professional music teachers offering individual or small group tuition in a huge variety of instruments including woodwind, brass, strings, guitars, piano and drums.

The next musical event will be the Year 6 production in July – auditions have taken place and the children are so excited it's going to be a 'Supercalifragilistic' show!

Louise Brown

SUMMER PUZZLE



IN CONVERSATION WITH ... DOUGLAS HOWIE

Leader of the Men's Group walk

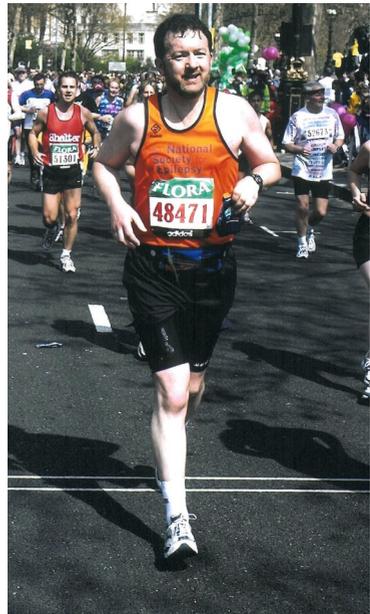
For several years now Douglas has planned and led an annual walk for the men of St Bart's. Each year the walk takes a different route ... but one which invariably includes a visit to at least one pub! This year it will take place on the evening of Thursday 11th July, meeting at 7.15pm in the Church car park.



Douglas told me that he has always enjoyed being active. From the age of eight he regularly walked the half mile to school from the bus stop. At secondary school his interest in sport encompassed squash, cross-country running and 'a bit of cricket'. He continued to play squash at Cambridge University and also rowed for his college in 'the Bumps' on the River Cam, earning an oar (displayed in his front hall) for being part of a successful team. Douglas spoke of the ongoing pleasure he derives from walking, running, cycling and golf - saying that when you do a desk job all day it is a great relief to get outdoors and do something physically demanding. He has run many half and a few full marathons including the London Marathon in 2003 in an impressive time of 3hours 57

minutes. In 2011 he climbed Mt Kilimanjaro and eighteen months ago he undertook an extensive cycling trip in Tanzania and Rwanda, raising funds for education in East Africa.

Born in Bromley six weeks before his due date, Douglas said that it was the only time in his life he had ever been early! He grew up with a younger sister and brother. His father was a dentist and his mother kept the books for the practice. She later returned to full time work as a headmaster's secretary, in addition to teaching a typing evening class. Douglas described his childhood as 'uneventful' and remembers enjoying family caravanning holidays, usually to France. He also relished the freedom children had in those days to roam wherever they liked on their bikes – including trips from St Paul's Cray to Otford.



From the age of eight to eighteen Douglas attended Eltham College where he did A Levels



in History, Economics and Maths. Outside the classroom he played the clarinet in the London Youth Band, participating in concerts in locations such as Woolwich Town Hall, the Winter Gardens in Eastbourne and the Fairfield Halls in Croydon.

The school encouraged Douglas to apply to Cambridge University and he accepted a place to read Law at Sidney Sussex. In 1974, before going up, Douglas spent a number of months working for Cable and Wireless in London collating statistics on international phone calls from hand written ledgers. This was at the time when direct dial calls had just been introduced – previously calls had had to go through the operator. The money earned enabled him to travel widely in North America for five weeks, including spending seven consecutive nights on a Greyhound bus! Whilst he was there President Nixon resigned.

On graduating from Cambridge, Douglas completed his law exams and was taken on by the international commercial law firm, Lovell, White and King (now Hogan Lovells). After six years there he was then asked to go to Hong

Kong. By now Douglas was married to Vicki and, in 1984, they left to spend two years in the then Crown colony. Although Douglas was kept busy in his firm's small office dealing with a wide range of commercial law, the young couple also managed to find time for exploring S E Asia, Australia and even China which was just beginning to open up to foreigners and which they visited three times.

When they finally returned to the UK, they took a most interesting route, travelling by train from Beijing through Mongolia, then into Siberia to Irkutsk, from where they flew to Moscow before catching trains via Leningrad to Helsinki to take a flight home. Douglas recounted that, after ten days in communist controlled countries with restricted menus, no customer service and only basic accommodation, it was quite a relief to reach Finland!

In 1988 Douglas moved to become a partner at Barlow, Lyde and Gilbert, a firm providing legal services to the insurance market. He specialised in corporate and regulatory matters. Today he continues to work in the same field but on a part-time basis for Keystone Law.

On returning from Hong Kong, the Howies settled in the house they had previously bought in Sevenoaks Weald where their two children James (1987) and Olivia (1989) were born. In 1991, seeking more space and a bigger garden in beautiful surroundings, they moved to their current home in Otford. As well as tending the vegetable plot and the physical activities mentioned above, in his spare time Douglas also enjoys a weekly game of bridge; he has played with the same group of men for almost forty years! He also likes to go to the theatre and concerts.

Christeen Malan

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

At the annual meeting of the District Council, a new Chairman is formally appointed. This year, Otford and District Councillor, John Edwards-Winsler, officially accepted this prestigious badge of office and will be ably supported by his wife Frances as consort.

The Chairman of the District Council is the First Citizen of the District and takes precedence over all others, including Town Mayors. This excludes royalty and Her Majesty's deputy, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, who take precedence over the Chairman. The role of the Chairman is often confused with the Town Mayor who is the First Citizen of the town; the Office of Mayor is the most important civic appointment in the town.

The Chairman represents the District at all civic ceremonial events and will be invited to an array of community events across the county. At these events, he will be required to wear his chain and badge of office; the badge of office symbolises his authority. As Chairman of the District Council, John will chair Council meetings, but cannot be a member of the Cabinet or a member of any committees. So, whilst John will be extremely busy attending all sorts of events representing the District Council, I will be doing everything I can to support him in this busy year.

At the Annual Council Meeting, the Leader of the District Council, Cllr Peter Fleming, formally assigns Members to the Cabinet and to committees. The meetings of the committees are open to the public, but on confidential matters, only committee members participate. You are welcome to observe a committee meeting, but discussion will only occur between Members unless, where appropriate, you have registered to speak before the meeting.

For the coming year, I will be sitting on four committees: Housing and Health, which deals

with strategy and policy, housing standards, homelessness and wellbeing; Development and Conservation, which covers the local plan, planning policy, conservation and development services; Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, a forum between KCC and SDC on highway policy, parking and public transport; and Development Control, which includes planning applications, appeals, enforcement and tree preservation orders.

As you can see, I am going to be on a steep learning curve! Plenty of guidance is available from the hardworking officers of the Council who assist and provide Councillors with all the support they need to fulfil their duties. Training opportunities are also available on a wide range of topics and experienced Councillors are always on hand.

As well as all of this, I am of course here to promote the interests of the residents of Otford and Shoreham. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you feel I can help you with.

Cllr Irene Roy
cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Tel: 01959 525610



RECIPE FOR THE SUMMER

Torta Caprese

This recipe is straightforward and reliable and always goes down well.

Ingredients:

200g dark chocolate

4 medium eggs

170g caster sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

250g ground almonds

200g butter, melted and cooled until tepid

icing sugar, to serve

Line the base of a 24cm diameter round cake tin with non-stick baking parchment and grease the sides.

Preheat oven to 170 degrees C (gas 3).

Blitz the chocolate in a food processor until it is finely chopped, though still retaining a little texture. If you don't have a processor, chop the chocolate finely with a large knife.

Beat the eggs with the sugar and vanilla extract until the mixture is pale, moussey and thick enough to hold a trail on its surface when you lift the beaters—this should take about 10 minutes. Fold in the chocolate, almonds and butter. Spoon into the prepared tin and bake for 45-50 minutes or until just firm to the touch.

Leave to cool in the tin, then turn out.

Dust the surface with icing sugar just before serving in wedges, with a little fruit on the side and a spoonful of creme fraiche.

Serves 10

Linda Lattimer



OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING W.I.

Our next meeting is on Thursday
11th July at 7.30pm in the Club
Room of the Otford Village

Memorial Hall. Our speaker, Anna Astin, will tell us about women, health and beauty during WW2 when women were told 'Its your duty to be beautiful'. I wonder what the men were told!!!

Visitors are very welcome to come along and join us, and if you would like any more information, please contact our President on 01959 524 831.



OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA SUMMER FETE

Saturday 6th July 12-4pm on the
school field.

Music, traditional games, pony rides,
inflatables, beer tent, BBQ, plants, shopping
stalls, games, tombolas, grand raffle,
refreshments and more!

Please come along and support your local
school.

£1 entry, children free.



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the
flower arrangements, she always kept
the vicar's hay fever in mind

MISSION MATTERS

Poverty and Hope Appeal 2019

The Appeal is the annual fundraising opportunity to express the Christian belief in justice for the poor and food for the hungry. Through the appeal the commitment to tackle the causes and effects of poverty around the world is demonstrated.

The Diocese funds projects operated by NGOs and charities. Christian Aid and the Church Mission Society are two of these which we at St Bartholomews also support.

Projects are supported for three years to help them grow and become self sustaining.

2019 Projects:

Sri Lanka : Advocacy, intervention and rehabilitation for abused and exploited children.

Zimbabwe: Tackling HIV/Aids stigma across four dioceses.

Burundi : Providing horticulture training for marginalised groups.

Syria : Providing education, training and support for young people whose lives have been affected by conflict.

Kent : Exploring causes of poverty, injustice and climate change with young people through the educational charity Commonwork. The charity also works with young people with disabilities and learning difficulties to develop skills and confidence, and also in schools in high deprivation areas to tackle childhood obesity.

Seventy five parishes in the Diocese support the appeal both financially and through prayer. Individuals may also donate.

For more information :

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/poverty-amp-hope/>

or Email : povertyandhope@gmail.com



Deborah is the proud owner of a nutritional garden which she uses to stay healthy.

She used to lock herself in her house and cry because she had HIV. But now, with help from the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe who are partnering with USPG, life for Deborah and her children has changed for the better.

OTFORD HERITAGE TRAIL - THE FORGE AND FORGE COTTAGES



A forge was once a key local industry in every village. This was a world where all forms of transport were dependent upon a well-shod horse. Iron-mongers were unknown in those days, so the village blacksmith played an important role in rural life. He would create anything in iron, from nails to cart axles; and as a farrier, he combined his smithing skills with a vet's knowledge in the care of horse's hooves.

FORGE COTTAGES

The original row of three labourers' cottages was first built in about 1665 when Charles II



Forge Cottages as they may have looked when Helen and Myfanwy Thomas moved here in 1917.

was on the throne. Each contained its own inglenook fireplace for warmth and cooking. The eastern (far right-hand) cottage had the same entrance as today's restaurant. The central cottage, its door can still be seen, was the smallest, with one room upstairs and one below. The third (western) cottage had a front door like its neighbour's, but this has since been converted into a window. The walls are all one-and-a-half storeys high, resulting in three dormer-lit bedrooms. However, today's dormers are much larger than the originals would have been. In 1912 it was threatened with demolition. Following urgent conversion work, it was divided into two cottages; the larger to the east was known as Forge House, and the smaller to the west was called Forge Cottage.

Helen Thomas and her youngest daughter, Myfanwy, moved here in 1917 following the death of her famous poet husband, Edward Thomas at the Battle of Arras. Helen, herself an accomplished poet, entertained many famous visitors here. These included D.H. Lawrence who was a close friend (and taught her how to prune gooseberries in the back garden), composers Ernest Moeran and Peter Warlock, and actors Alan Anderson and Sybil Thorndike (who stayed at The Chalet built over the river). The building became a restaurant in 1974.

THE FORGE

Otford forge was a simple structure made from split logs and planks. Given the essential nature of the work and its location on a busy road, a forge had probably stood here for centuries, until its closure in 1939. The artist, Otto Weber, painted the forge in 1876. His work was much admired by Queen Victoria and the painting entitled 'He's Cast a Shoe' was hung at

Sandringham where a young Prince George, Duke of Kent, recalled it vividly on his bedroom wall. In 1936 Prince George visited the smith, Mr. Hartnup, to see this iconic part of his childhood. His son, Prince Edward, also visited 70 years later.

With thanks to Rod Shelton, Phil Clucas and Ed Thompson



Myfanwy remembered the pleasure of watching Mr. Hartnup working in the forge, shoeing great plough-horses... the sweet, acrid smell of the red-hot horseshoe held against the pared hoof for fitting, and the soft sound of the seven tapered nails being tapped through the shoe into the hoof.



The village smith and farrier – the Hartnups – outside their forge.



The Victorian artist Otto Weber immortalised Otford's simple village forge in his painting 'He's Cast a Shoe'.

A BOOK WHICH INFLUENCED ME...

Chasing the Dragon is the autobiography of Jackie Pullinger, a young woman from Croydon who in 1966 felt the call to overseas missionary work but was turned down by the established mission societies. She went nonetheless.

Jackie took the proverbial slow boat to China and prayed for guidance on where to disembark. This turned out to be Hong Kong. She soon found herself ministering in a terrible place known as the Walled City. This looked like a cross between an enormous apartment block and a shanty town. At least 30,00 people lived in an area of only six acres, smaller in extent than many an English field. Owing to a territorial dispute between Great Britain and China there was no effective administration or policing and no sanitation or water. Every kind of vice flourished under the real power which was the Triad Gangs.

In the light of later achievements it is extraordinary that Jackie began solo with no organisation behind her and no funds. She helped where she could. She rented a small room in the midst of this place of darkness for meetings to pray and to sing and to run a youth club. After a year or so a key event happened. She received a spiritual gift whereby she found that that by praying in the power of the Spirit, drug addicts were able to become free of heroin without withdrawal symptoms. The book title "Chasing the Dragon" is a local phrase for a method of taking heroin. She acquired a Chinese name, Poon Sui Jeh.

One of the most dramatic passages in the book is her description of being in a cafe and realising that there were also several Triad gang members there. They knew who she was. She felt herself in considerable danger and wondered how she was going to get out. Clearly this kind of ministry can

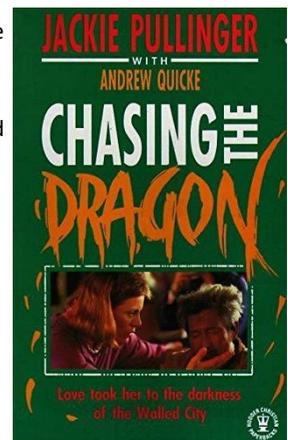
only be carried out by someone without local family ties, since loved ones could be threatened, assaulted or taken hostage. Remarkably, she was later able to set up a meeting with the top leader of one of these gangs. "Miss Poon" he said, "you and me, we understand power" (!) He demonstrated graphically - he with the fist, she with the heart.

On many occasions something like this was said to her. "You Westerners, you work amongst us underprivileged people, you go on television and become famous. Then you go home. You don't care about us." Eventually people realised that Jackie had no intention of going home. She earned respect by staying put.

It was not all success. She was let down on many occasions. But helpers arrived, the work grew and several houses were acquired for recovering drug addicts. The Walled City was demolished in the 1980s, the people rehoused and the work continued in other ways.

This then is a glimpse of Jackie Pullinger MBE who pursued an unlikely career for a graduate of the Royal College of Music. All this is completely outside my experience. I re-read the book occasionally as an example of how one person's dedicated and fearless discipleship can lead to hundreds of changed lives.

Chris Reed



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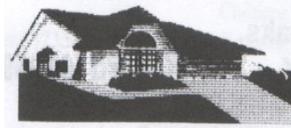
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine in a studio. The text is overlaid on a dark banner at the top and bottom of the image.



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The advertisement features a tall, ornate antique clock as a central image. The text is arranged in a clear, readable format, with the company name and contact information prominently displayed.

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Manager and Booking Sec: Robert Hunt

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