



THE GLORIOUS DEAD
FALLEN IN THE
CAUSE
OF THE FREE
1914 - 1918
WHILE WE LIVE
WE'LL REMEMBER

St Bartholomew's Church Otford Parish News

SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

November	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
3 Nov All Saints' Sunday	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
10 November Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	Remembrance Service	-	-
17 Nov 2nd Sunday before Advent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
24 Nov Christ the King	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	Messy Church	-

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.

Cover photo: Remembrance taken by Ed Thompson
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 11 Volume 89

READER'S REFLECTIONS



'Stories' What makes for a good story? I don't mean a long novel, full of twists and turns, long descriptive passages and the gradual unfolding of complex characters. I'm thinking about shorter forms. Like Grimm's Fairy Tales or Aesop's Fables. Or indeed children's stories like the hugely successful 'Gruffalo'.

Experts in storytelling say that a great story includes conflict, surprise, controversy and suspense.

In a short narrative there isn't much time for character development or the description of the scene: it's mainly about the plot. But it's surprising how much depth can be hinted at in a very short narrative. In the Gruffalo, we learn about the clever and slightly bumptious character of the mouse. In Hansel and Gretel we are given a mouth-watering description of the sweet foods that make up the wicked witch's gingerbread house.

Some of my favourite tales are the stories Jesus told to his friends. We call them 'parables'. There are thirty-three in total, but many are very short. The longer ones are the most familiar, like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

Most of Jesus' parables include some kind of surprise. And often they were very controversial to their original hearers. Take the Good Samaritan. The man who has been set upon by thieves lies bleeding by the side of the road. But the religious leaders of the time pass by on the other side. That was indeed shocking for people to hear. Especially if you were a self-important religious leader!

Just as with more modern stories, a few words can tell us a lot about the characters that we meet in the parables. In the one about the Prodigal Son we learn about the Prodigal's selfish attitudes and his later feelings of regret for his mistakes. The character of the older

brother is interesting and well drawn, particularly his jealousy when the younger Prodigal returns. And most of all we glimpse the character of the father – a portrait of God the Father. Despite the way his younger son has treated him, he runs towards him when he sees him in the distance, throws his arms around him and kisses him. Then he orders that the fatted calf should be killed and organises a huge party.

Why did Jesus so often teach in parables? Much of his teaching was in the form of simple commandments like 'love your enemies'. Wasn't that a simpler and more direct way of getting his message across? Not always. A story is a great way of drawing people in. And a way of helping them to see deep truths which can't be compressed into pithy sayings or commandments.

When it comes to learning about the character of God, we can of course learn from simple sayings like 'God is love'. But we learn at a much deeper level when we observe in the parables how God's love, graciousness and generosity transforms everyday situations.

Bill Lattimer



DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2019

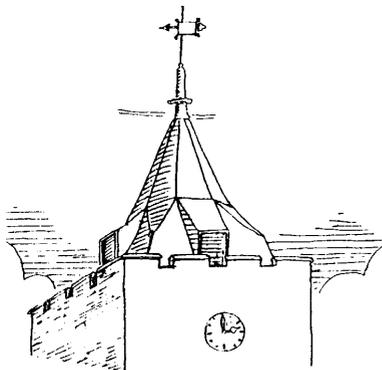
- 1 8.30 am Office meeting with Churchwardens
- 2 9.00 am Churchyard working party (last meeting for this year)
- 3 All Saints' Day**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Derek Carpenter)
- 10.00 am All Together Worship
- 6.30 pm Evensong
- 4 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Johnson), refreshments afterwards
- 8 10.30 am Magazine meeting
- 9 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 10 The Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday (Trinity 21)**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Derek Carpenter)
- 10.00 am Remembrance Sunday Service (Preacher: Revd. John Ritson)
- 10.50 am Service of Remembrance by the War Memorial
- Magazine material for the December edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net
- 11 12-2.00 pm Soup Lunch (Church Centre)
- 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Adie McCall)
- 7.45 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 14 8.00 pm Thursday Home Group (31 Well Road)
- 16 2.30 pm Christmas Pudding Workshop (Church Centre)
- 17 The Second Sunday before Advent**
- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Andrew Procter)
- 10.00 am Morning Worship
- 6.30 pm Evensong
- 18 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 20 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd. Adie McCall, refreshments afterwards
- 7.45 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)
- 23 10.00 am Christmas Market (Church Centre)

24	Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) (Ven. Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge)
10.00 am	Holy Communion (Ven. Julie Conalty)
3.00 pm	Messy Church (Church Centre)
25	7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
8.00 pm	Fair Committee (39 Well Road)
27	9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
28	8.00 pm Thursday Home Group ((31 Well Road)



**They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



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 **Saturday, 2nd November, 9.00-11.30 am**. This will be the last working party for this year. 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!



MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday 24th November, 3.00 pm in the Church Centre. This is suitable

for families with children up to the age of 11. Do come along for some messy fun!



NOVEMBER SOUP LUNCH

Do join us on Monday 11th November (12-2.00 pm) in the Church Centre and enjoy the delicious homemade soups and bread, with a light

dessert, in very genial company. Please sign the list on the book table at the back of church to let us know that you are coming. Our coffee-

time guests will be 'Reflections', a small band of church instrumentalists, who will perform some simple songs with a Remembrance theme. We hope that 'Reflections' will give a concert for us in the church next spring. Suggested donation £5.



CHRISTMAS PUDDING WORKSHOP

Saturday, 16th November in the Church Centre at 2.30 pm.

Please save the date for the return of this popular event! Get ahead for Christmas and pause for a delicious afternoon tea in good company. Come with a family member or friend! To book your place/find out more, please 'phone Joan Beacom (01959 524304).

CHRISTMAS MARKET

This will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday, 23rd 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 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.

CHURCH OFFICE AND CHURCH CAR PARK

During the clerical vacancy (September onwards) the church and church car park will only be open during church office hours - Monday to Friday 9am-12.30pm.

If you wish to visit the church at another time please contact the church office 01959 523185 or st.bartholomews@otford.net



CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE

You are warmly invited to this special service to mark the beginning of Advent on Sunday, 1st December at 6.30 pm. The candlelight of the chandeliers provides a

memorable setting for the theme of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is the Light of the World.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This popular service will be held at 4.00 pm, on Sunday, 8th December.

TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE

This will be held on Friday, 13th December, starting in St. Bartholomew's Church at 7.00 pm followed by the switching on of the lights on the tree on The Green. All are welcome and labels to remember those who have died may be obtained from the Parish Office in the High Street, or from the Hospice in the Weald. Donations will support the work of the Hospice.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



This will be held in Church on Sunday, 15th December at **7.00 pm**. £7 on the door (entry for children is free).

CAROLS AND CAKE

Save the date of Saturday 14th December and join us in the Church Centre at 2.30 pm to sing your favourite carols and enjoy some refreshments.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Prayer breakfasts will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 8.45-9.45 am, in the Church Centre. The next ones will be 3rd and 17th November. Do join us if you can.

REMEMBRANCE CLOSURE

There will be the usual Act of Remembrance on The Green by the War Memorial on Sunday, 10th November, 10.50-11.15 am All are welcome to join us outside but remember that the roads around the pond will be closed during that time.



NATIVITY REHEARSALS

At Sunday Club on 1st and 8th December, we will spend some time getting ready for our nativity presentation in church on 15th December. Do come and join in the fun!

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

November: Our children's well-being

This month's article takes a different form and is inspired by some recent travels, work, and also that I am writing in "Mental Health Week".

I recently went on holiday to Avignon, where a group of us explored the Camargue with Michael Morpurgo – the author of more than 150 books for children. The latest, "Flamingo Boy", is set in the Camargue during the Second World War. One of the main characters is a boy with autism who is the only one brave enough to stand up to the invading Germans. In the story, the author shows that people who think differently are often the ones to change the world. I would highly recommend this book for both adults and children; Michael Morpurgo is a real force for good.

Listening to *A Point of View* at 8.45 on Radio 4 this morning (6th October), I caught Michael talking about the high levels of stress and anxiety suffered by many children today, despite living more comfortable lives and in a more child-sensitive age. He put this down to various factors: the darker aspects of our world being beamed directly into children's bedrooms on screens and devices and the inability to get away from unkind and bullying comments online, the apparent lack of freedom to go outside and play, the lack of a sense of belonging to a family, church or community and the relentless pursuit of academic goals by schools who educate to the exam rather than allowing children to discover their talents in other subjects such as music, sport, dance and drama. It all combined, he felt, to chip away at their self-esteem and confidence; two pillars of mental well-being.

How can we protect children? In his view, as parents and relatives, we need to limit time spent on devices, making sure that children get outside and connect with nature –thereby helping them to create wonderful memories that will set them up for the future. We need to provide them with a strong family and community life, including a sense of right and wrong, but within that the freedom to dream and explore . . .

Later in the month, I attended the *Playtime National Conference* run by *Care for the Family* in Wigan, hoping to inspire mostly church toddler group leaders with their storytelling! There I attended a good workshop on helping children to develop resilience. One of the key points was that children *enjoy* a challenge, including the struggle to learn something new. Toddlers display this as they persevere to develop new skills. So as

parents, we don't need to be too anxious to remove this experience from them. The speaker talked about some unhelpful attitudes. For example, there was that of the "Tiger Parent" who stands over the child, roaring, "succeed or else . . ."



Then the helicopter parent, who hovers, ready to do everything for their child, so that they never learn for themselves . . .

And the "lawn-mower" parent, who goes ahead of the child, mowing them a smooth and easy path. How will they cope for themselves



when things get difficult?

Finally, with time to spare in Liverpool, I visited the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Neither were blessed with material wealth or amazing after-school activities. But what they did have was a lot of time to dream and to practice their music. Lennon practised for hours on a harmonica and McCartney did a paper round to earn the money for a guitar, which he had to redesign as he is left-handed! Many of their songs reflect places and people from their childhoods (for instance, "Let it be" was something that McCartney's mother Mary used to say if he was holding a grudge about something!) Their childhoods were strong in their memories!

Here are a few ideas for November:



Welcome Autumn! Encourage *positive* thoughts about autumn and winter! Don boots and scuffle through vibrant leaves in the woods. At home, brush leaves with PVC glue and

dry. Turn pine cones into hedgehogs and place amongst the leaves for a display. Paint leaves in autumn colours and print onto paper to make cards or cheerful posters.

Read *Love you Always*, (a delightful autumn picture book by Frances Stickley) with young children. (The trees are changing, but not the love between a hoglet and his mum!)

Remembrance

Do come to the service on the Green at 10.50am on Sunday 10th November. Share what it's all about with children and link to Jesus who gave his life on



the Cross so that all might receive forgiveness, peace and new life.

Bonfire night

"On bonfire night we always used to . . ." (eat baked potatoes and sausages, wave



sparklers, etc!) Build family memories with your own traditions! Talk about showing up in the dark with torches/reflective clothing and link with Christians shining like stars/Jesus the Light of the World.

Vicki Howie



NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harvest Festival

On the 1st October over 200 children and teachers filled St Bartholomew's Church ready for our KS2 Harvest Festival. Year 6 harvest work was projected onto the screens as the service began. The children sang with enthusiasm and feeling. We sang about friendship, family and being thankful to God for the harvest and the wonderful world around us. Between the songs the Year 6 children spoke about the meaning of harvest in poems, readings and prayers. Dawn spoke to the children about the growing of fruit and vegetables from a tiny seed and each child went home with a daffodil bulb to plant in their garden. The highlight for the children however, had to be dancing to the Harvest Samba before they walked back to school!

KS1 held their Rainbow Harvest Festival on 3rd October. This was a feast of colour from start to finish. There was artwork from Year 1 and Reception children featuring brightly coloured fruit and vegetables. We sung songs about Big Red Combine Harvesters, Green pears, Yellow wheat and a Rainbow Harvest of fruits. In between, the Year 2 children read poems and prayers and a story about the little brown seeds. We talked about the rainbow of colours at this time of year and looked out of the window at the changing leaves on the trees. We said thank you to all the people that gave us food to eat, from the farmers in the field to the ladies that serve the school lunches.

Children brought in donations of food to give to the Loaves and Fishes food bank. We had displays of the food at both Harvest Festivals and we are very thankful for all the donations.

Louise Brown



RECIPES OF THE MONTH ...FROM HILARY FOTHERGIL

MARMALADE PUDDING/MALTESER FRIDGE CAKE

With Remembrance Day this month, it seemed a good idea to recall, as well as all the terrible times the servicemen suffered, the difficulties of those left at home. World War II rationing finally ended in 1954, so within the lifetime of many in our village. Those of us who haven't had to feed a family during rationing find it difficult to imagine how much effort it would have taken to put decent meals on the table. I found a wartime recipe for a marmalade pudding, and served it with a rather more recent discovery - marmalade ice cream (honestly!). As a reminder of how lucky we are now with our range of ingredients I also made a family favourite which is a desperately indulgent fridge cake.



Marmalade Pudding

4 oz stale bread (grated)
 2 tbsp flour
 1 tbsp sugar
 1oz margarine
 2 tablespoons of marmalade
 1 level teaspoon of baking powder
 1 egg (this may well have been reconstituted egg)
 ¼ pint milk or water

Add the margarine to the milk and stir until the margarine has melted, then add the bread. Stand for 10 minutes, then add the flour, sugar, half the marmalade and the egg, beat well and add the baking powder. Put the rest of the marmalade in the bottom of a greased basin and pour the mixture over. Cover and steam for 1 ½ hours.

For marmalade ice cream, just whisk a 330ml pot of double cream until thick and stir in a pot of marmalade. Freeze. Not for everyone but worth a try and very popular with some of our family!!

Malteser Fridge Cake

75g butter
 2 tbsp golden syrup
 2 tbsp cocoa powder
 175g digestive biscuits or malted milk biscuits (crushed)
 175g Maltesers

Melt the butter and golden syrup, stir in the cocoa powder, and crushed biscuits. Cool slightly and stir in the Maltesers.

Line a 1lb loaf tin with clingfilm, and pour in the mixture, pressing down well. Chill until set.

IN CONVERSATION WITH ... STELLA SHEE

Home group host, choir member and consultant haemato-oncologist

For the first nine and a half years of her life Stella lived in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where her father, Philip Bowcock, was a District Commissioner in the Colonial Service. The family regularly changed province, living in different bush stations. The eldest of three children, Stella has happy memories of playing outside, swimming, climbing trees and riding bicycles. School was mornings only leaving plenty of time for adventures, including forays into the wild



bush behind the house – although the risk of meeting snakes deterred the children from wandering too far! Initially their home had no electricity, only paraffin lamps, and on one occasion Stella discovered a snake curled up under her bed.

Stella's parents were keen to explore the continent and Stella spoke of holidays to Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and South Africa. Occasionally her father would take them all with him when he went to visit outlying villages and they would sleep in canvas tents in the bush. The servants would build a huge

bonfire to ward off the wildlife but the sound of lions roaring in the night was still audible.

In 1964, after Zambia became independent, the family returned to the UK. This was a traumatic experience for Stella; the Bowcocks arrived on a snowy January day and Stella was immediately despatched to boarding school where the other girls laughed at her Rhodesian accent. She knew nothing about the game of netball and was way behind in her education. It was not a happy beginning but Stella soon caught up and, by the time she went to St Paul's Girls School (aged eleven) she was ready to take full advantage of the excellent academic, and also the musical, opportunities - the latter inspired by John Gardner who was Director of Music at the school.

Two years later the family moved to Staffordshire and Stella went to board at Cheltenham Ladies College, exchanging the liberal atmosphere and wonderful music of St Paul's for a stricter and more rigid regime. Nevertheless it was an academically stimulating environment and Stella rose to the challenge, doing three types of Maths as well as Physics at A level with a view to reading Engineering at Oxford. After receiving her results she felt a strong Christian calling to become a doctor so, to meet Oxford's requirements, in the space of six months did an A level in Chemistry and an O level in Biology at the College of Further Education in Stoke-on-Trent.

Stella loved her time at Oxford (St Hugh's College), relishing the music (she sang in the Oxford Chamber Choir), enjoying a busy social life and dining in virtually every men's college over the three years she was there! She found her final year the most exciting academically, the first two years having been more focussed on factual learning.

The next move was to London to do her clinical training at St Thomas' Hospital. On qualification she took a house job at St Thomas' working extremely long hours, often up to 110 hours a week with regular interruptions to her sleep.



It was through St Thomas' contacts that Stella first met her husband Charles (also a doctor); they had both been invited by a mutual friend to go sailing to the Scilly Isles. They became friends but Stella was determined

not to marry a doctor. It was only several years later, once Stella had started training in haematology, that they married (1984). Stella admits that being married to another doctor has been a great bonus, both in terms of support and also being able to bounce ideas off each other. The challenge then became for them both to get consultant jobs in the same geographical area; something they eventually achieved at Queen Mary's Sidcup. They bought their house in Otford in 1992 in part to house their growing family – Harriet (1987), Edmund (1989), Justin (1991) and Millie (1999).

Stella grew up in a Christian family and at 17, at a Christian summer camp, first realised that

Christianity is a whole way of life – growing and developing your relationship with God. Stella joined St Bartholomew's as soon as she came to Otford, saying how important it has been to her. She greatly values both the church and the home group, which she hosts, for nourishing her in her journey of faith. She also loves singing in the Church and Cantate Choirs ... as well as a weekly game of tennis.

Although Stella recognises that her career in medicine may have been held back by working part-time when her children were small, she loved being with them. For the last ten years she has worked full-time again and, alongside her clinical work, has overseen a large national clinical trial about the use of preventive antibiotics in cancer, which is about to be published in *The Lancet*. A reviewer wrote that the results of the trial will save 165 early deaths per year in the UK.

Stella is thankful for the many opportunities she has had that have allowed her to have a happy family and a fulfilling job. Any achievements, she believes, are not due to her but to what she has been given, saying we must not compare ourselves with or judge others, since we cannot know their background or their mental and spiritual capital. Instead, she maintains we must press on with our purpose in life. Consequently, she has no plans for retirement yet!



Christeen Malan

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

The Local Plan – Public Hearings

Sevenoaks District Council has produced a new Local Plan to meet the future needs of its residents up to 2035. If approved, the Local Plan will become the foundation upon which all future planning applications in the District will be determined for the next two decades.

The Local Plan sets out what can be built and where in the Sevenoaks District and is currently being tested by a Government Planning Inspector at a series of public examination hearings taking place in Sevenoaks. The Inspector's task is to determine whether the Local Plan is sound and legally compliant and to consider whether the Plan meets the future development needs of the District

The Council has listened carefully to residents and has produced an evidence-based Plan to ensure that future development meets the needs of current and future generations. The Plan covers proposals for new homes, business space, community improvements and infrastructure to support new housing, while continuing to protect the Green Belt. Residents have played an important role in the development of the Plan through three District-wide consultations. During this process the Council received over 8,500 letters (the majority of these were objecting to building on Green Belt land) and further expert reports and feasibility studies on the sites.

The Sevenoaks District is a highly constrained area with 93% Green Belt land and 60% an Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB). These constraints have meant that the original housing target set by Government of 14,000 homes has not been met and the Council is aiming to

deliver just under 10,000 homes, just over 70% of the target. Despite national pressures, the Local Plan continues to protect the existing Green Belt and the rural nature of the District.

The new Plan proposes building in existing towns and villages at higher densities and on previously developed or 'brownfield' land in sustainable locations. Of the hundreds of green field sites put forward by landowners for new homes, the Council has only included two sites in Edenbridge and one in Sevenoaks (the Quarry at Bat and Ball) together with Pedham Place (near Farningham and Swanley) as a location for future growth.

The final decision to approve the Local Plan will be taken by the Planning Inspector at the public examination. If the Planning Inspector approves our Local Plan, developers and the Council will work closely with residents to make sure that the right community and infrastructure improvements to meet their needs are met.

The hearings are open to the public who can come along and listen to any of the discussions.

To find out more about the Local Plan and the Public Examination hearings taking place in Sevenoaks visit: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localplanexamination.

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



OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING WI

At our November meeting Maurice Chittenden will be telling us about journalism, newspapers and his experience of the last days of Fleet Street.

We meet on Thursday 14th. November at 7.30 p.m. in the Club Room of the recently refurbished Village Memorial Hall. Visitors are very welcome.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY



3rd December - 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** on 01959 523760, or e-mail gardeners@otford.net. for details

1940s SOCIETY

Meeting on 29th November 2019.

'Over-paid, over-sexed and over-here'. The *American Invasion of Britain 1942-1945* by Alan Williams. Between 1942 and 1945 American service personnel flooded into Britain in what George Orwell called 'the invasion of Britain'. Alan will explore this 'invasion' and show the 1943 War Office film *'A Welcome to Britain'* which explained to American servicemen and women how strange life in Britain was, from 'funny money' and driving on the wrong side of the road to warm beer. Prepare to be amused and perhaps shocked in equal measure.



OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meetings are on

20th November Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, Master Architect, talk by

Martin Lutyens

11th December AGM with mulled wine... Speaker to be confirmed



© www.parishpump.co.uk

"So really, it is very easy to understand how Brexit will affect our parish..."

OTFORD HERITAGE TRAIL - PICKMOSS AND OTFORD MILL

Imagine you are standing beside the bridge crossing the mill's leat stream. Down this attractive footpath was where the mill once stood until its disastrous fire in 1924. Behind you stands an evocation of Otford's Elizabethan past, Pickmoss. Beside it, to the left, is The Chapel which has served both Otford's Methodist and Catholic congregations.

PICKMOSS



Pickmoss, an Elizabethan home with alterations.

Across the road on your right, you can see the attractive Elizabethan facade of Pickmoss. In 1951 two separate houses were adapted to appear as one. Prior to that, the western half (the right-hand side), was a fine timber-framed dwelling of its own, probably dating from 1575-1600. It would have been a notable house of the village during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The eastern half (the left-hand side), however, was a pair of unrelated cottages, probably built a century later.

The refurbishment of the 1950s, using many of the original timbers, faithfully reformed the right-hand home as it would have looked when the Spanish Armada was sailing up the English Channel. The jettied, Elizabethan frontage, as well as the close-studding and oriel windows,

are all typical of this period. The style of the adjoining cottages was then copied into the overall design to give an appearance of a much larger house. Nonetheless, today it stands as a handsome addition to Otford's heritage buildings.

OTFORD MILL



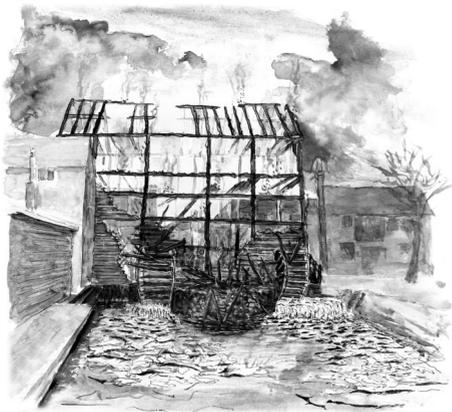
First World War 'Tommies' pose by the mill's swimming pool. Note the hardy swimmer and leafless trees!

The mill's leat stream, 'The New Cut', was dug to keep its water to a height of 8ft above the natural level of the river. With this drop it could drive a 16 foot diameter breast-shot waterwheel and all the mill's gears and grinding wheels.

There has probably been a corn mill on this site since the time of the Domesday Book. Certainly, in 1518, William Barton rebuilt an earlier mill to operate two independent waterwheels. By 1830, one of the wheels was made of cast iron. In 1880 corn grinding ceased. The wheels now generated electricity (Otford's first) for making fine furniture and

decorative panelling. It was inventor/entrepreneur, Mr W.S.Freeman's Otford Invicta Works.

During the night of the 6th January 1924, snow fell covering the sleeping village. Just before midnight the alarm went up. The mill was on fire! Despite villagers desperately making a chain of buckets before the arrival of the Sevenoaks fire brigade, the fire took hold and the entire timber structure burnt down. Sadly, the mill's thousand year history had come to an end.



Dawn 1924 after the Otford Mill fire. The Invicta Works had helped many local men to weather the 'unemployment years' of the 1890s. The disaster though was too much for its owner, Mr. Freeman, and he died two years later.

THE CHAPEL



A haven for different denominations

Toward the end of the 18th century, the leading property owner of the village was James Martyr of Colet's Well. In 1790 he built the Parish Poor House. Ten years later, at his own expense, he built the little chapel for the small Methodist congregation here. Their first 'church' opened in 1935 on the other side of the High Street, and the chapel became vacant. Today's Methodist church was built in 2017.

The Catholic diocese bought the chapel in 1944, after their own chapel near Shoreham was bombed during the Second World War. Otford then became their main place of worship until the Otford Catholic church was completed in 1981. Since that time, the old chapel has been deconsecrated and is now a private home. It has now stood for well over 200 years.



With thanks to Rod Shelton, Phil Clucas and Ed Thompson

MISSION MATTERS



St Bartholomew's Church is one of several local churches supporting the work of Sevenoaks Counselling. SCS provide a service that is affordable to all and available at relatively short notice with an initial assessment session taking place within seven days of referral.

Sevenoaks Counselling has been operating in Sevenoaks for over thirty years.

SCS provide counselling which is:

- professional and caring
- offered by qualified and experienced therapists
- confidential
- affordable for everyone
- tailored to individual needs, either long or short term
- available for people of all faiths and none

There are currently 11 part-time counsellors, plus a family therapist.

Siobhan Fagan is the new Play Therapist working with pre- school and primary school age children. SC are having increasing numbers of young people and families coming

for help. This will enhance and assist with the work of the family therapist.

Play therapy provides an opportunity for children to express and make sense of difficult life experiences. Children often struggle to find the words to express their thoughts and feelings. In Play Therapy, children use play as their primary form of communication. It is an effective intervention for a variety of emotional and/or behavioural difficulties which children may present having experienced trauma, abuse, neglect or loss.

Sevenoaks Counselling also provides courses for continued professional development for those involved in counselling and pastoral care. Please see the website for forthcoming courses.

www.sevenoakscounselling.org.uk

Andrew Hill

PUZZLE PAGE

War and remembrance

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, when the Allied Forces of Britain, America, Canada, and France attacked the German forces on the coast of Normandy, France. The Allies' victory became the turning point for World War II in Europe.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day). It was in 1919 that King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am on 11th November, to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.



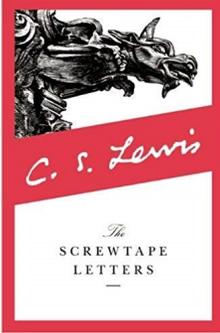
Dday
Landings
Allied
armed
Forces
Britain
America
Canada
France

German
Coast
Normandy
Victory
World
War
Two
Armistice
King

George
Remembrance
Minute
Silence
Lost
Lives
duty

A BOOK WHICH INFLUENCED ME ...

The Screwtape Letters by C S Lewis



C.S.Lewis had a most extraordinary gift of communication. He was an Oxbridge academic but also wrote a number of accessible books for the wider public - including the Narnia series.

As an epigraph to *The Screwtape Letters* he uses a quotation from Martin Luther.

“The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to texts of Scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn.”

In following Luther’s advice, Lewis is both wittily humorous, but at the same time deadly serious. He certainly does not take the devil lightly. In the preface he writes,

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence, the other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

This book, first published in 1942, is a series of letters written by Screwtape (a senior member of the “Lowerarchy” serving “Our Father Below”) to his nephew, Wormwood, who is entrusted with the task of regularly tempting a man - his “patient” - to make him stumble in his faith.

The different views of the two devils on the effectiveness of temptation is particularly thought-provoking. Wormwood wants to

tempt his patient into some dramatically wicked sins.

Screwtape advises caution. When it comes to temptation he says,

“... the safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

Lewis illustrates the “gentle slope” of temptation as Screwtape instructs Wormwood to undermine his patient’s understanding of the Church when he goes to a service.

“When he gets to his pew he sees just that selection of his neighbours who he has hitherto avoided. You want to lean pretty heavily on those neighbours. Make his mind flit to and fro between an expression like “the body of Christ” and the actual faces in the next pew. Provided that any of those neighbours sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins, or odd clothes, the patient will easily believe that their religion must be somehow ridiculous.”

These letters vividly underline the New Testament verse in 1 Peter chapter 5,

“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”

I enjoy *The Screwtape Letters*. Not only is it amusing, but at the same time a perceptive reminder of the variety of temptations we all experience as we live out our Christian faith.

Nick Page

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

Aerials		Estate Agent	
Sevenoaks Aerials	28	Ibbett Mosely	31
Accounting		Fine & Country	31
SGL Accounting	24	Florist	
Builders Decorators Plumbers		Denise Thompson	22
A. Cossey-Decorator	24	Funeral Directors	
Easton Electrical	25	Welham Jones	32
Chaili Plumbing	24	Hair and Beauty	
Paul Tapper	23	Fiona - Freelance Stylist	22
Painting and Decorating	28	Halls for Hire	
Clean Gutter Company	23	Otford Church Hall	26
Towns Bathrooms	29	Hotel	
Cars & Bikes		The Bull Hotel, Wrotham	33
Express Factors (car spares)	34	Oil Suppliers	
Palmar Motorcycles (bike spares)	34	Spar Oil Services	28
Sevenoaks MOT Station	32	Printing Services	
Chimney Sweep		Silver Pines Services	35
David Fairman	26	Scouts	
Computers		15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scouts	22
Need help with your computer (Prosphero)	27	Taxi	
Disco and Lighting		Space Travel	35
Silver Pines Sound and Light	35	Timber Treatment	
Education		Gulliver Timber Treatment	27
Russell House School	30	Watch and Clock	
St Michael's School	30	MJ Leach	26

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication please contact:

st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net



Denise Thompson Designer Florist Ltd



9 High Street • Otford • Kent • TN14 5PG

Tel: 01959 525009 Fax: 01959 524971

Email: denise@dtflorist.co.uk

www.dtflorist.co.uk

Fiona – Freelance Stylist

Your local, reliable, friendly, mobile hairdresser.

Highly qualified in all aspects of hairdressing.

Call Fiona: Home: 01322 867160

Mobile: 07799683031



15th SEVENOAKS (OTFORD) SCOUT GROUP

H.Q. adjacent to Otford Station

Beaver Scouts (Age 6 - 8) Meeting: Mondays 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Cub Scouts (Age 8 - 10½)

Meetings: Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. or Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15 p.m.

Scouts (Age 10½ -14) Meetings: Fridays 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

All enquiries and hall bookings www.otfordscouts.org.uk



GUTTERS CLEARED & REPAIRED

Conservatories, Fascias & Soffits cleaned & rejuvenated

Phone or email for a quote: **Jeremy Steer**

01959 525347 or 07831 214815 e: jeremysteer2@gmail.com

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication please contact:

st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net

PAUL TAPPER

- ◆ Painting / Decorating
- ◆ Interior / Exterior
- ◆ Wallpapering
- ◆ Glazing
- ◆ General House Maintenance
- ◆ Free Estimates



20 Years Experience

Friendly Service and Competitive Prices

01732 365277 Mobile 07813 455491

paul.tapper@btinternet.com



chaili plumbing

a professional service every time

- No call out charge
- A service you can trust
- Complete installations
- Member of the CIPHE
- Burst pipes
- Leaks and blockages
- Covering all areas of Sevenoaks

For a friendly, reliable and totally personal service, call now: **t: 01732 460695 m: 07711 940803**

A COSSEY

PAINTING &
DECORATING



A

acdecorator@gmail.com
07742 972 136
FULLY INSURED INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
COMPETITIVE PRICING FREE ESTIMATES

*Need a helping hand
with your accounts?*



sglacc@outlook.com
07546 155862

Friendly, efficient service based in Knockholt

EASTON ELECTRICAL

Easton Electrical Services

**Domestic,
Business, Commercial & Industrial**

No job too small

Competitive free estimate

WHAT WE UNDERTAKE

**Re-wire, Lighting, Power Installation,
Additions, Repairs, Fault Finding
Inspection and Testing
Door Entry Systems
Security and Fire Alarms
Landlord Certificates
Maintenance
PAT Testing**

**Highly-trained,
competent and fully-qualified.**

All work is guaranteed.

A reliable on-time Trade Company.

Please visit our website to see all services.

**Office: 01959 523054
Mob: 07999 878274**

**Office@EastonElectrical.co.uk
www.EastonElectrical.co.uk**

OTFORD CHURCH HALL

HIGH STREET

Available for:-

- * **Meetings**
 - * **Rehearsals**
 - * **Children's Parties**
 - * **Receptions**
- (No discos or adult parties)*



Reasonable Rates

Contact: Robert Hunt on (01959) 523820
for further details.



DAVID FAIRMAN
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Reliable • Professional • Clean & tidy

Traditional methods
Open fires • Woodburners
Agas • Inglenooks

Appointment times
convenient to you

call 07949 072949

M. J. Leach.

Watch and Clockmakers and Repairers.



SPECIALISTS IN THE
SALES & RESTORATION OF
ANTIQUÉ CLOCKS, WATCHES
& BAROMETERS

ALL WORK CARRIED OUT IN
OUR OWN WORKSHOPS

HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

OUR SHOWROOM IS OPEN:

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
10am-5pm (Closing 1-2pm daily) &
Saturday 10am-1pm

Tel: 01732 886115

www.mjclocks.co.uk

Member of the British Watch and
Clockmakers Guild

High Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN15 7AD.





Gulliver
Timber Treatments Ltd.

WOODWORM, DRY ROT AND RISING DAMP SPECIALISTS
Incorporating Surrey Timber Preservation Company

Specialists in the investigation and treatment of:-

WOOD WORM * DRY ROT * RISNG DAMP

WATERPROOFING BELOW GROUND STRUCTURES (TANKING) * RESIN REPAIRS

For a survey ring : 01959 524966 Fax: 01959 525176

Unit G1 Chaucer Business Park, Watery Lane, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6HU

Email: enquiries@gullivertt.co.uk Web: www.gillivertt.co.uk

Member of the: Property Care Association, Trustmark and Guarantee Protection Insurance Ltd

Need Help with your computer ?

PC



Web

Friendly

professional

business and home use

Advice and

Support for

Andrew Craner : 01732 742454 or 07957 648461

Email: enquiries@prosphero.co.uk Internet: www.prosphero.co.uk

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE

To enquire regarding advertising in this publication please contact:

st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net

Painting or Decorating?

CALL IN THE EXPERT

- ✓ More than 40 years experience
- ✓ Free consultancy service
- ✓ References available
- ✓ Free quotations

Wallpapering a speciality

If you're planning painting or decorating projects at home or work, then call Ernie Ball on **01322 274 777** or **07960 866 603** for expert advice and service.



Spa Oil —SERVICES— Heating Oil



Competitive prices
Friendly, helpful service
Red Diesel

Call : 01892 615400
www.spaoilservices.co.uk

SEVENOAKS AERIALS

For friendly advice on all your
TV Aerial / Satellite requirements

sky

Freeview

Please Call:
01732 590246
01959 525884
07950 852021

Checkatrade
PLUMBING

freesat

email: sevenoaksaerials@btinternet.com



towns

BATHROOM SHOWROOM

It's more than our outstanding knowledge and product range that makes us so attractive.

Local location with very friendly staff, full design service, bathrooms, radiators, water softeners and plumbers merchants.

T: 01732 350911

Unit 4 Orchard Business Centre, Sanderson Way, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1QG



showroom@townsbathrooms.co.uk



www.townsmerchant.co.uk

AQUALISA  **ashton & bentley** **IMPERIAL** **KOHLER** **LAUFEN** **Roca** **Vitra** **GSI**



St Michael's Prep School
The Joy & Wonder of Learning



New Reception class opening September 2018

Book an individual tour to see excellence in action
(ISI report 2017 rated "EXCELLENT")



www.stmichaels.kent.sch.uk



Russell House

Love Challenge
Love Opportunity
Love Success

Love
Russell House

01959 522352

Station Road, Otford,
Kent TN14 5QU

*An independent
co-educational
preparatory school for
children aged 2-11*

www.russellhouseschool.co.uk





Ibbett Mosely has been selling property in Otford Village for over 60 years

We remain the only agent in the village to offer a wide range of professional services

Open 7 Days a week

The name you can trust when it comes to selling property in the village

Regular coverage on all major websites and Sevenoaks Chronicle

Visit our website at www.ibbettmosely.co.uk

Email: otford@ibbettmosely.co.uk

The Parade Sevenoaks Road Otford 01959 522164

Coming to Otford
Local Expertise, National Presence,
International Audience

FINE & COUNTRY
fineandcountry.com

Park Lane Office

Does your property deserve the Fine & Country service?

Breaking new ground, Fine & Country is known for its unique blend of intelligent and creative marketing, coupled with a very professional approach to the sale of individual and country property.

Access to the lucrative London and International buyers market from our prestigious showrooms on Park Lane, London, W1 and in over 300 locations worldwide.

Fine & Country
Tel: 01474 700009 | Email: northkent@fineandcountry.com | www.fineandcountry.com



WELHAM JONES

FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

FAMILY OWNED COMPANY

Sevenoaks, Otford, Kemsing
01732 742400 or 01959 525440

156 London Road, Kent, TN13 1DJ
sevenoaks@welhamjones.co.uk

Borough Green
01732 780600

43 Western Road, Kent, TN15 8AL
boroughgreen@welhamjones.co.uk

www.welhamjones.co.uk

- ◆ Traditional & Contemporary funerals
- ◆ Eco-friendly funerals & woodland burials
- ◆ Private chapel of rest
- ◆ Home arrangements
- ◆ Memorials & keepsakes



Pre-paid
funeral plans

24 hour
service



SEVENOAKS MOT STATION

Repairs and Servicing of all makes of vehicle

Free pick up service within 7 mile radius

01732 464420 www.smots.co.uk



£20 OFF

your next full service with this voucher

(one voucher per full service, not available with any other promotion)

- Welding
- Exhausts
- Shock Absorbers
- Clutches
- Tyres and brakes
- Diagnostic Machine

Support your local small business for all your mechanical work
Don't get charged main dealer prices when we can do the work for you



THE
BULL
MARTIN DEADMAN

WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR
CHRISTMAS
AT THE BULL HOTEL

**BOXING DAY, LUNCH, DINNER AND PARTIES
THROUGHOUT DECEMBER**

★

FESTIVE MENU
THREE-COURSES £25
LUNCH & DINNER - MONDAY TO SATURDAY

BOOKINGS ON 01732 789 800

CHRISTMAS DAY FULLY BOOKED

WROTHAM
THE · BULL
HOTEL

THE BULL HOTEL | BULL LANE | WROTHAM | TN15 7RF | WWW.THEBULLHOTEL.COM | INFO@THEBULLHOTEL.COM



BLOCK 3, UNITS 3 & 4, VESTRY TRADING ESTATE
OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS
KENT, TN14 5EL

SEVENOAKS

**SUPPLIERS OF
TOP QUALITY MOTOR COMPONENTS
FOR ALL MAKES OF MOTOR VEHICLE
TRADE & RETAIL**

**Fast, Friendly
and local!**



**Extensive
Tool Range!**



**CALL US TODAY!
01732 46 45 46**

PALMAR MOTORCYCLES
Motorcycle Parts & Accessories

**FAST, FRIENDLY
& ACCESSORIES FOR ALL MAKES OF
MOTORCYCLES TO BOTH TRADE & RETAIL**



Tel 01732 46 95 46

**Please phone or drop in, we will
always try to help**

**BLOCK 3, UNITS 3 & 4, VESTRY TRADING ESTATE
OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS KENT, TN14 5EL**



<p>Business Cards Letterheads Newsletters Magazines Price Lists Booklets Brochures Leaflets</p>	<p>Posters & Signs Christmas Cards Calendars Postcards Folders Invitations Menus Wedding Stationery</p>	<p>Complete Print Service from Design to Delivery</p> <p><i>Creative design & typesetting</i> <i>Large format printing</i> <i>Bulk & short run copying</i> <i>Short run colour at very competitive prices</i> <i>a particular speciality, direct from your own file</i> <i>Rapid turnaround</i></p>
--	--	---

• Silver Pines Services •

Pinewood Avenue, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AF
www.silverpines.co.uk • e-mail: info@silverpines.co.uk

Phone us to discuss your requirements
01732 465641

Silver Pines Sound & Light

Professional Mobile DJ & Event Lighting & Sound Service

- ★ High quality, experienced DJs who know how to make your birthday or anniversary party, wedding, club or corporate event really special
- ★ State of art equipment, full PLI
- ★ Full event lighting & sound service – from a wedding to a mini-festival

Party, Event, Live Sound & Conference Equipment Hire

- ★ Extensive range of sound, lighting & AV equipment for hire, for parties, bands, theatrical or church groups, product launches, award ceremonies, public meetings, etc.

www.silverpinessoundlight.co.uk • Tel: 01732 465641 • Email: james@silverpines.co.uk

PO Box 747
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN14 5XF



Tel: + 44 (0) 1959 524 747

Your local saloon & 6 passenger MPV specialists

Gatwick from £55	London from £90
Heathrow from £85	O2 from £65
Stansted from £90	Ebbsfleet from £45

Mob
07956 870 240

Advance Bookings Essential

E-Mail enquiries@spacetravel.co.uk Internet www.spacetravel.co.uk






For *the* personal & reliable licenced chauffeur service.
Any distance, anywhere, any time Travel in space and comfort.

Established 1995

Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

For enquiries please contact the church office at st.bartholomews@otford.net
or on 01959 523185

READERS:	Dawn Hallam Bill Lattimer Margaret Lidbetter Mags Southgate
READER EMERITUS:	Peter Downing
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:	Susan Reid Margaret Lidbetter
HONORARY MINISTER:	Chris Reed
CHURCHWARDENS:	Russell Edwards Janet Hunt
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:	Kevin Grafton
SACRISTAN:	Tony Grogan

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Derek Shilling
Hon Treasurer: Heather Stanley
Freewill Offering Sec: Mervyn Harris
Min. Sec: Mark Holmes

PARISH OFFICE

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

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Robert Hunt

MAGAZINE

Editorial team: Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,
Advertisements: st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net

CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton
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: Najen Harris

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

Infants (3-7s), **Juniors** (8-11s), **Seniors** (12-14)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Contact: Dawn Hallam

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Links:
Andrew Hill

BELLRINGERS

The Tower Captain: Bobbie Fairclough
Secretary: Janet Whitehead
Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Joan Beacom

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Sam Barnett, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, Colin Deane, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Jocelyn Hart, Mark Holmes*, Martin Lea, Margaret Lidbetter*, Emma Peters, Derek Shilling#, Ben Southgate, Heather Stanley

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