

**St Bartholomew's Church**  
**Otford Parish News**



**February 2020**

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

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

February	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
2 Feb Candlemas	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong for Candlemas
9 Feb 3rd Sun before Lent	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
16 Feb 2nd Sun before Lent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
23 Feb Sun next before Lent	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
26 Feb Ash Wednesday	-	Holy Communion St Bart's	-	8pm Holy Communion St Bart's

**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: Messy Church - taken by Jane Mucklow

[www.janemucklowphotography.co.uk](http://www.janemucklowphotography.co.uk)

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## READER'S REFLECTION



We're still at the stage in this new year when we look back at the past year and plan for the future. This is as much true in our church life as it is in our personal life.

It's almost six months now since Richard, our vicar for eleven years, left St. Bartholomew's Church to become the shepherd in new pastures. This time has seen a number of special features of the church year.

Looking back, the end of September brought our Harvest Services, experienced in our traditional way. For our Remembrance Service in November we welcomed Revd. John Ritson from Otford Methodist Church to share the leadership. Then came Advent, the season of expectation and preparation leading to the Nativity at Christmas. The Services we held during that period followed our usual pattern, culminating in our Midnight Eucharist preceded by congregational carol singing.

All these Services were made possible by the leadership of our own Readers and visiting clergy. We give thanks to them and to all those who support St. Bartholomew's Church in so many ways to ensure we continue to be a thriving family.

This present season of the Church Year is Epiphany, which lasts from 6<sup>th</sup> January until the day before Ash Wednesday, which, in 2020, is on 26<sup>th</sup> February. It marks the manifestation of Jesus to the world and commemorates the coming of the Magi from the east to find the baby Jesus.

Looking forward, following directly after Epiphany is the season of Lent and all that this means for Christians. It lasts for forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It's a period of

reflection and preparation, replicating the forty days Jesus spent in the Wilderness as He prepared for His earthly Ministry. Paul's Letters in the New Testament reflect much of what we should dwell on during this time, such as the Fruits of the Spirit and in Luke Chapter 6 we learn about the Blessings and Woes.

For me, this can all be summed up in the story about the Cherokee who told his grandson about a battle we all experience. He said, "The battle is between two 'wolves' inside each of us. One is EVIL – anger, envy, jealousy, greed, arrogance, resentment, lies, pride and egotism. The other is GOOD – peace, joy, hope, humility, kindness, generosity, truth and love." The young boy asked, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one that you feed."

During Lent we have to check that we're feeding the right wolf. To that end we propose to hold our usual Lent Course during March to contribute to making that check. This will be open to everyone so keep a look out for details.

For us, as a church family, the search for a new vicar is now seriously under way. Our Churchwardens have been keeping you in touch with this process. We ask you to keep this appointment and the future of our Church in your prayers.

May God bless you all as this year proceeds.

*Margaret Lidbetter, Reader*



## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

- 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Candlemas**  
**8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Derek Carpenter)**  
**8.45 am Prayer Breakfast**  
**10.00 am All Together Worship**  
**6.30 pm Evensong for Candlemas**
- 3 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)  
4 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)  
5 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)  
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Johnson) refreshments afterwards  
8 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 9 The Third Sunday before Lent: Septuagesima**  
**8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Nicky Harvey)**  
**10.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Chris Stone)**
- 10 10.30 am Magazine meeting (Church office)  
7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)  
**Magazine material for the March edition by today, please, to the Church Office,  
st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 12 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Anne Bourne)
- 16 The Second Sunday before Lent: Sexagesima**  
**8.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**  
**8.45 am Prayer Breakfast**  
**10.00 am Morning Worship**  
**6.30 pm Evensong**
- 17 7.45 pm Cameo (31 Well Road)  
8.00 pm Fair Committee (39 Well Road)  
18 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)  
19 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) refreshments afterwards
- 23 The Sunday next before Lent: Quinquagesima**  
**8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Andrew Procter)**  
**10.00 am Holy Communion (The Rt. Revd. Simon Burton-Jones,  
Bishop of Tonbridge)**
- 24 7.45 pm CAMEO (58 High Street)

26 **ASH WEDNESDAY**

- 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Adie McCall)
- 2.30 pm Ecumenical Fellowship Meeting (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 8.00 pm Holy Communion (Revd. John Ritson)



*Registers*



**WEDDING (Our Congratulations)**

7th December Peter David Tyrrell and Lucy Turner

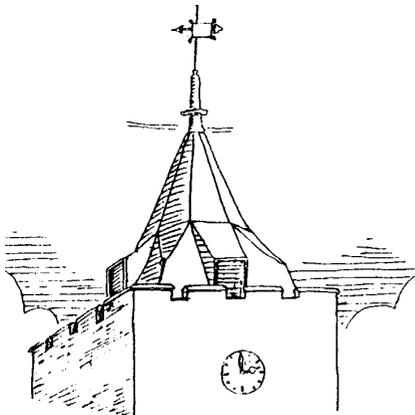


**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

22nd December Joan Cynthia Marchant (aged 86)



## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### 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](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)

### ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

You are invited to join our friends at Otford Methodist Church Hall on **Wednesday, 26th February at 2.30 pm**. After a brief look at the music for this year's World Day of Prayer service, to be held on Friday, 6th March, Margaret Alford will speak on 'Literacy in a pre-literate society - the Karaga Indians of Brazil.'.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service will be held on Friday, 6th March at 2.00 pm at Otford Methodist Church. The chosen subject this year is 'Zimbabwe: Rise, take your mat and walk'. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to this ecumenical event.

### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The first session for 2020 will take place on **Saturday, 7th March**. We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools, too!

### SOUP LUNCH

You are warmly invited to our lunch on **Monday, 16th March from 12-2.00 pm in the Church Centre**. Suggested donation of £5 for home-made soup and bread and a light dessert.

### FAIR FEAST 2020

Fair Feast 2020 (pancakes, etc. and quiz) is on Shrove Tuesday, ('pancake day'), 25th February in Otford Methodist Church Hall. All receipts from ticket sales and any donations will be sent to All We Can, the Methodist relief and development fund. Tickets are £7, or £3.50 for students, and they can be bought now or on the night. Tables seat 8 people, but everyone is welcome and reservations may be made for any number from one upwards. To reserve places, please contact Glen Cable on 01732 457842 or [glen-chris.cable@sky.com](mailto:glen-chris.cable@sky.com).

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

This will be held on **Saturday, 20th June** on and around The Green. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be with us, if you can.

### LENT SERIES

During this series we will be looking at some of the books written by St Paul. More details to follow next month.

The series will take place on Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, **Tuesday 24th March** and Wednesday 1st April - 8pm in the church centre. Pudding will be provided during the evening

## MONTHLY MEDITATION—FEBRUARY

### Candlemas



February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Candlemas, 40 days after Christmas. Here at St Bart's we have a special candlelit service, the last time our beautiful candelabra are lit until we start the church year again at Advent. Light plays a very special part in the mystery of the Christian faith. Star light showed the Magi where Christ was born, Christ is referred to as 'the Light of the World' and we give a lighted candle to families at Baptism.

But this is a time of the year when light can seem far away. The days, even though they are lengthening, often seem short, the nights long and dreary and, as we wait until the end of March for the clocks to go back, it can seem that winter is never-ending. If you are alone or unwell, it can be an especially miserable time of the year.

But winter is drawing to a close, the bare trees are waiting spring's warmth to show their first buds, and spring flowers are emerging. We can see signs of life within our own gardens as plants that seemed dead just a month ago are now beginning to show green.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote 'How can we honor our GOD with our lives, the God who gives rain

in both spring and autumn and maintains the rhythm of the seasons?' (Jeremiah 5:24) Let's not give in to the winter blues. With the light of Christ in our hearts we can look ahead to the light of spring. If you know someone for whom this is a dark time, can you share your light with them?

Creator God,  
forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us from  
appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature.  
Forgive us for taking without giving and reaping  
without sowing.  
Be with all for whom darkness is blocking out  
the light of your love, and help us to shine your  
light into the dark corners of this world.

Amen

*Susanne Beard*



## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### February: Grandparents!

Simeon was getting on a bit! He lived on his own in Jerusalem and he liked to go for a walk every day, just to keep moving.



One of his favourite places to visit was the Temple, the big church in the centre of the city. It was cool in there and he liked to sit and watch

all the different people coming in and out - people watching!

His favourites were the parents bringing in their new babies to be blessed by the priests. How proud they looked! Sometimes the babies cried and then the parents seemed to become anxious. "It's all right!" Simeon would tell them. "The baby cries in your house sometimes. This Temple is God's house and I'm sure he won't mind."

That usually brought a smile back to their faces. "What a lovely grandfather you must be!" they said. Well, Simeon didn't have any grandchildren of his own so all these babies were very special to him. But he knew that one day he would see a baby that was *extra* special – a baby that was God's own son.

Sometimes he worried that he wouldn't recognise him. Or that he might not be able to walk to the Temple. Then he reminded himself of God's promise to him – that he would see the divine baby before he died. God always kept his promises.

Simeon was sitting in the Temple as usual one morning when he looked up and saw a couple standing there with their baby. They all smiled at one another as if they were already friends or part of the same family.

"What are your names?" asked Simeon.

The father replied, "We are Joseph and Mary, and this is our baby, Jesus."

Simeon held out his arms and Mary gave him the baby to hold. At once, Simeon felt full of joy. He praised God, thanking him for letting him see the baby whose name means "God saves!"

Then Simeon spoke to Joseph and Mary. "Bless you!" he said. "You are going to be wonderful parents to this baby that we've all been waiting for, for so long. Of course, you will feel sad when bad things happen to him, but his great love for everyone will fill your hearts with joy."

As Simeon walked home that day, he felt happy and at peace. He has seen the baby who had to be a Light to the World!

**Bible story:** Read the story as a family together. You can find it in the Bible in Luke 2:21-35. You could wonder about it, as follows:

I wonder if you've ever waited a very long time to see someone. How did you feel?

I wonder how Simeon recognised baby Jesus

I wonder if Joseph and Mary were surprised to meet Simeon in the Temple.

What was Jesus going to do when he grew up?

**Candlemas Day:**



On 2<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrate the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple. This was the day that all the church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

There is a tradition that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of winter:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,*

*Winter will have another fight.*

*If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,*

*Winter won't come again.*



There is also a tradition that this is the day that animals wake from their hibernation to see if it is still

winter. Don't forget to feed the hungry birds!



**Valentine's day:**

Children could make a card for grandparents to show how much they love them and thank them for time spent together. Why not

take a bunch of daffodils or heart-shaped biscuits to someone who is housebound?



**Shrove Tuesday:**

Don't forget to make sweet and savoury pancakes on 25 February (traditionally to use up fat in the house

before Lent begins the next day). Perhaps parents could make plans to come along to the Tuesday night Lent series beginning the following week in the Church Centre. You are most welcome!

**Prayer:** *Chat with children about the things they love about grandparents. Swap stories with memories of your own! Link with the fact that God always has time for us, too!*

Dear God,

Thank you for our grandparents and all they do for and with us – the time that they spend with us and for their wisdom. Help us to show them how much we love them, too! **Amen**

Vicki Howie



## EVENTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES FROM OTFORD'S PAST

### Doodlebugs and Joy Hilder

This article is the first in a series which will look at a, perhaps rather eclectic but we hope interesting, range of events, people and places from Otford's past. It goes back to events during the final year of the Second World War. From June 1944 Britain was subject to a sustained attack by 'V1' pilotless rocket flying bombs (popularly called 'doodlebugs') aimed generally at London. Kent in particular became known as 'Doodlebug Alley' and many passed over Otford and surrounding villages heading towards London. Several exploded in Otford. Joy Hilder (née Staples) recounted her memories of the V1, which exploded on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1944 close to the River Darent, in the 'Otford Society Newsletter' in 1999 and these were reprinted in late 2019 in the 'Otford History and Heritage Newsletter'. Here is an extract from the original article, reprinted with Joy's permission.

"It started off as just another ordinary day – if you call any day during the Second World War ordinary. I was twelve years old, and on half-term holiday from the village school. My mother needed some things from the shops and sent me with my sisters, Doreen and Helen, and a friend, to the village.

On the way we had to pass the barrage balloon station in Booker's top field, manned by a few RAF men. This was an attraction for every child, and we stopped for a while to see if anything new and exciting was happening. At the stone bridge we stopped, as we often did, to look into the river to see if anything new was swirling in the water. There was nothing of interest, so we walked on. We had only gone a few steps

when, to our horror, the wailing of the air-raid siren echoed loud and clear across the valley. We immediately started to hurry, hoping to get home before any enemy aircraft appeared. But no such luck; the warning had hardly stopped, when we heard the dreaded clattering sound of a doodlebug approaching fast. All our eyes were turned skywards, looking for the glimpse of where it would appear. Suddenly, from behind a cloud, the familiar shape of a Spitfire appeared at speed, and we heard the rat-tat-tat of machine gun fire, repeated a few times.

Silence followed. Still looking up I was thinking 'where is it?'. Suddenly my friend and two sisters were running back towards me, crying, and I shouted to them to get down. Then I saw this large black object with one wing dangling loose spiralling down from the sky. There was a deafening explosion as it hit the ground in the meadow, just beyond the iron bridge and close to the river, sending up a huge fountain of river bank earth and taking every leaf from the trees in the nearby apple orchard, which a few minutes later came floating down like pieces of confetti.

I was knocked to the ground by the force of the blast, and found myself in a crouched position against Mr. Roger's (Broughton Manor) wooden fence, which was falling apart. I got to my feet feeling very dazed and shocked to look for my sisters and friend. All I could see was broken telephone wires, earth and leaves scattered across the road. Luckily, my two sisters were near me, and though crying, seemed unhurt. Everywhere was chaos.

The barrage balloon men were the first to arrive on the scene, and I remember one of them lifting me over the tangle of wires, and helping

us along the road to the nearest house. A little further on were two ladies who had been hurt.

We had been very lucky as we had been sheltered by the orchard which stood between us and where the bomb had fallen. The RAF men left us with Mrs Eggleton, who lived in the bungalow at the corner of Rye Lane. She told us to come in and sit down, even though her place was slightly damaged. She was very kind and bandaged my leg.

As we sat there recovering, my mother was seen running by, and Mrs Eggleton called out that we were with her. My mother could hardly believe we were safe. I'm sure she thought we were dead, and we were all crying together.

A kind lady in a car took us to Sevenoaks hospital, where we were cleaned up and stitched. I had to attend the First Aid Post in Otford a few times to have my leg dressed, sitting in a large push-chair, pushed by my mother, which was rather embarrassing for a girl of twelve. The First Aid Post at that time was next to the Church Hall.

A couple of weeks later village children were evacuated to Devon for six months, returning after the flying bomb menace had ended, just before Christmas”.

Just under 1,500 ‘Doodlebugs’ fell in Kent during the attacks, killing 152 and injuring 1,716 people. The flying bomb that Joy remembers sadly killed one person, 13 year old Enid Chalkin of Rye Lane, and injured several others.

You can see a current exhibition about the wartime V1s and barrage balloons in Otford in the village library. If you would like to receive copies of the (free, by email only) ‘Otford History and Heritage Newsletter’, please send an email to [info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk) with your name and email address. You would also be very welcome to attend the regular meetings in the Village Memorial Hall of the ‘Otford and District Historical Society’, the ‘1940s Society’ and the ‘NW Kent Family History Society’.

*Alan Williams*

*Below. The field where the V1 exploded. Photographed in summer 2019*



## FEBRUARY WALK

***A relatively flat walk of 4.5 miles to Shoreham and back taking you over the golf course and along the Darenth Valley to the vineyards and pubs of our neighbouring village. It offers fine views of the valley and the opportunity to explore Shoreham.***

***Wellingtons or sturdy walking boots are essential at this time of year as the path/bridleway can become extremely muddy.***

***The starting point for this walk is the village car park.***

Access the recreation ground via the pedestrian gate and make your way towards the far right hand corner of the field.

Just before you get there you will pass the Otford Solar System on your left – Earth will be the nearest planet to you and, if it is a bright day, the silver dome of the sun will be shining a little further away.



Exit the recreation ground onto the lane (facing Park Farm Stables) and turn left towards Shoreham. On a fine morning you will hear the cheerful sound of birdsong along this stretch of path drowning out the hum of the M25 from the West. To your right you are likely to see horses, dressed in colourful rugs, grazing or running free.

When the lane turns left, carry straight on, gently uphill, following the route marked 'bridleway'.

The path, which is overhung with catkins at this time of year, will eventually begin to descend and you will see the Darenth golf course to either side. Continue straight on along the

bridleway, which is bordered by trees. After a while the view to your left will open up, offering a beautiful view across the golf course towards the west.

Cross a narrow tarmac lane and enter the enclosed pathway opposite which emerges onto the Shoreham cricket ground. From here, on the hillside to your left above Shoreham, you will see the chalk cross created as a war memorial to those who gave their lives in the First World War .



Continue ahead to pass through a gate on the opposite side of the ground, then along a fenced pathway and out onto the golf course (watch out for balls from the right!). The footpath goes directly across the course and then between fences to bring you onto Station Road.

Turn left - marked Darenth Valley Path (DVP) - and walk some 80 yards towards Shoreham, then turn right into a field, following the DVP sign. Tramp your way through the mud, past Shoreham Church on your left, to the corner of the field and follow the path which turns sharply to the left.

As you proceed down towards the river you will see the vines of The Mount Vineyard – where grapes are grown to produce award-winning English wine. Continue along the path as it curves through the meadow and leads towards the footbridge over the River Darent. Turn left onto the tarmac path just before the bridge.

Follow the footpath back to the centre of

Shoreham with the clear waters of the River Darent flowing to your right. Along the way you will pass the home of the artist Samuel Palmer (1805-1884) on your left, and then the Shoreham war memorial on your right.



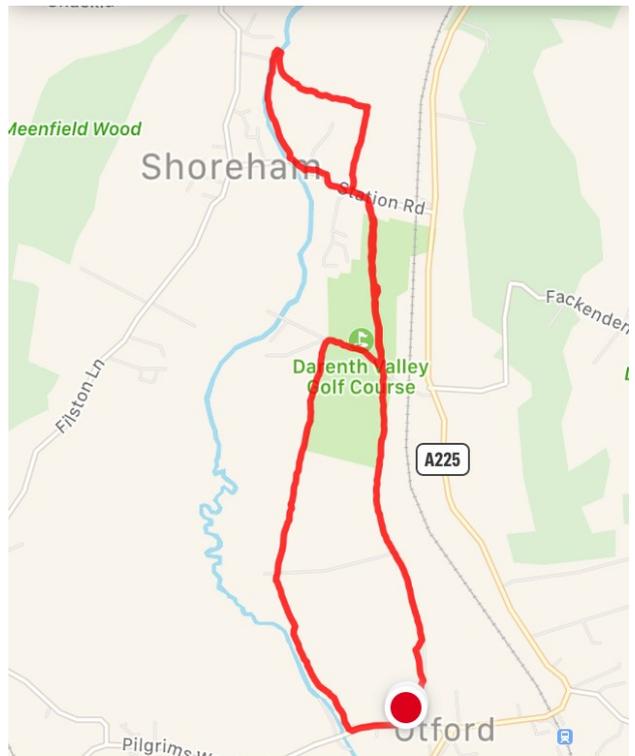
At the road, turn left onto Church Street and follow it round past The Olde George Inn (to your right) and the lychgate of St Peter and St Paul's Church (to your left). Continue in the direction of the station until, on your right, you reach the footpath you took earlier – marked Darent Valley Path.

Exit the field, going through two gates to reach another field bringing Otford into sight. Follow the path which descends towards the river and takes you back into the village. When you reach the High Street, turn left to return to the car park.

Retrace your steps across the golf course and the cricket ground but turn right when you reach the narrow tarmac road to go gently downhill. Just after the red 'Beware of golf buggies' sign turn left onto an enclosed footpath – the entrance to the footpath is marked by a stone sign which reads 'Otford'

*Christeen Malan*

Continue ahead until you emerge into an open field where, at this time of year, the growing corn looks more like grass. Follow the path straight on in the direction of Otford. As you cross the field, to the right you will see the white cowls of Sepham Oast bright in the sunlight and, closer to hand, a line of trees marking the course of the river.



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

### Community Safety Partnerships

Community safety promotes the concept of community-based action to secure sustainable reductions in crime and the fear of crime in local communities. Community Safety Partnerships were set up under the 1998 Crime & Disorder Act which recognises that crime and disorder cannot be tackled by the police alone.

The role of the Community Partnerships is to bring together key local agencies to deliver multi-agency solutions to local problems by pooling resources and experience. Local authorities, police and other key partners and agencies work collectively to tackle crime and disorder to improve community safety in their area.

Sevenoaks District Council runs this service with the Community Safety Unit to keep the District safe. The safety team includes the Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Kent County Council, the Probation Service, Housing Associations and others. Each year the Partnership undertakes an assessment of crime and disorder in the District using data provided by partners and feedback from residents. The focus is on preventative measures and developing strategies that cultivate the right environments that lead to crime reduction.

Everyone has a part to play in community safety and there are a number of ways you can get involved to help to keep residents safe where you live.

**The North West Kent Crime Prevention Panel (NWKCPP)** A voluntary organisation that helps raise the awareness of crime prevention and community safety. If you would like to become a volunteer or would like someone to attend one of

your events contact the Community Safety Team at the District Council, details below.

**Community Speedwatch** An initiative that enables groups of residents to contribute to their community's safety and quality of life by helping to reduce excessive vehicle speeds. To join the Otford Speedwatch team contact the Parish Clerk at: [clerk@otfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@otfordpc.co.uk).

**Neighbourhood Watch** A scheme to help create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. To find your local scheme or setup a scheme go to: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) or contact the District Council.

Keeping our residents safe is a top priority for the District Council and the Community Safety Partnership helps to ensure that the District is a safe **place to live, work and visit**.

If you have any community safety concerns that you would like to bring to the attention of the District Council please get in touch, or contact Sevenoaks District Council directly at: [community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or call on: 01732 227000.

For low-level crime and antisocial behaviour, such as graffiti, littering, fly tipping and vandalism, Community Wardens, who work closely with Kent Police, the District Council and other professional authorities, can help. Our Community Warden, Paul Robertson, who provides a reassuring visible presence around Otford, can be contacted on: 07813 713366 or at [paul.robertson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:paul.robertson@kent.gov.uk).

*Cllr Irene Roy*  
[cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
*Tel: 01959 525610*



## OUT AND ABOUT



### OTFORD EVENING W.I.

Gardening for Wildlife is the subject of our speaker Brian Nobbs at our meeting on Thursday, 13th February at 7.30pm in the Club Room. Visitors are very welcome to join us and if more information is required please contact our President on 01959 524 831.



### GIRLGUIDING OTFORD'S CHRISTMAS POST 2019

Otford Brownies and Guides would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Post Service in December. This was the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of running the post which raised the sum of £226.00 from the sale of stamps. This year the money has been donated to SERV Kent – Bloodrunners, a charity that provides emergency courier services transporting blood products, samples and other essential items for major hospitals and hospices in Kent out of normal working hours.

Thanks as always to Lorraine in Otford library, Sharon and Sue in the Parish Office and Yvonne's in Telston Lane who sell the stamps for us and Gerry and Craig who print our stamps and posters.

### World Thinking Day – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world have celebrated World Thinking Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February annually since 1926. It is a day to connect with our worldwide sisters and enjoy being part of an organisation with 10 million global members!

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders from Kemsing & Otford District will be marking the day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February with a local walk, finishing at Otford village green where the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) flag will be flying.

If you were once a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Ranger or Leader, please come and join us at 11:15am on The Green when we will all be renewing our Girlguiding promise. We would love to see you. Or follow us on social media using the hashtags #WTD2020 #InOurHands



"Pancake party?" said Simon,  
"What Pancake Party?"

## MISSION MATTERS...FEBA

### RADIO CROSSES THE BARRIERS OF CENSORSHIP

#### Internet is censored

20 countries where our global partners are broadcasting face strong internet censorship – eight of these have the highest level of censorship.



#### Radio is not censored

Using shortwave radio, our global partners can broadcast programmes from across borders allowing biblical content to be freely aired without government censorship.

### RADIO CROSSES THE BARRIERS OF ILLITERACY



In seven of the countries where members of our global family are broadcasting, less than 75% of the population can read and write.

**... FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE, AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD ABOUT CHRIST. ROMANS 10:17 NIV**

### RADIO CROSSES THE BARRIERS OF LANGUAGE



Many of our global partners have producers living in local communities who know how to use radio to communicate the good news of Jesus in people's heart language.

**OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS SHARE THE GOSPEL IN 113 LANGUAGES, ACROSS MORE THAN 49 COUNTRIES WITH 7.8 MILLION LISTENER RESPONSES EACH YEAR.**

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

St Bart's is many things. A place of worship, a collection of people, holy ground, a group of friends, a building, a house of prayer. This Christmas, as I sat in the congregation for one of the handful of times I have visited since I left 10 years ago, I realised that St Bart's is something else. It's also home.

My life at St Bart's started after moving to the village when I was about 7 and Mrs Grafton was the Sunday School teacher in the old Church Hall. I was confirmed, joined YPF, then became a leader of YPF and sat on the PCC. During all of that, St Bart's, and the people in it, became a great grounding for my faith. My fondest memory is leading YPF with Dawn, and all the great fun we had coming up with (hopefully!) interesting things to do. Those who I still think of as "the YPF kids" are now all grown up, but even as school age YPF members, they were a big part of my church life, and one of my favourite wedding photos is the one with all of them in it!

I have worked in the not for profit sector for 10 years, all of that time at a Bible engagement organisation called Lifewords, as their Supporter Engagement Lead. I got there via a Criminology degree and an array of jobs that included packing underwear in a warehouse, working in a quarry (before anyone asks, in an admin role! No one let me drive a big digger...), being your helpful Produce Assistant at Sainsburys, and working for a building supplies company. In Lifewords I have definitely found my niche, and when I am trying to find ways to help churches and their congregations engage with the Bible, I always ask myself whether the YPF would like it!

I currently live in Tunbridge Wells with my husband Stephen, my 6 year old son, and my 3 year old daughter. We attend Christchurch, where I run the creche and Stephen plays in the worship band. The faith I have grown into sprouted from what I experienced at St Bart's, the example that was set for me by some of the most amazing giants of the faith (specifically Dawn Hallam, who, by the way, is DEFINITELY blushing right now!), and the fun and friendships I found along the way. One of the most amazing things about looking back is seeing the strength of friendships that still exist between the "YPF kids", and how they have taken their faith into adulthood. I was going to say that I feel like a proud mother hen, but I think I'd prefer to be the proud, cool, sister hen!

*Liz King (née Cole)*



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH—TRIFLE

Trifles can come in so many forms – we love our family traditional sherry trifle, but it's good to have variations and we really enjoy the two below which can be adapted in any way you choose.

### **Pear and Ginger Trifle**

Peel and cut up 4-5 pears, then poach for around 20 minutes in 500 ml of cider. I use the bought Jamica ginger cake as the base, which is cut up and drizzled (or soaked!) with the cider used to poach the pears. Cover the ginger base with the pears, then add a layer of custard and a layer of cream. Top with toasted almonds.

### **Baileys Trifle**

You can use any chocolate sponge as the base. Mix with Baileys, and layer with custard to which a little Baileys has been added, and cream. Top with a custard layer, then cream and grated chocolate.

*Hilary Fothergill*



## PUZZLE FOR FEBRUARY

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and

so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.



Forty

Days

Baby

Boy

Public

Appearance

Mary

Jewish

Mothers

Temple

Jesus

Purified

Present

Lord

Festival

Presentation

Light

World

Candlemas

Simeon

Nunc

Dimittis

Office

Evening

Prayer

West

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH ORGAN

You may well have noticed that our church organ was out of action for most of October last year. This therefore seems a timely moment to let you know the reasons for this, and the effect it has had, and to pass on a few facts about the instrument.

The organ was built in 1913 by the London firm of R. Spurden Rutt & Co., to replace the previous organ (installed in 1863). This older organ appears to have been something of a botched job – although even a botched pipe organ installation managed to last 50 years! It was a second-hand instrument, installed in roughly the location of the present organ, but reaching much further into the Lady Chapel, rendering the chapel useless for any other purpose. By 1912 the Vicar (Rev. W. E. Lutyens) was writing in the church magazine: 'the Chapel was not meant to be filled with an organ but meant as a place of prayer and worship'. A new organ was commissioned and paid for by individuals and fund-raising activities, and in April 1913 the Vicar wrote: 'We heard the old organ for the last time last night. Tomorrow it will be no more. It has been a good servant, though it has grumbled at times and refused to work; but it is wonderful what it has done for us.' The new instrument was installed by that September, and in accordance with many hints during the magazine articles in the previous months, it contained some of the best pipework from the old organ. 'We shall still hear the best of its pipes, all that is good in it, in the new organ, though it may be we shall not recognize them.' You will hear more of this in next month's account of the recent work done.

The organ of 1913 has three keyboards (two manuals played by the hands and one pedal

keyboard played with the feet), and nineteen 'speaking stops'. Each such stop brings into play, when pulled out, a set of pipes producing a particular type of noise, whether it be a diapason (the classic organ sound), a flute, a string or a reed; it is the endless variety produced by combining the sounds of the different stops which gives the organ all its different sounds. Despite the common expression, no true organist would ever 'pull out all the stops' – though I come close on occasion! – because there is no need to.

The 'speaking stops' are those which directly produce a sound. There are others which couple two or more keyboards together, or affect the wind supply to produce a trembling effect.

This is the organ which has served this church well for over 100 years, and thanks to the work just carried out (of which more next month), will continue to do so for many decades yet. The picture opposite shows the church in 1913, with newly installed organ and candelabra.

*Kevin Grafton  
Organist and Choirmaster*

*Thanks to Ed Thompson Collection  
for the picture*

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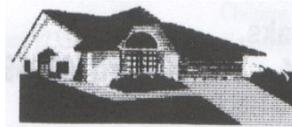


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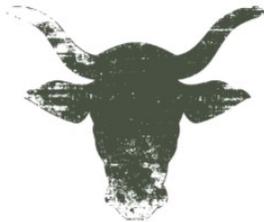
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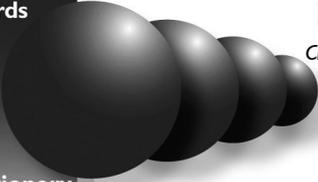


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