



## St Bartholomew's Church Otford Parish News

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	4.00pm
1st November All Saints' Day	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	Evensong
8th November Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	Service of Remembrance <b>(10.30am)</b>	-
15th November	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-
22nd November	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-
29th November Advent Sunday	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-

Please notify the office at least 2 days before the service you wish to attend.

A message for the young people is still being posted to the church website.

**Revd David's day off:** Tuesday

**Magazine copy date:** 10th of the month prior to publication

### **A message from the editors - Do you like writing and editing?**

We were wondering whether there is anyone in the church family, perhaps a group of friends, who would be interested in forming a new team for 2021 to run the magazine? After eleven years in the role, Vicki and I are standing down at the end of this year as we both feel the magazine needs fresh ideas and a new lease of life. Do contact us if you would like to find out more about what is involved. We would be happy to provide advice.

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**COVER PHOTO:** Village War Memorial

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## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



A couple of years back a friend of mine turned 50, but instead of drawing up a list of things he'd like for this landmark birthday he chose 50 friends and sent us specially-selected gifts as a thank you for our friendship and support.

I rather liked the idea of turning the expected 'want list' on its head and using a milestone in life as a way of saying thanks to people who have been an encouragement, an inspiration, or a shoulder to cry on through the years.

It's a theme that rolls around quite often when I take school assemblies – the importance of saying thank you. Once when I was visiting a school I asked the children who they might say thank you to each day. There was quite a list – teachers, parents, shopkeepers, each other. Then one very eager child announced loudly that we should thank God for everything!

It was a great reminder: throughout the Bible we are told that we should be thankful. The Psalmists write more than once, "Give thanks to the Lord for his love endures forever." And in Ephesians St Paul tells us to, "Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father."

We're not terribly good at saying thank you – certainly not to one another out of courtesy or politeness, and probably even less to God. And yet "Thank God!" is an exclamation you hear almost every day from people who are grateful for something positive happening, even if they don't think of the divine implication of their words!

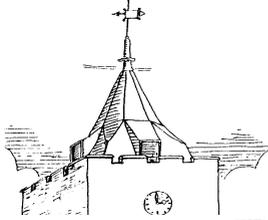
I think perhaps this year we have grown better at expressing thanks – to front-line workers, to those in the NHS, to those who have kept us going during the Covid-19 pandemic. In this "season of remembrance" we must also find time to remember and give thanks for those who have been important to us personally, nationally and globally in war, peace and in our daily lives.

We celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving every year (as we did last month in a church as packed as it could be in the current situation) and it can be quite a struggle to remember what we are giving thanks for and to whom. I rather like the American Thanksgiving (kept in November), which celebrates the past as well as being grateful for the present. As George Washington decreed, it should be kept, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God".

Perhaps it's time for us to reclaim this phrase. Why not start or end your day with something like this: For all good gifts, for every act of kindness, for friends and family, for every blessing – THANK GOD!

*Revd David*

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



*Registers*



### OUR SYMPATHY

16th September Brian Beacom (aged 87)

27th September John Lewis (aged 87)

### CHURCH OPENING FOR PRAYER

The church is open Monday-Thursday from 9.30am-3pm and on Fridays 9am-12.30pm for private prayer. Please follow the directions given in the entrance lobby and use the red chairs in the side chapel.

### SERVICES FROM ST BART'S

We are pleased to say that we are now able to offer **Evensong on the first Sunday of the month at 4.00pm**. This is in addition to our two Sunday morning services; 8am Holy Communion and a 10am service. There is also Holy Communion at 10am on a Wednesday. We are strictly limited on numbers at our services due to social distancing. If you would like to attend please apply to the church office from Monday-Thursday for a Sunday service or Thursday-Monday for a Wednesday service by email; [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net) or phone 01959 523185. Confirmation of your place will be sent out on Fridays for Sunday services.

We are also live streaming our 10am Sunday morning service so, if you are unsuccessful in getting a seat in church, you can watch from home or at a time that suits your family circumstances. You can find the service on our website.

### RECIPE BOOK

We are hoping to publish a St Bart's recipe book in time for Christmas to help with church funds.

If anyone has any favourite recipes -old or new- and would like to contribute please make the dish, photograph it and send a copy of the recipe with photo to the Church Office by the 31st October. If you wish to be acknowledged in the book please indicate. A short sentence or two about the recipe would add further interest.

Enjoy your cooking!

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The pandemic and related restrictions have caused us to think carefully about how we can best offer a service of Remembrance this year on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. In consultation with senior clergy in the diocese, other churches, uniformed organisations and the Parish Council it has been decided (in common with many other parishes around the country) to hold a church service inside which can be livestreamed on Facebook and our website. This will include all the usual elements, including the two-minute silence at 11am and a symbolic laying of a wreath. Others who usually lay wreaths will be provided with a short service sheet which they can use at any time at the war memorial. Owing to the limited numbers we can have in church, we hope many will watch the online service and share in our act of Remembrance.

## MONTHLY MEDITATION - NOVEMBER

### For all the saints

'That Woman is a Saint!' – something I've said when talking about someone who has worked cheerfully under trying circumstances, gone the extra mile to help others, borne hardships with grace and forbearance, or perhaps just been extra kind to me when I needed it.

What exactly makes a saint is a matter for much doctrinal and theological debate. We know the stories of them, of the great deeds they did, of the strength of their faith and the sufferings they endured, and our churches are named after them. St Bartholomew, for example, was one of Jesus' disciples and tradition has it he went on to be a great missionary before being martyred for his faith.

We have our own British saints as well, dating back to St Alban who was killed by the Romans in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Some have wonderful stories attached to them – two of my favorites are St Cuthbert, who was so absorbed by his prayers one evening on the beach that two otters came out of the sea and dried and warmed his feet with their fur, and St Hilda, a wise abbess who turned a plague of snakes into stone.

But saints are surely not just those officially canonized but also all those who have died in the faith and gone to glory. In his epistle to the Hebrews Paul wrote that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who surely are cheering us on as we continue with our struggles on earth.

And what of the saints still here on earth – the friend who supported me when I needed it, the carers and emergency service workers, those who reach out to the poor and

dispossessed and so many more. Charles Wesley wrote 'Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone, for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one.'

On All Saints' Day – November 1<sup>st</sup> – we remember and give thank for all the saints, famous or obscure, those who have gone before us and those on earth. When you find life's race hard going, remember that cloud of witnesses looking down and supporting you. And when we act as Jesus would have acted – when we are His mouth, His Hands, His heart, then we too are saints on earth.

*We thank you God, for all the saints who ever worshipped you, in all the realms of time and space.*

*We thank you for the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. May we learn from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.*

*We thank you for the hardworking saints we encounter in our lives, through their efforts we see your love for us.*

*Amen*



*Susanne Beard*



## IN MEMORIAM ... BRIAN BEACOM



Brian was born in 1933 in Clapham, London. Sadly the war marred much of his childhood but he remembered vividly the joy of post-rationing sweet shops reopening and never lost his sweet tooth! His primary

schooling was somewhat disrupted but being a clever chap, he still managed to get a full LCC scholarship to the prestigious City of London School for Boys. He later trained as a Chartered Accountant.

His National Service was deferred until he qualified but on his 23rd birthday he was called up.

He found basic training extremely unpleasant and claimed that it was only made endurable by the strong friendship of a group of fellow accountants. On completion of basic training they were sent to different parts of post-war Europe but remained friends for life. John, an army friend, wrote of Brian, "Brian was the nicest man you could possibly meet. His sense of fun, easily worn intelligence and sheer decency made him stand out"

Brian's early professional life was spent in London where he specialised in insurance. He was made a Freeman of the City and although he never did, was entitled to drive his sheep across London Bridge.

His great passion in life was cars about which he was very knowledgeable. He owned an E type

Jaguar which was his pride and joy but totally impractical after his marriage to Joan in 1967.

He also helped with a cub pack in Clapham; the boys all thought he was called Kaa because of his red E type! They ran rings round him!

Brian and Joan's first home was in Chelsfield. Penny arrived in 1972, James 2 years later. The move to Otford was undertaken when James was 10 weeks old. Matthew was born in 1979 and the family was complete.

Brian audited the accounts of many village organisations - WI, Brownies, Tennis Club, Scouts to name but a few. He also called himself the 'infernal auditor' of the Parish Council - he assumed that's what they called him anyway! On reaching 70 he took on the Church Freewill Offering account and persuaded many contributors to gift aid their donations. He performed this service for 11 years.

One of his proudest moments was at Penny and Colin's wedding last year when he walked his daughter down the aisle. He had a most wonderful day surrounded by family and friends and made many memories for everyone.

As well as being a great thinker and procrastinator, Brian had a wicked sense of humour. He was a kind, gentle man and a true animal lover. He relished living in Otford, spending time chatting with everybody he met. Church magazine distribution for Well Road took him nearly half a day!

During his short time at the Hospice the family met the chaplain who kindly gave them a wooden cross. Brian was still clutching it when he slipped away.

*Adapted from the eulogy given at Brian's funeral*

## MISSION MATTERS - THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



**The Children's Society**

**making childhood better**

The Society campaigns alongside young people so they can overcome the toughest challenges of

modern life and face their futures with hope and confidence.

They make sure care leavers don't get hit with big bills as soon as they start living independently, young refugees have a trusted adult looking out for them when they're going through legal battles, and families in crisis get proper support so they can afford to keep their children healthy and happy.

The Society drive change at a local and national level, influencing national legislation and making sure local councils look after those who have it toughest in their communities.

A recent campaign made sure families living with problem debt had access to a 'breathing space' scheme. This meant they could plan how they were going to repay their debts without being hit by extra charges and court summons. Families across the country now have time to get on their feet.

On a local level, they campaigned so care leavers would be exempt from council tax up to the age of 25. So far, 130 councils have introduced this policy. This means that when these young people start living independently, they aren't faced with big, scary bills. They have time to get a job, start managing their money and build a future filled with hope.

Young people's voices shape their campaigns. The issues that are putting young people's

futures in jeopardy are at the heart of what they do.

Right now, young people's well-being is in decline. That is why by 2030 they have a goal to overturn the damaging decline in children's well-being. But they cannot do it alone. Each year their **Good Childhood** report asks thousands of children across the country how they are feeling. There is no other measure for children's well-being. This needs to change. The Government measures adults' well-being, but not young people's, meaning it is blind to the major life challenges young people face.

They are also very aware that families across the country are struggling to afford the basics like food and rent. They are working with local councils to get the funding they need to support families in crisis, that is why they are calling on the councils to strengthen their safety nets. We must especially think about the work of the Children's Society as we near Christmas time, when family life, and therefore, the well-being of children, is put under extra strain even more especially during the COVID19 pandemic. Please pray for the work of the Society as their main aim is to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children.

*Mags Southgate*

We usually hold a Christingle service, to further support the work of the Society, in the run-up to Christmas. However, because of Covid, and not being able to meet together in large numbers, we are hoping that we might instead be able to hold this service at Candlemas, in the New Year.

## SILENT AUCTION

### **Silent Auction – Time, Talents, Gifts!**

#### **Let the bidding start!**

A big 'Thank You!' to everyone who has donated items for our Silent Auction Catalogue which is live from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 15<sup>th</sup> November for you to place your bids. You can find this on the church website at [www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk). Or if you would like to receive a paper copy, please collect one from the church lobby or the Otford parish office.

To give you an idea of what is on the list, here are a few examples .....

- 1 large Christmas flower arrangement
- One day wood turning training for beginners. All materials supplied. Includes a light lunch
- Victoria Sponge with cream and fruit filling
- Framed print of Durham Cathedral
- A 'lasagne' of spring bulbs in a blue, painted ceramic pot
- 2 hours of gardening (digging, raking, pruning, sweeping)
- A monthly flower bouquet or plant delivery for 12 months to a local address (within 3 miles of Otford)
- An 8 inch iced Christmas Cake

And there are lots more in the catalogue to be found at [www.stbartholomews.co.uk/silent-auction/](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk/silent-auction/)

### **So now the bidding starts! From 1- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Please have a look at the catalogue and if there is anything you would like to bid on, please submit your bid in writing by 15<sup>th</sup> November. You can do this in one of the following ways;

- Emailing [jo.chandler@live.co.uk](mailto:jo.chandler@live.co.uk) .

- Placing your bid in a sealed envelope and delivering it to either the church office or the Otford parish office.
- Emailing the church office or using the church contact form online.

We will require your name and contact details, the catalogue description and item number you are bidding for and the amount you wish to bid. If you are interested in more than one item, we would be grateful if you could submit each bid separately.

Please write the catalogue item number on the outside of your envelope.

**16<sup>th</sup> November** – items without bids or those with lots of bids will be published again for any final bids to be placed.

**24<sup>th</sup> November** – **Deadline for all final bids to be in.**

**30<sup>th</sup> November** - bids will be opened and the item awarded to the highest bidder.

**1-8<sup>th</sup> December** - winners will be notified with details of how to pay via the church office and who to contact to claim their item. The giver of the item will also be advised how much their item went for and who will be in contact with them to claim it. You have 6 months to claim your item.

We look forward to receiving your bids as an opportunity for fund-raising for church funds and would like to thank everyone for their support whether it has been donating items and/or bidding for items. If you would like further information or have any questions, please contact me - Jo Chandler on 07703 797 039. Thank you for your support.

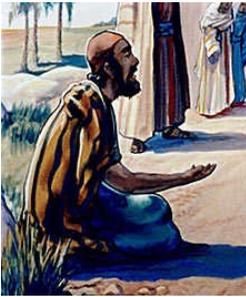
**POEM WRITTEN IN 1869 during the cholera pandemic**  
**REPRINTED IN 1919 during the Spanish 'flu pandemic**  
**VALID IN 2020 during the Covid 19 pandemic**

*And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.*

*Kathleen O'Mara*

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### November: Walking in the light



#### **Bible story: Bartimaeus receives his sight**

Bartimaeus lived in the dark. He was blind, he couldn't see a thing. He was poor, too. So he sat in the dust at the side of the road

out of Jericho listening, listening for passers - by who might throw some coins into his begging bowl.

One busy day, he heard everyone talking about Jesus. The more he heard about him, the more he believed that he must be the Messiah that God had promised, the true heir to King David. Perhaps Jesus himself was in the crowd going by. He mustn't miss this chance to speak to his King. So, summoning all his courage, he shouted out,

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

The crowd gave him a good telling off. "Be quiet, Bartimaeus!" they scolded. "We're trying to hear what Jesus is saying."

So Jesus *was* there! He took a deep breath and shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Suddenly he heard a calm voice say, "Call him!"

After a moment's silence, excited voices were talking at him. "There you go, Bartimaeus! Get to your feet. He's calling you."

He was up at once, throwing his cloak aside, and stumbling in the direction of that peaceful voice. Hands pushed him forwards.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

Bartimaeus replied, "Teacher, I want to see."

"Walk in the light, then," said Jesus. "Because you put your trust in me, I have healed you. You can go home now."

Immediately, Bartimaeus saw his King, saw the crowd, the trees, the blue sky . . . But he didn't go home. He followed Jesus, wanting to keep him in sight every step of the way.

**Pause for thought:** As the days grow shorter and we rely more on various light sources (torches, car lights, moonlight, etc) to find our way and to keep safe, the opportunity arises to chat with our children about Jesus being *The Light of the World*. He shone light into the lives of the people he met, bringing them healing, hope and fullness of life.

Here are some ideas to celebrate the gift of light that we see in the world around us and to introduce the idea that Jesus helps us to find our way in life. Read the story together and find it in the Bible (Mark 10:46-52.) Ask:

I wonder what Bartimaeus heard people saying about Jesus

Do you think the crowd were surprised that Jesus spoke to a beggar?

I wonder what it would be like to see if you have always been blind

I wonder if life seems more colourful when we follow Jesus

I wonder why Jesus healed Bartimaeus

**Lighthouse Craft** You could make a lighthouse by taping a cardboard tube onto a paper plate. Use pebbles or cones cut from egg-boxes and pasted to the plate for the rocks. Cut two slits in



opposite sides of the top of the tube and insert yellow card for the light rays with "I am the light of the world" written on it. Paste a circle of card folded into a cone to the top of the lighthouse.

**The safe and sound song** (*Sing after dark with torches!*)

To the tune "The wise man built his house upon the rock"

1. The lighthouse says, "Be careful of the rocks!" (x3) (*flash torches*)

And the boats sail safely round.

2. The runway lights say, "This is where to land!" (x3) (*flash two lines of torches*)

And the planes fly safely down.

3. The torchlight/Jesus says, "I'll show you where to walk!" (x3) (*walk with torches*)

And it/he keeps me safe and sound.

**Enjoy a family light party!**

*Ideas for games*

*Traffic Lights:* Show circles of red, amber or green as everyone walks around to music.

Green means walk, red means stop and amber means get ready to go or to stop!

*Treasure hunt:* With lights low, use torches to search for small prizes.

*Musical statues:* Everyone dances to music. When the music stops, everyone freezes in a candle shape (palms together above heads).

*Feely boxes:* Try to guess what is hidden in baskets/boxes just by feeling! You could hide a candle, a torch, a star shape, a lantern, etc.

*Fireworks:* Chat about Jesus wanting us to shine like stars in the world.

**Bedtime story for toddlers:** Explain that the weather can sometimes be foggy in November. Make up a story about Teddy walking to school on a foggy morning. For instance, "One November morning, Teddy looks out of his front door and has a big surprise. "What's happened to the world?" he asks. "I can't see the house across the road. I can't see the front gate. I can't even see the tip of my nose!" Mrs Bear explains that they must wear something very bright in the fog so that they will be sure to show up as they walk along the pavement. (*Dress Teddy in a fluorescent tabard/band or white clothing.*) On the way home it is getting dark and gloomy, but Teddy cheers up when he sees the moon and the stars. Mrs Bear has even put a lamp in the window to welcome them home.

**Prayer**

Light a big candle. Chat about anyone you know who is so kind and helpful that they make the world a much brighter place. Where do you think their light comes from? Give everyone a tea-light to light from the big candle (to symbolize taking God's light out into the world):



Dear God,

Thank you for your gift of light that we see in the world around us.

We thank you that when we follow you, we never walk in darkness. Help us to keep looking up at your smile and reflecting your brightness in the world by our kind and helpful thoughts and actions.

**Amen.**

Vicki Howie

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

### In the summer of 1940 the 'Battle of Britain' came to Otford

2020 is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Battle of Britain' and, from early September 1940, the beginning of the 'blitz' on London and elsewhere. Kent was on the frontline of the battle and has been called 'bomb alley' because the county was on a direct route from German airfields in occupied Europe to London, the principal target. Shoreham in Kent has been called the 'most bombed village in Britain', the description was first used during the war. Otford also suffered bomb damage, perhaps by accident, but possibly as a result of a deliberate attack. The major bomb incident was at the junction of Leonard Avenue and Station Road and took place on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1940.

Two local residents have described the incident. Here Audrey Curnow, who moved to Otford in December 1939, describes her memories of the attack:

'At first the 'phoney war' didn't affect us much, but later we watched droves of German bombers coming over on their way to London. On one occasion we saw 10 formations of 100 bombers each, which passed straight over. On the way back any bombs which hadn't been used were dispersed anywhere, and we had a number of those.

In school, the sound of the air raid siren meant we were immediately taken into the brick shelters, where we had lessons. Not a very pleasant experience as they were not very nice places to be, and that 'All Clear' siren was a relief. Of course we carried gas masks with us all the time. If one was forgotten we were sent home to get it. We practised wearing them at

school for shorter or longer periods, but it was always a relief to take them off!

In September 1940 a 1000 lb bomb dropped on Leonard Avenue, which demolished half of the Woodman pub, which, incidentally, has never been rebuilt. As you can see from its shape today, there are just two-thirds of it there. The old cottages next to the road took the full force, and I believe people were killed there. On the other side of Leonard Avenue where the newer semis are, the cottages there were completely destroyed by the bomb. The huge crater stayed there until after the war.'

Ted Pragnell, who lived in Kemsing, in his autobiography of the war (with the ironic title 'Nothing Much Happened around Here', published in 2008) described the bombing as a 'Lone Raider' attack:

'It was during the day. I was outside our property standing on the roadside berm (grass verge), when I spotted a lone, slim, German Dornier bomber. It was flying on a line directly above the Pilgrim's Way, from east to west. Much to my surprise it was sufficiently close for me to see the bomb-bay doors open. At that point it was between Landway and Childsbridge Lane. Then I saw a long cylindrical object leave the plane. It was an aerial-torpedo. The 'torpedo' seemed to take an extraordinarily long time, and travel a long distance, before it hit the ground. I lost sight of it as it went over the rise of my immediate horizon, heading towards Otford. I think the rise was at Beechy Lees Road. In the distance a plume of dust and debris shot into the air, and then I heard the bang. We soon learned that sound travels more slowly than light, or sight.

On my bicycle I went down, via the Pilgrim's Way, to Otford. Here I discovered the torpedo had hit a row of houses in Leonard Avenue, where the Woodman Public House stood on the corner. Several houses were destroyed and others badly damaged. I understood that five people were killed. Leonard Avenue is about two miles away from where the bomb was released, but it is less than a quarter of a mile away from Otford Railway Station, which I assume, must have been the intended target.' (Though if there was a target it was probably more likely to have been the Otford junction).

As well as the destruction of the Victorian cottages and part of the 'Woodman' damage was also sustained to neighbouring properties and to

St Bartholomew's Church and Colets Well on the other side of Station Road.

After the war, the bomb damage to St Bartholomew's Church was repaired and a commemorative window installed. From the 1950s new houses were built in Leonard Avenue to replace those demolished and there were some repairs to the 'Woodman', though you can still spot where the bomb damage was sustained.

With thanks to Audrey and Ted for their reminiscences. If you would like to read a longer version of this article with additional illustrations please email [info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk).

*Alan Williams*

*(Below: this aerial photograph of Leonard Avenue in 1949 shows the extent of the bomb damage and the subsequent demolition of houses in the Avenue.  
Photograph from the Ed Thompson collection)*



## NOVEMBER WALK

*A delightful three and a half mile walk for a late autumn day with beautiful viewpoints all along the route from which to admire the rich hues of the season.*

*The walk, which follows well defined paths, takes in the Terrace above Shoreham, including the chalk cross, and involves one relatively steep ascent and a steep descent.*

*The starting point is Station Road, Shoreham.*

Park in Station Road (or come by train) and walk in the direction of the village. Turn right opposite Shoreham Place – signposted Darent Valley Path (DVP). Go past St Peter and St Paul’s Church on your left and continue along the edge of the field.

At the end of the field, turn left to skirt the Mount Vineyard. Ahead of you will be a pleasing view of the northern end of Shoreham. Continue along the leaf strewn path to go slightly downhill eventually passing some vines on your right.

Follow the path through a gate (vines to the left) and over a stream to a low lying area of water meadows. The path leads to a bridge across the River Darent. Cross the bridge and turn right



onto a footpath next to a fence. When this ends turn left uphill (Mill Lane), ignoring the footpath to your right. Go uphill past some attractive old cottages on your left.

Cross the High Street and pick up the footpath immediately opposite to continue uphill on a fenced path beside a field. Note the proliferation of Old Man’s Beard growing over the fence.

Go through a metal gate into a field (cattle frequently graze here) and follow the posts/right



hand edge of the field uphill before exiting the field through another metal gate. Almost immediately turn left. You will now be on the Terrace, a three quarters of a mile long track running the length of Shoreham, which offers fantastic views over this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – a landscape beloved by Shoreham artist Samuel Palmer (1805-1881).

Walk uphill on the Terrace, ignoring the path into Meenfield Wood on your right and passing a wooden barrier.

When parallel to the middle of the village, in this month of remembrance, you may wish to make a slight detour. Look out for a gap in the hedge to your left with five steps leading down to the Shoreham Cross. The cross was dug in the chalk



in 1920 in memory of those who lost their lives in the Great War and there is an interesting information board about its history at the foot of the steps.

The cross can also be seen from the riverside memorial in the village, where the inscription reads, 'Remember as you look at the Cross on the Hill those who gave their lives for their country 1914-1918'.

Continue straight on along the Terrace, enjoying the views. Eventually the path goes slightly uphill through a wooded area before terminating at a metal gate into a grassy field. Go through the adjacent pedestrian gate and turn left, under the trees, to go downhill with Otford visible in the distance.

Keeping to the left of the field proceed down to its left hand corner and go through a metal gate to join a path/farm track. This leads down to Filston Lane. Cross the road at a slight diagonal to enter Water Lane. Go past a number of houses to reach a footpath beside a stream signposted 'Public Bridleway'. Continue along this peaceful path to

reach a concrete, wood and metal bridge - a great spot for paddling! Cross the bridge and follow the direction of the yellow arrow along the lane to a hard surfaced road and on past a cluster of houses including The Old Mill House where water gushes through the grounds.

Walk on uphill before passing between two areas of the golf course. Continue on the lane, past the red brick cricket club house on your left, then turn left just after the red 'Beware Golf Buggies' sign to take the footpath between fences/trees next to the 9<sup>th</sup> tee.

Go straight across the Shoreham cricket ground (good views of the chalk cross) and through a metal gate on its opposite side, then continue straight ahead over the golf course. With the golf clubhouse in the distance to your right, follow the enclosed footpath back to Station Road and your starting point whilst enjoying more views to the left, across a field with horses and donkeys, of the Shoreham Cross .

*Christeen Malan*



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

It looks as though all the Bonfire Night displays have been cancelled, and any events at home will be very restricted – perhaps only within families by the time this is published. However, maybe we can indulge in some seriously calorific and indulgent Bonfire Night food to mark the day. My apologies to anyone who reads this with horror – I'm sure there will be some very healthy recipes published in future magazines!

### Bangers and Beans Bowl

2 Onions  
Olive oil  
2 Large tins baked beans  
8 Cumberland sausages  
1 tablespoon tomato ketchup  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
Grated Cheddar cheese

Bake the sausages at 170° for about 25 minutes, then cut each one into about 6 slices. Meanwhile, peel and chop the onions, then cook slowly until light brown. Stir in the baked beans, sausages, ketchup and Worcestershire sauce and cook together for a few minutes. Serve in bowls and sprinkle grated cheese over the top.



### Chocolate and Marshmallow Dip

100g plain chocolate  
100g milk chocolate  
150ml condensed milk  
50ml cream  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
150g marshmallows (mixture of large and small shown).  
Biscuits/fruit

Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of boiling water, then stir in the cream, condensed milk and vanilla extract.

Put in an ovenproof bowl, and cover with marshmallows. Heat under the grill for a few minutes until the marshmallows are melting.

Use as a dip for biscuits or fruit.



Quantities for the bangers and beans recipe – 4 people

Quantities for the dip – 4 people upwards – small quantities recommended to start!!

*Hilary Fothergill*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?...

### ANNE GILLESPIE (CARTER)

I was born in Otford in 1965, the second child of John and Joan Carter. (My brother is Mike and my sister is Sue.) As a young child I attended Mrs Bunch's Sunday School in the village hall and received biblical stamps for attendance! I then moved on to Venturers, Pathfinders and the Young People's Fellowship (YPF). After completing my secondary education at Bennett Memorial, I continued my education studying at Froebel College, Roehampton and spent four fun - filled years training to become a primary school teacher. I then returned to Otford and taught in Bexley; during this time, I belonged to the St Bart's young adult group, Cedars, which was held in the Torry household with plenty of coffee drunk, biscuits eaten, much laughter and discussion of faith. Having spent some time teaching in England, I then spent two years teaching in Cologne, Germany.

But where am I now? Well, Chris and I have just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. We are living in Maidstone and are parents to four energetic older teenagers, six chickens and a mad dog! We are active members of a small Church of England congregation, St Paul's, Maidstone, which has just entered its own period of interregnum. I lead a church house-group which has embraced the joys of zoom during lockdown.

Growing up as a member of St Bart's gave me a great and sure foundation for my Christian faith. Spending my teenage years enjoying being a member of YPF was certainly a joy. As a group we were able to have a great time, knowing that Christ was at the

centre. Under Anne Fleetwood's leadership, I grew in my Christian faith with a Bible-based knowledge. Many of my friends at St Bart's have remained good and firm friends.

Four years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. During this period, as a family, we were practically and prayerfully supported by many, including good friends from St Bart's. We were certainly surrounded by God's love and peace. Cancer is not a kind disease, but during the year of treatment I really learnt the power of prayer and resting in God's love.

Life moves on and I found it very strange to have only one child returning to school this year, but quite grateful not to have to put a day aside for shoe shopping and another for the uniform shop. Life seems to remain hectic and my speciality is as the family chauffeur! I have found the importance of spending time in prayer, reading my Bible and the continued fellowship of Christians.



## WELCOME WILDLIFE INTO YOUR GARDEN



### Wildlife in the Garden

November 2020

Our gardens still have colour as the last leaves of deciduous trees and plants flutter to the ground. Winter begins to assert itself. We have had the excitement of Halloween and now we prepare to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night. On November 5<sup>th</sup> many people still have a bonfire and put potatoes in the base to cook while gazing upwards to see rockets and other fireworks burst their coloured stars in the night sky. Please make sure there are no animals like hedgehogs nestling in the pile of sticks and leaves etc. of your bonfires, before striking the match.

Some of the most obvious and dramatic changes take place in freshwater ponds, which can freeze as early as November. The floating water lily leaves discolour and decay as do other aquatic plants, their roots being safe at the bottom. Older frogs adopt a similar strategy, burrowing into a ready-made lair in the soft mud. Young frogs, like toads and newts usually hibernate away from the water, a hole in the ground, a discarded mouse-hole, or a compost heap. Goldfish also go to the bottom and if they are lucky receive special winter food pellets from us. We will now see more birds in the garden to feed on the variety of bird seed we provide together with fat balls and nuts. There are of course the berries of hawthorn, rowan, and holly as well as many berried shrubs that we have in our gardens. We are very fortunate to be able to see a pair of buzzards overhead, who seem to have adopted Otford. These magnificent raptors were completely absent from Otford for many years.

Ivy continues to support seemingly half the insect kingdom in November with a succession of

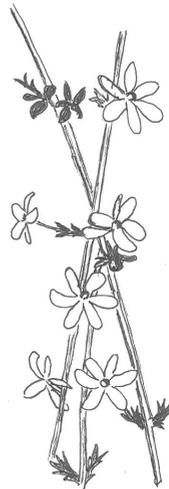
flower heads with nectar, especially for insects with short tongues. A few late wasps may be interested in catching flies that may have been caught in a spider's web, or hovering round a compost heap. After it has stung the fly it dissects it for a tasty meal.

As for flowers, it is a challenge to find flowering plants, maybe an isolated evening primrose, a rose, dahlia, and the yellow winter jasmine. If the temperature drops below freezing, jasmine simply closes its flowers and waits for conditions to improve.

The brightest things this month are the full moon and the stars on clear nights.

Now is the time for armchair Botany and fireside Entomology: bring out your Nature Notebooks, draw some of the things you may have seen, identify any little bits of things you may have collected on your spring and summer walks and recall the special times you were enjoying God's wonderful world.

*Elizabeth Ward*



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

### Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Sevenoaks District

New mini-lockdown restrictions are being introduced around the UK in response to a worrying spike in COVID-19 infections across the country as we move into a second wave of the pandemic.

So, how does Kent and the Sevenoaks District compare to the rest of the country? As of early October, Public Health England confirmed the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Kent stood at 9922, the rate per 100,000 residents remains low, but growing steadily.

The figures suggest the county of Kent is handling the spread of coronavirus better than many other regions. However, numbers are increasing, and this is a timely reminder for the public that the measures around social distancing, hand washing and wearing face masks are absolutely vital to control the spread of the virus.

The Sevenoaks District has seen a significant rise in the number of Covid positive cases over the last few weeks. This now places Sevenoaks as the district within Kent with the highest number of cases; to put this in context, the Sevenoaks District figures for coronavirus are half the national average. Along with local authorities across the country, Sevenoaks District Council has plans in place for a local lockdown should that situation arise. The District, however, remains a safe place in terms of the pandemic, and if people continue to follow the advice given, the chances of catching Covid-19 locally thankfully remain low. On the current figures, a local lockdown

appears highly unlikely and the Council continues to work across the District to keep communities safe.

The testing capacity across Kent has increased to help identify and confirm cases in our community and support the NHS Test and Trace programme, as a result a rise in the number of confirmed cases is expected.

The new Covid-19 NHS Test and Trace app is now available in England and Wales; it is the fastest way of knowing when you are at risk from coronavirus. You can find more information on the app and how to get tested and self-isolate if you have symptoms, as well as how to play your part to help protect those at risk of experiencing severe symptoms, at: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069142/coronavirus\\_covid-19](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069142/coronavirus_covid-19). Alternatively, call Sevenoaks District Council on: 01732 27000.

To help control the spread of the virus, please follow the Government's advice:

- Wash your hands regularly
- Wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space by staying at least a metre apart from others

Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms and follow the guidance if you are contacted by the NHS Track and Trace.

Stay safe and keep well.

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



## NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we near the half term break at Otford Primary school we reflect on this term. At this point last year, we would not have ever imagined a term like it. But we as a school have

adapted and changed the way we work in so many ways. The teachers and support team have worked tirelessly to provide the children with a safe and happy environment, where they can learn and play. A focus on positive wellbeing throughout, alongside new effective learning strategies.

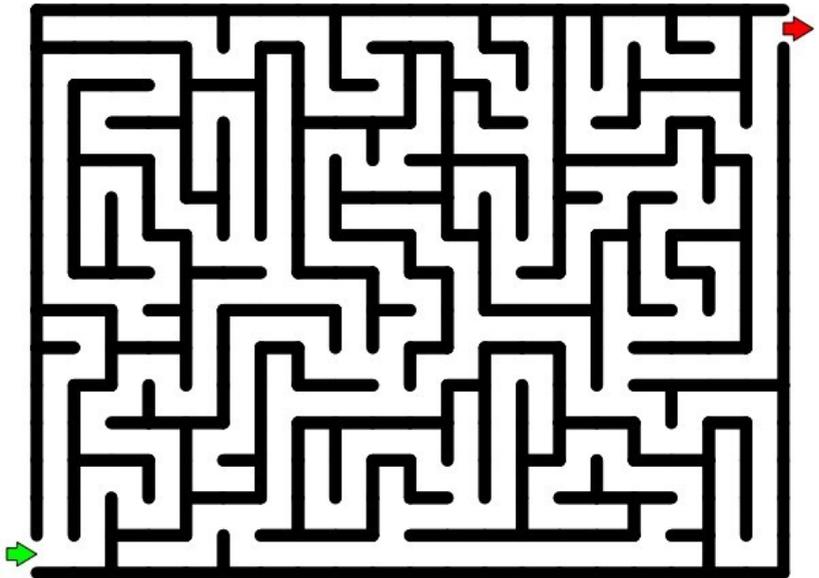
The children spend more time outside in the fresh air with the introduction of the daily 'Active 20' initiative and every child has a pair of wellies in school, enabling the school field to be used throughout the year. This means

that children can play happily in their bubbles across the whole school site. We are very lucky to have so much space.

More and more aspects of school life are having to be changed. School councillor elections and music assemblies are just a couple of those that have been rethought through. Both have moved online, pre-recorded and delivered to each class, so the children can still feel a sense of community and ownership within the school. Even the Harvest Festival moved online this year. This still contained all the features of the Harvest Festivals from previous years, including poems, prayers, songs and a talk from our new vicar at St Bartholomew's.

*Louise Brown*

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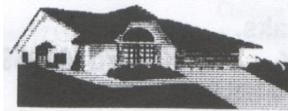
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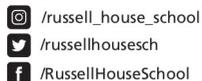
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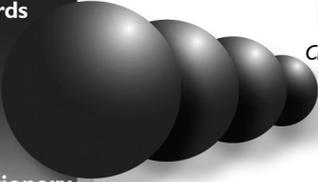


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## Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

For enquiries please contact the church office at [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)  
or on 01959 523185

<b>VICAR</b>	<b>David Guest</b>
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam Margaret Lidbetter Mags Southgate
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid Margaret Lidbetter Donna Worssam
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Russell Edwards Janet Hunt
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:</b>	Kevin Grafton
<b>SACRISTAN:</b>	Tony Grogan

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

### CHURCH HALL

*Manager and Booking Sec:* Robert Hunt

### MAGAZINE

*Editorial team:* Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,  
*Advertisements:* [st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net](mailto: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

*Mission Links:* Church Office

### BELLRINGERS

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

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Joan Beacom 01959 467675

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

Vicar, The Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Sam Barnett, Joan Beacom, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, 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)