

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

November	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
5 November All Saints Sunday	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
12 November Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	Remembrance Service	-	-
19 November 2nd Sunday before	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Messy Church	Evensong
26 November Christ the King	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-

SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14)

INFANT: 3-7

JUNIOR: 8-11

SENIOR: 12-14

These groups meet in the Church Centre during the 10.00 am service, except on the first Sunday when they meet in Church for All Together Worship.

First Steps for toddlers and their carers meets on alternate Wednesdays during term time. For more details please contact Najen Harris, 01959 522813.

EPIC (for school years 5-7) meets on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 6-8 pm in the Church Centre.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP meet every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Centre, 6.30 - 8.00 pm.

HOLY COMMUNION Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact the Church Office 01959 523185.

Vicar's off duty day: Monday

Cover photo by Richard Worssam: 'The Naughty Corner' at the Christmas Market
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 11 Volume 87

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Resilience is a vital human quality. This is a theme which is highlighted on the first two Sundays of this month.

The first Sunday of November is “All Saints Sunday” and the worldwide church remembers saints down through the ages who have borne witness to Gospel in the face of great opposition and danger.

From the first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, who was stoned by a mob in Jerusalem for defending the Christian faith, through to the Christian martyrs of the twentieth century whose statues are found above the great west doors of Westminster Abbey, men and women across the centuries have demonstrated great courage and resilience as they have sought to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.

The second Sunday of November is Remembrance Sunday and we think of all those, both military and civilian, who have shown great bravery and resilience in time of war.

Resilience is a theme which runs throughout the Bible. Many of the psalms were written in situations of distress and perplexity, with cries such as “Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord.” In the face of great difficulty, the psalmists still held on to God.

Jesus, himself, faced mounting opposition throughout his ministry, from the occasion right at the outset when he was hounded out of the synagogue in Nazareth, through to his arrest and crucifixion in Jerusalem. And yet he kept going in faithful obedience to his Father’s will.

Resilience is also a theme that has been emerging as I have studying Paul’s life in preparation for leading a pilgrimage to Greece “in the footsteps of St. Paul” (more details of this trip next month). Within days of setting foot in Macedonia, Paul and Silas were set upon by a mob, arrested, flogged and thrown into prison. They faced wrath of the mob again in Thessalonica and Berea and Paul had to flee for his life to Athens.

So what is the key to resilience? An answer to this question may be found in both the action and advice of Paul that we see throughout his ministry. In his earliest surviving letter, he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” (1 Thess 5:16-17) This wasn’t just theory. Paul and Silas had done just this after being thrown into prison in Philippi, only a few weeks before writing this letter.

Then in his last surviving letter, Paul wrote in a similar vein, this time to the Christians in Philippi. Again, he drew on his experience because at the time he was in prison, but he was still able to write, “Rejoice in the Lord always...Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Phil 4:4,6-7)

It would seem that thanksgiving and prayer kept Paul going. There would have been many days when he did not have much to give thanks about, and yet he still maintained a steady focus on that which was positive, disregarding the rest. He could do this because in prayer he was aware of the abiding presence of God, upholding him in all circumstances.

For ourselves, how about keeping a thanksgiving journal in which we write down just one thing a day for which we can give thanks. Through this may we grow into a deeper awareness of the peace and presence of God, giving us the resilience we need as he guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2017

**Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week
at 9.00 am and on Fridays in the Cranmer Room at 9.00 am**

- 1 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 4 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 5 All Saints' Day: 4th Sunday before Advent: Trinity 21 (BCP)**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am All Together Worship
 3-4.00 pm Junior Choir (Church Centre)
 6.30 pm Evensong
- 6 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 7 2.15 pm Magazine Committee meeting (The Vicarage)
 8.00 pm Fabric Committee (Church Centre)
- 8 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
 8.00 pm Readers and Revs (The Vicarage)
- Magazine material for the December edition by today, please, to the
Church Office, st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 11 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 12 The Third Sunday before Advent (Trinity 22 BCP): Remembrance Sunday**
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Remembrance Sunday Service
 10.50 am Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial
- 13 12-2.00 pm Soup Lunch (Speaker: Andrew Hill, retired Mounted Policeman)
 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 14 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 15 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00 pm Shoreham Deanery Synod with the Ven Julie Conalty (Centre Centre)
- 16 8.00 pm Introduction to Contemplative Prayer (The Vicarage)
- 18 5-8.00 pm Games Night (Church Centre)
- 19 The Second Sunday before Advent (Trinity 23 BCP)**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (Speaker Kristin Stevenson, The Bible Society)
 10.00 am Morning Worship (Speaker Kristin Stevenson, The Bible Society)

- 3.00 pm** **Messy Church (Church Centre)**
6.30 pm **Evensong**
- 20 7.45 pm Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)
22 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
 7.45 pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
25 10-12 noon **Christmas Market (Church Centre)**
- 26 Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King (Trinity 25 BCP)**
 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
 10.00 am **Holy Communion**
- 27 7.45 pm Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)
 8.00 pm Church Fair meeting ('Burway', Sevenoaks Road)
28 8.00 pm Homegroup
29 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
 7.45 pm Finance and Standing Committee (Church Centre)



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

- 15th October Jack **Dolan**
15th October Lucy **Dolan**

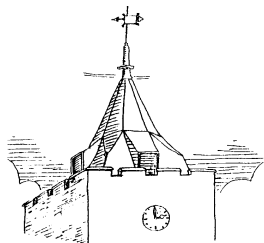
WEDDING (Our Congratulations)

- 14th October David **Dunne** and Verity-Rose **Lincoln**

FUNERALS (Our Sympathy)

- 13th August Kenneth **Last** (aged 88)
14th September Jeffrey **Higgins** (aged 71)

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



HARVEST. Thank you to all those who gave to the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal. Thank you, too, for your harvest gifts which were taken to the Loaves and Fishes food bank in Sevenoaks.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday 4th November

A reminder that the last Churchyard Working party of the year will take place on Saturday, 4th November between 9.00-11.30 am. Any support will be most welcome.

KEEPING COMPANY WITH GOD

An Introduction to Contemplative Prayer

The last session will be held at The Vicarage from 8 - 9.15 pm on Thursday 16th November.

SOUP LUNCH - Monday 13th November. Please remember to sign the list at the back of church for the next soup lunch when our coffee-time guest will be Andrew Hill who will speak on the theme of "Life in the Mounted Police".
12 noon – 2.00pm in the Church Centre. £5.00.

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET - This will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday, 25th November from 10-12 noon.

Stalls will include: gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; cakes; bulbs (the growing kind!); Christmas sweets and chocolates; herb and spice craft and a super raffle.

There will be a huge snowglobe and a Lucky Dip for the children and Santa Claus has again promised to send a deputy. Coffee, tea and soft drinks, together with Christmas biscuits, Stollen and mince pies, will be on sale for you to enjoy while you chat with friends. I am very grateful for all the offers of help so far received. What is urgently needed now are items with which to stock the stalls. All contributions will be most gratefully received and may be left at the Church Office, at any church service, at 'Burway', Sevenoaks Road or at 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks. **With any queries or offers of help, please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.**

We require, please:

Gifts - new or unused, for adults and children

Christmas gift wrapping - paper, ribbon, tags, gift bags and boxes

Christmas decorations - table, tree, hanging and novelty

Candles - decorated or plain

Cakes - please see Susan Reid (523234) or Hilary Fothergill (524120) who will be delighted to receive your offerings

Christmas Sweets and Chocolates - bought or home-made

Herb and spice craft - spices, e.g. cloves, star anise, dried oranges and apples, etc. These will be made into decorations, so we need them as soon as possible, please.

Most of all, we want you to come and enjoy a happy time with family and friends, joining together in support of our church work.

Sylvia Grafton

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This popular service will be held at 4.00 pm on Sunday, 3rd December. Bring your friends, too!

CANDLELIT ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday, 3rd December at 6.30 pm. You are warmly invited to this special service to mark the beginning of Advent. 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.

TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE

This will be held on Friday, 15th 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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Church Choir will present our annual Christmas Concert in church on Sunday, 10th December **at 7.00 pm (note new time)**. There will be a mixture of carols old and new, from England and many other countries, and plenty of carols for you to join in. Refreshments, in the form of wine or fruit juice and mince pies, will be available as always, and our entry price remains at £5 (children free). Come and get into the Christmas mood with us!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE DATES. Do make sure you have these dates and times in your diaries!

3rd Dec. Christingle, 4.00 pm

Candlelit Advent Carol Service
6.30 pm

17th Dec. YPF Christmas presentation and Sunday Club Nativity play
10.00 am

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight, 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve: Crib Service, 4.00 pm

Midnight Communion 11.30 pm
with carols from 11.10 pm

Christmas Day: Holy Communion, 9.00 am
Christmas All Together
Worship 10.30 am

RE-ORDERING AND REDECORATION

In the summer the Chancellor of the Diocese granted us a Faculty to allow the reordering and redecoration to proceed.

At its meeting on 18th October the PCC considered the revised costings of the scheme supplied by Bakers of Danbury (who also did the work on the Tower) and the funding which has been given, pledged or allocated. The PCC also took into account the recent Quinquennial Inspection and an update on our parish finances. The good news is that we are now in a position to go ahead with the re-ordering and redecoration and the PCC gave its clear support for the Vicar and Churchwardens to sign the necessary contracts.

We are planning for the work to start at the beginning of January and to be completed by mid-April. We are immensely grateful for everyone's contribution which has allowed us to reach this point, 16 years after the re-ordering was first mentioned in a PCC parish plan.

In the December magazine we will publish arrangements for church services while the work is being carried out.



IN MEMORIAM



Eddie Taylor, 1929 - 2017

Eddie was born in Bermondsey on 18th July 1929, the fourth child in a family of ten. His father was working as a docker at the time, and later established a family-run green-grocery business in Bermondsey.

Eddie went to Southwark Park Road School. He was only 10 when the Second World War broke out, and Eddie was evacuated with his younger brother and sister to Aberystwyth in Wales.

For his National Service, Eddie served with the Royal Signals regiment in Singapore from 1947-1949. Sadly, during this time, his hearing was damaged (during rifle practice), and he had to live with increasingly profound deafness for the rest of his life.

On his return to England, Eddie initially helped with his parents' green-grocery business. He also did some hard graft in the docks for a spell. However, being entrepreneurial in spirit, he started to buy and sell motor cars and from this he established a successful business ultimately based in Eltham, the Goldmark Carriage Company, trading with all of the major vehicle franchises at that time.

Eddie met his wife, Doreen, in 1959 through a blind date which had been set up by one of his friends. They went to a dance together, and their relationship blossomed from that point onwards. They got married in March 1961 in Lewisham. Soon they were blessed with a son, Mark, who was born in November 1961.

At first the family lived in Lee High Road, and then they moved to Glenfarg Road in Catford to be close to Eddie's parents. This was the hub of

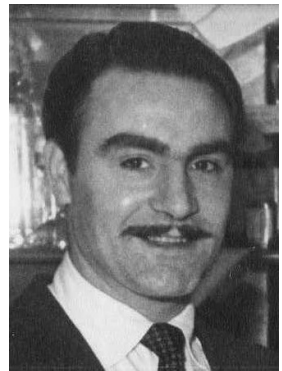
the Taylor family for many years, with regular gatherings of all of the family members and many fond and happy memories. From here they moved to Bromley Common in 1982 where they lived for 20 years, before finally coming to Otford in 2002. After endless property viewings, Eddie and Doreen decided to move Stradbroke in Shoreham Road having fallen in love with Otford after a meal at the Horns Public House.

Latterly Eddie gave up his car dealership and eased himself into landscape gardening, developing an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and foliage that was second only to his knowledge of cars. Eddie also developed a penchant for writing poetry and shared his witty odes in letters to his brothers and sisters.

Eddie loved to talk over old times, from his exploits in the army, friendships made in the docks, wheeling and dealing in the motor trade, to family holidays in Austria and in Jersey as a man about town, and of course numerous tales involving his dear brothers and sisters.

Eddie was always a gentleman, kind and considerate and, despite some grumpiness occasionally thrown into the mix, he was respected by

everyone for this. Eddie's main focus was very much his family that he loved dearly, and he will be remembered fondly as a loving son, brother, husband and father.



MISSION MATTERS ...



Sevenoaks Counselling

a professional service offered by Christians to the whole community

St Bartholomew's Church is one of several local churches supporting the work of Sevenoaks Counselling. The following is taken from the Service website and the Autumn newsletter, to give you an insight into their work and recent news.

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

We 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 and also recently ran a workshop on 'peaceful parenting'. Please see the website for forthcoming courses.

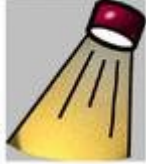
New computers and office furniture have recently been purchased with the assistance of a grant negotiated through a local County Councillor.

Julie Smith (head of Counselling) put on record her thanks to all churches and individual donors who make the work of Sevenoaks Counselling possible, to Sevenoaks Town Council and SDC for their grants and particularly to Christ Church URC for allowing the use of their premises rent free.

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

November: Walking in the light

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



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. The suggested activities aid conversation about the benefits of different light sources and encourage everyone to shine like stars in the world!

That's brilliant! On a dark November evening, read the story on page 14 together, using torches and a candle, as indicated. Encourage everyone to join in with the words in **bold** type!

Afterwards, chat about the story:

Which is your favourite part of this story?

I wonder what made people frown?

I wonder why Jesus is called the Light of the World?

How do you think we can shine like stars in the world?

DeLIGHTful art works! Have a messy time together painting a parrot with rainbow wings!

Draw a pear shape on a large piece of paper for the body, with a beak to the side and an eye as if the bird is looking sideways. Add a branch

below with perching feet. Paint the body red and the beak and feet yellow and leave to dry. Paint colourful tail feathers.

On an old plate, spread red, yellow, green and blue paint in stripes. Press the right hand into the paint. Turn the parrot upside down and print a wing on the left side. Now press the left hand into the paint and print a wing on the right side! Paint the branch brown and add a black dot for the eye.

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 says, "I'll show you where to walk!" (x3) (walk with

torches)

And it keeps me safe and sound.

Invite your friends or family to a 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!



Adult and child relay race/walk: Use a torch as a baton to hand on!

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.

Ideas for food

Cut up fruit and vegetables that are all different colours and let everyone make a rainbow on their plates.

Decorate muffin halves with smiling faces (cucumber slices for eyes and mouths cut from cheese) or decorate fairy cakes.

Make traffic light jellies with red, orange and green jelly.

Ice rectangular biscuits and decorate with red, orange and green smarties.

Make 'smiles' from small marshmallows (for teeth) wedged between slices of red apple (for lips)!

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?' asks Teddy. '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 seem to shine like a light. 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

IN CONVERSATION WITH SUSAN REID

Member of St Bartholomew's Church for over 47 years

Well known for her friendly, efficient and reassuring presence in the Church Office, Susan has been an active member of St Bart's ever since she and her husband David moved to Otford in 1970.



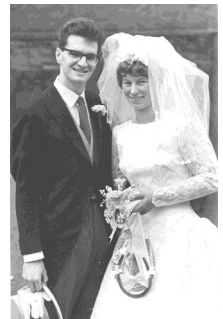
Susan was born in Nottingham soon after the end of the Second World War and, as an only child, had

a rather lonely childhood. Both her parents went out to work and she was looked after by her grandmother in whose presence she said she, 'didn't dare put a foot wrong'. She remembers being told to sit at the dining room table where she would draw or play the card game Patience to pass the time. In those days children had very few toys and were expected to show absolute respect for the adults! Fortunately Susan had two cousins who lived nearby and she recalls having fun with them in the garden and also playing with whips and tops on the pavement.

Aged four Susan was sent to a private school where she stayed until she was 15 – the age at which her mother decided she should take a year's course in shorthand and typing at a College of Further Education in Nottingham. Susan had no say in the matter; her early wish to train as a nursery nurse was quickly quashed by her mother who believed that typing and shorthand were skills which would set her up for life.

After college Susan joined the Civil Service, attending night school to increase her proficiency in typing and shorthand by taking her RSA exams. At 19 she became the Director's Secretary at the then Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Nottingham. Having initially travelled to work on a bicycle, Susan now bought a Vespa scooter – a far speedier form of transport! It was also at this time that Susan featured in the Civil Service magazine, 'Red Tape', for having been runner up in a competition to find the 'Secretary of the Year' in the East Midlands region. She told me that her mother was particularly proud to see her daughter's abilities recognised so publically.

Susan met David at a dance at Nottingham University where he was a student studying Maths and Economics. They became engaged in 1965 and were married in St Nicholas Church, Nottingham in August 1967. Sadly, Susan's mother died the following February. In 1969, after David had completed his PhD, the young couple set sail across the Atlantic on the newly built QE2 to Baltimore where David had a post at the Johns Hopkins University as a Visiting Professor in Economics. Meanwhile Susan worked as the Director's Secretary in the Comptroller's Office - in those days, having an English secretary was regarded as quite a status symbol! In 1970, before sailing home, the Reids bought a tent and enjoyed travelling across the USA for six weeks. That same tent is still occasionally used by the Southgate family!



Back in England, Susan and David chose to move to Otford so that David could commute to his job at the LSE (and later at the Bank of England). They have lived in three different houses in Otford; the first was in Willow Park which, in 1970, was full of young families making it a highly sociable place to be. Furthermore Susan and David were rapidly drawn into the life of the Church by Mrs Bunch, the then Vicar's wife. Indeed within the year, Susan had become a member of the Women's Fellowship, the PCC and the Church Choir (in which she has sung for 47 years). The Reid's first son, Andrew, was born in 1971 and Robert followed in 1974. Once the boys were at Otford Primary School, Susan became a school secretary at Dunton Green Primary School.

Encouraged by Revd. David Towne, in 1988 Susan became one of the earliest Pastoral Assistants in the Diocese (along with Angela Bratby). Later, when Revd. Pat Hopkins created the Parish Office, Susan was asked by Pat to work there, job-sharing with Clive Southgate, and has been employed in the office ever since. She considers this job to be a great privilege as it not only allows her to use her secretarial skills but also her pastoral ones too. Outside office hours Susan has been a bellringer since 2000, has served on the Fair Committee for over forty years, has done many turns on the PCC

(including as Secretary for eight years), and has served on Deanery Synod, the Mission Committee and the Fellowship Committee. For several years she participated in the annual Friends of Kent Churches bike ride and helped with the Sheringham Beach Mission (with Anne Fleetwood). Susan also helps with the local Lunch Club and with transporting the weekly groceries to the Food Bank in Sevenoaks.

In her free time Susan loves to see her family, including her seven young grandchildren. She was a founder member of the Chantry Choir (now Cantate) and has sung with the Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir for 40 years. She enjoys listening to Choral Evensong on Radio 3, reading murder mysteries, baking cakes for Church events, walking, gardening, and, not least, going on holiday especially to France and Italy. In August this year Susan and David celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family members in Tuscany.

Brought up in a Methodist Church family, churchgoing and music have always been hugely important to Susan. She said, 'My faith means a lot to me. I love the Psalms, which give me strength and guidance each day, and singing, especially choral services, has been the mainstay of my life, along with my family.'

Christeen Malan



ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

THAT'S BRILLIANT!

Read this family story at the table by torchlight after dark! You will also need a big candle and matches.

Long, long ago, before the world was made, there was no light – just darkness. Let's switch off our torches and see what that was like . . . Oh dear! Very gloomy! So God gave a beaming smile (*shine torches on own smiles*) and said, "Let there be light!" (*Switch on room lights*) And there was! "That's brilliant!" said God. (*Hand to ear*)

All: That's brilliant!

God's eyes twinkled as he made the sky. "Let there be suns and moons and stars!" he said. And there were! "That's brilliant!" said God . . .

All: That's brilliant!

Then God made fish to sparkle in the sea and birds to flash bright feathers. He made worms that glowed and cats that blinked bright green eyes. Everything was shiny and new and reflected God's light. "That's brilliant!" said God . . .

All: That's brilliant!

BUT there was *nobody* to share it with. "Let there be people with bright friendly smiles just like mine!" said God. (*All smile at each other!*) And there were! Everywhere, people smiled God's smile!

"That's brilliant!" said God . . .

All: That's brilliant!

(*Sadly*) But then things started to go wrong. People forgot to look up at God's smile and what do you think they did instead? They

started to *frown*. (*All frown at each other!*) "Oh no, that's *gloomy!*" said God . . .

All: That's gloomy!

"Never mind! If people won't look *up* at me, I'll send my smile *down!* My own son Baby Jesus will be born into the world wearing my kindly smile. He will be the Light of the World!"

So Jesus was born . . . (*Light the big candle*) and the people who walked in darkness saw his great light! It was bright and strong! Even dark storm clouds blew away, and out came the sun! That's brilliant! . . .

All: That's brilliant!

Everywhere Jesus went, people began to smile. "Look how many shiny fish Jesus helped us to catch!" said the delighted fishermen! "That's brilliant!" . . .

All: That's brilliant!

"I was blind but Jesus helped me see again!" said a man called Bartimaeus. "That's brilliant!" . . .

All: That's brilliant!

Everywhere Jesus went, his smile reminded people to be friendly and kind. (*Slowly*) And when he died on the Cross, his light did NOT go out, it just kept shining. Let's turn the lights off again and see! Look! (*Point to candle*) The darkness cannot put out his light!

Jesus wants us to shine like stars in the world. We can do that by reflecting God's friendly smile. Can *you* do that? . . . Wow! That's absolutely brilliant!

Vicki Howie

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

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



Sevenoaks District Council launches our new Housing Strategy, which was approved by the Council in July, on 3rd November. The strategy is called 'Wellbeing Starts at Home' as we believe that if our

home suits our needs then our wellbeing will flourish.

Our housing survey identified a number of housing problems across the District which our strategy seeks to resolve. Issues highlighted by residents include: affordability – particularly for first time buyers and families; energy and fuel poverty - a growing older population living in large, cold, poorly maintained homes; overcrowding and homelessness.

We clearly need more affordable housing, particularly around Sevenoaks Town to meet our social and economic needs; we also need more intermediate housing (e.g. shared ownership, rent to buy and starter homes); more suitable accommodation for older people so that they can right-size, and more affordable market options such as micro homes (very small so they are cheaper).

We recognise that a District running from Swanley to south of Edenbridge is very diverse and needs different housing solutions in different places to meet the varied needs of residents. The Council itself is considering building affordable homes to complement the work of our Housing Associations.

We will continue to be proactive in preventing homelessness – upskilling our HERO (Housing, Energy, Retraining Options) advice officers into Super-HEROs with more health training so they

can better understand the links between debt and mental ill-health and know where to signpost people. We will continue to support other advice services such as the CAB.

We will also only work with pet-friendly housing providers as we don't believe anyone should have to choose between the streets or unsuitable housing because they don't want to be separated from their pet. For people fleeing domestic abuse we have a fostering arrangement with a local animal shelter while the people are living in the refuge – so they don't have to choose between their pets or a life free from abuse.

We are committed to protecting our greenbelt meaning our non-greenbelt land is going to have to work harder. Densities will have to increase; where appropriate we need to make more use of airspace development (housing above shops, car parks, stations etc.) and better use of previously developed land within the greenbelt.

The District has been building homes but unfortunately they have been large, executive homes that do not meet our local needs. Our housing survey should give us the evidence to push back at developers and ask them to build more one and two-bedroom flats – with appropriate design. We want to ensure that all future flat developments have lifts so older people can move in and people can stay put while they age if they want to.

We have a simple housing vision at Sevenoaks District Council: *'To enable a good supply of quality housing that meets the needs of residents of the District, that is located in safe and sustainable communities to support the economy, health and wellbeing of all.'*

With best wishes, Michelle Lowe

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ORDAINED WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Vicar writes:

In November 1992 the Church of England took the momentous decision to ordain women into the priesthood. I remember the occasion well. I was in the third year of my ordination training in Cambridge, and up to that point women who were studying alongside me were only allowed to become deaconesses after their training. The outcome of the vote would have a huge impact upon their future ministry.

It was an event which sparked huge national interest. The BBC was there at Church House, Westminster, covering the debate. This was the culmination of twenty years of discussion (the C of E is not renowned for its speedy approach to such issues). The debate lasted for five hours, with a tight structure of one speech for followed by one speech against. Finally the time for the vote came. There was a period of silent prayer before the casting of votes. Due to the fact that it was an issue of great substance, a two-thirds majority was needed in each house - Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Interestingly, it was the House of Laity where the vote was the closest: 169 for and 82 against, meaning that just two votes the other

way would have brought the whole process to a halt.

There was great rejoicing amongst my friends at the positive outcome. So it was that in 1994, the same year that I was ordained as a priest, the first women were ordained into the Church of England's priesthood.

The Church of England ministry division has recently released some statistics about women in ministry. Currently, of 19,550 clergy in the Church of England, more than a quarter, 5,690, are women. Of the 7,790 stipendiary clergy, 2,160 are women. What is more encouraging is that of 544 future clergy beginning training this autumn, 274 are women i.e. women make up just over half the total, and this is an increase of 19% compared to last year.

On another encouraging note, the number of people entering training to become priests in the Church of England is at the highest level for a decade. At the same time, the number of younger ordinands, in the under 32 age group, rose by nearly two fifths, and now accounts for 28% of the total.



MEET THE VEN. JULIE CONALTY, OUR NEW ARCHDEACON

Julie first experienced a call to ordained ministry in her teens through her home church which had an active youth ministry. She went on to study for a degree in Biblical Studies at Sheffield University. However, at that point the Anglican Church was not ordaining women, so the question was “What to do next?” Julie worked with the homeless in Oxford for a year and then she began a career in the Probation Service.

Eventually, Julie trained for ordination with the South East Institute of Theological Education and was ordained deacon in 1999 and priest in 2000. Her training parish was in Southwark Diocese. Julie was initially self-supporting, while continuing her secular work - by then she was in a management role in the London Probation Area.

Subsequently, Julie worked for the Youth Justice Board before becoming National Manager of a resettlement project for those coming out of prison. Julie then worked as a Service Manager for local authority. During this

time Julie founded a consultancy partnership linking different parts of the youth justice system and developing a software programme to facilitate this.

Somewhere amidst all of this, Julie found time to study for an MA in Applied Theology. In 2010 Julie gave up her “day job” and transferred to full time stipendiary ministry. She took up a post in a newly formed united benefice in south east London.

Julie came to Rochester Diocese in 2012 when she was appointed as Vicar of Christ Church, Erith. Whilst serving in this role, Julie was also invited to become the Bishop’s Advisor for the Ministry of Ordained Women. Furthermore, she served as the Area Dean of Erith and she was elected as a Diocesan representative to the General Synod of the Church of England.

We now welcome her as our new Archdeacon, following the retirement of the Ven Clive Mansell, and we wish her God’s blessing and joy in her new ministry.



OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING WI

The speaker at our November meeting has had to cancel, so we are having a Quiz Evening instead. Time to test the little

grey cells!

We meet on Thursday the 9th of November at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall and visitors are very welcome to join us. If more information is needed please contact 01959 524831.



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

The Quiz and Fun Night is a social evening with a 'warm-up' quiz to break the ice, followed by a table

quiz with prizes for the winners. Maximum team size is 6 people. The evening starts at **7.30pm** in the OVMH. Please contact the secretary Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for details.



OTFORD AND DISTRICT

HISTORICAL SOCIETY Our next meeting is on 22nd November when Fred Lemont will talk about *Cadbury, Fry and*

Rowntree – The chocolate Quakers.

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



The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

NOVEMBER PUZZLE

St Andrew (Feast Day 30th November)

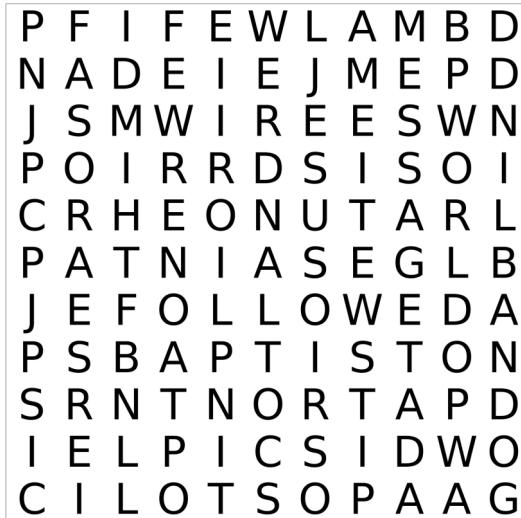
St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend, and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of

their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?'

The reply of Jesus was the most straightforward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. So they did, and the results of their response were life-changing. For Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus, and soon the little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



Andrew
Patron
Saint
Scotland
Fife
First
Disciple

John
Baptist
Lamb
God
followed
Jesus
Come

See
Peter
Apostolic
Band
Message
world

MOIST AND SPICY GINGERBREAD (MAKES TWO LOAVES)

Ingredients:

200g butter
100g soft dark brown sugar
150ml golden syrup
150ml treacle
1 tablespoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon mixed spice
300g plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
2 eggs (beaten)
150ml buttermilk

Method:

Turn the oven to 160°C (fan 150°C)
Grease and line two loaf tins
Gently melt the butter, sugar, syrup and treacle in a pan then stir in the ginger and spices
In a large mixing bowl, sift together the flour and soda then beat in the eggs and the buttermilk until smooth
Gradually beat the melted ingredients into the flour mixture
Pour the mixture, which will be very runny, into the prepared tins
Place the tins on the lowest shelf of the oven and bake for about 40 minutes until firm to the touch and a skewer comes out clean.
Remove the loaves from their tins after ten minutes and allow to cool completely before storing in an airtight tin (delicious to eat warm too!)



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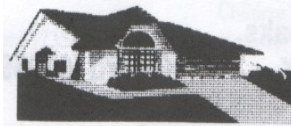
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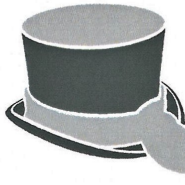
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HONORARY MINISTER:	Chris Reed 01959 523439
CHURCHWARDENS:	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Russell Edwards 07933 352044
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:	Kevin Grafton 01732 452117
SACRISTAN:	Tony Grogan 01959 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Margaret Lidbetter
Hon Treasurer: Janet Hunt 01959 523820
Freewill Offering Sec: Mervyn Harris 01959 522813
Hon. Sec: Joan Beacom 01959 524304

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 01959 523820

MAGAZINE

Editorial team: 01959 523185
Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,
Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam
Advertisements: Deborah Vigis 01959 523331
st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117
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 01959 522813

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

Infants (3-7s)
Juniors (8-11s)
Seniors (12-14)
For all groups contact Donna Worssam 01959 523185

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Contact: Dawn Hallam 01959 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Links:
Andrew Hill 01732 469538

BELLRINGERS

The Tower Captain: Bobbie Fairclough 01959 522696
Secretary: Janet Whitehead 01959 524088
Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Margaret Lidbetter* and Russell Edwards, Samantha Barnett, Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane,, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes*, Janet Hunt, Mike Jones, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Mags Southgate, Mark Tierney,

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