

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

February	8.00am	10.00am	6.30pm
7th February Sunday next before Lent	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	Evensong
10th February ASH WEDNESDAY		Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes	United service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes (8.00 pm)
14th February Lent 1	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-
21st February Lent 2	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evensong
28th February Lent 3	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-

SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14)

Crèche: 0-2 years 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 in Church for All Together Worship. Crèche is available every Sunday.

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

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Magazine No. 02 Volume 86

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

How shall we live in order to be happy? This is a question which has been asked since time immemorial. The season of Lent invites us to ask this question afresh for ourselves. Our "Faith in the Family" article for this month (pp 10 & 11), touches on this topic, as does our "Ancient Wisdom - Modern Lives" article (p. 15).

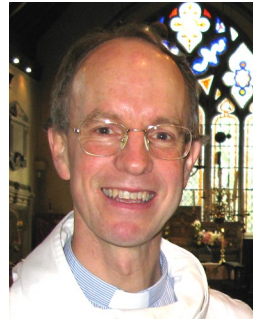
I've recently been think about this theme from the perspective of "Stuffocation" - a concept developed by the writer James Wallman.

So what is stuffocation? In short, it is the experience of suffocating from too much stuff. Does this sound familiar? We live in a society that is driven by commercialism and materialism. We find ourselves caught up in this and stuff just accumulates.

I think of when I went to live in Sri Lanka for two years - all I took was a rucksack and a suitcase. I then went to Hong Kong and I needed half a shipping crate to bring my stuff back after three years there. During my theological training at Cambridge Donna and I moved out of college in our last year and we needed a van to shift our stuff. When we moved to Pratts Bottom for my curacy we needed a small removals lorry. Four years later, when we moved to Hartley, we needed a large removals lorry. When we came to Otford we needed two removals lorries!

A couple of years ago I had to clear my uncle's house, and I'm currently helping an aunt downsize as she moves into a care home - both of these experiences have reinforced the awareness of just how much stuff we can accumulate over the years.

As an illustration of stuffocation, James Wallman gives the example of opening your wardrobe and finding it full of stuff to wear and yet there is nothing you actually want to put on.



Advertising promotes the message that the path to happiness can be found in having more stuff. And yet, paradoxically, in some ways an overabundance of possessions can make us feel less joyful and more depressed.

The advice of James Wallman is to focus more on the experiences of each day and our interaction with others and to savour each present moment.

There is a well-established tradition in Christianity, as the season of Lent shows, of encouraging simpler living. Jesus' time in the wilderness shows how he lived his life to the beat of a different drum. In various ways he taught and demonstrated a different set of values. This can be summed up in his advice not to worry about what we will eat or drink or wear, but instead to seek first the Kingdom of God. This sounds like a good antidote to stuffocation.

Perhaps the 40 days of Lent, with the image of Jesus in the desert in mind, will encourage us in the task of some decluttering. In the process we might even find a source of greater happiness!

I wish you a refreshing Lent.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*



DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2016

**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 | 7.45 pm | Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue) |
| 2 | 8.00 pm | Homegroup (Park Farm House) |
| 3 | 9.30 am | 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall) |
| | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards |
| | 8.00 pm | Readers' and Revs' group (17 Leonard Avenue) |

7 The Sunday next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All Together Worship and the baptism of Eleanor Bragg

6.30 pm Evensong

- | | | |
|---|---------|--|
| 8 | 7.45 pm | Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue) |
| 9 | 2.15 pm | Magazine Editorial Team (The Vicarage) |

10 Ash Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) with the imposition of ashes

8.00 pm United Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes (St. Bartholomew's)

Magazine material for the March edition by today, please, to the

Church Office, st.bartholomews@otford.net

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 11 | 3.30 pm | Ecumenical Committee (Vicarage) |
| 13 | 10.00 am | Wedding Preparation morning (Church Centre) |
| | 6.00 pm | EPIC (Church Centre) |

14 The First Sunday in Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion (with announcement of Pass It On appeal result)

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 15 | 7.45 pm | Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue) |
| 16 | 8.00 pm | Lent course (Church Centre) |
| 17 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards |
| | 8.00 pm | Reordering Finance and Communication Group (The Vicarage) |

21 The Second Sunday in Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evensong

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|----|---------|---|
| 22 | 7.45 pm | Focus (17 Leonard Avenue) |
| | 8.00 pm | St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee (5 Colets Orchard) |

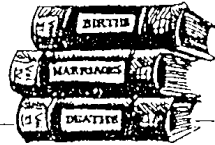
23	8.00 pm	Lent Course (Church Centre)
24	9.30 am	'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
	10.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	2.30 pm	United Fellowship meeting at Otford Methodist Church Hall
	8.00 pm	Parochial Church Council (Church Centre)

28 The Third Sunday in Lent

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am	Holy Communion



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

17th January Benjamin Robin **Taylor**

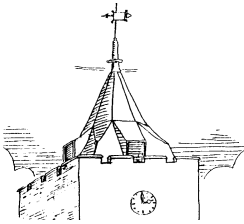
FUNERALS (Our Sympathy)

8th December Lawrence (Laurie) **Young** (aged 87)
9th December David William Caddick (aged 69)
19th December Herbert Thomas "Bert" **Ransom** (aged 92)



*"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly
any chocolate on"*

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP NOTES

Subscriptions for Study Notes covering the period May 2016-April 2017 are due this month and the

cost is £13.05 for three issues. If you wish to join this scheme, please let Margaret Lidbetter have a cheque, made payable to 'Bible Reading Fellowship' as soon as possible. If you have any queries about the scheme, please contact Margaret on 01959 524831.

YOU ARE INVITED - Members of St. Bartholomew's Church are invited to join our friends at Otford Methodist Church on **Wednesday, 24th February at 2.30 pm.** After a brief look at the music for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service, to be held on Friday, 4th March (see below), Revd. John Ritson, Minister of Otford Methodist Church will speak about his work as a Chaplain. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This service, prepared by Women of Cuba, will be held on **Friday, 4th March at 2.00 pm** at Otford Methodist Church Hall. The theme will be 'Receive children, Receive me'. The service will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome to this ecumenical event.

THE RUNTINGS' RINGING ROUNDUP

We wonder how those New Year's resolutions to eat well and keep fit are going? Why not try our bell ringing to work off those Christmas calories? It's a fun, sporty pastime to help keep fit and restore good posture. Anyone can join in and take part with our welcoming band.

We have had a successful and busy Christmas schedule, ringing for the Christingle, Otford Primary School carol service, Nine Lessons and Carols and twice on Christmas morning. We also rang in the New Year which was thoroughly enjoyed by our band. It is a great honour to ring for the festive season.

Our Otford band is affiliated to the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (kcacr.org.uk). Meetings are held every 3 months to discuss business matters, enjoy a delicious tea and join with other ringers to practise our skills. Last month we were at Chevening and were pleased that one of our new ringers was welcomed into the Association.

Alexander and Stephanie Runting (bell ringers)

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES VALUATION DAY WITH CATHERINE SOUTHON

Do you have any treasures tucked away at home or in your loft? Now you can find out with our Antiques and Collectibles Valuation Day on **Saturday 12th March from 10am to 2.30 pm** in the Church Hall.

Our valuer is Catherine Southon. She has worked in the world of antiques for over 19 years. Catherine began at Sotherby's in Bond Street, and in the past ten years she has become a well-known expert and presented on a number of BBC antiques programmes including Bargain Hunt, Flog it!, Antiques Road Trip, Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, and Trade Secrets.

For a donation of £5 for the first item and £2.50 each for up to two subsequent items you can find out the true value of some of your treasures! This event is in support of the St. Bart's re-ordering and redecoration scheme.

EASTER FLOWERS GIFT DAY ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

The Church looks at its best at Easter when it is decorated with beautiful flowers. We invite village residents and visitors alike to come and enjoy the flowers on **Bank Holiday Monday, 28th March, from midday onwards**, and to take part in a Gift Day to raise funds for the re-ordering and redecoration project. For the day we are also planning to have a display of Easter gardens made by young people and flower arrangements contributed by a variety of village organisations.

KEEPING COMPANY WITH GOD: PRAYER AND PRESENCE THE 2016 LENT COURSE

Prayer is all about keeping company with God. This year's Lent Course is an invitation to grow deeper in our relationship with God. We will be using a framework prepared by Susanne Carlsson and the Rochester Diocesan Spirituality Network. Susanne writes, "Prayer is being present to 'Presence'. If we persist in prayer, this sense of God's presence in the whole of our life will grow. We can then begin to live and indeed celebrate, 'Your kingdom ...here on earth as in heaven.'"

Every person has his or her unique way of praying; there are no rights or wrongs. But to those who are still searching for a (new) way that suits them, or in those moments when inspiration has run dry and God's voice and presence seem to have faded, the sessions in our Lent Course will hopefully offer some guidance; a gentle nudge in the right direction."

Each evening we will look at two different ways of praying, so ten in all during the season of Lent. These various approaches are drawn from the rich traditions of the church stretching back over the centuries.

The evening sessions will be structured with an introduction to the particular way of praying, a time to practice it, and then the opportunity to share some of our thoughts arising from the experience in small groups.

The topics are as follows:

Tuesday 16th February

- * Bringing your concerns into prayer
- * "God in my day" - reviewing each day

Tuesday 23rd February

- * Centering prayer
- * Listening to God in silence and stillness

Tuesday 1st March

- * Praying with the Bible - lectio divina
- * Praying with the Bible - using imagination

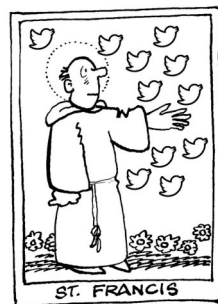
Tuesday 8th March

- * Multi-sensory - using images & symbols
- * Multi-sensory - using your own creativity

Tuesday 15th March

- * Praying with the five senses
- * Praying with music

Each session is from 8 - 9.30 pm in the Church Centre.



*He's been updated. He's now the
patron saint of tweeting!*



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

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

In December your District Council members met to brainstorm our new housing strategy, and although still in the very early stages, we now have our direction of travel. We hope to launch our new interim housing strategy at our Spring Housing Forum in April.

As you know the District is 93% Greenbelt, 60% Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (which has the same planning protection as national parks) and much of the rest is designated conservation area, or special scientific interest or heritage sites.

In Otford we are lucky to have all these designations somewhere in the parish – but it does cause problems trying to house people in housing appropriate to their needs. Our new housing strategy seeks to continue to protect our designated areas while providing the housing that local people need where they need it.

One of the issues we tackled was *Best Use of Existing Housing Stock*. It was clear from this workshop that members want to better match household need with housing type (families in family-sized accommodation; older people in suitable accommodation etc.) while influencing supported access to the private sector. The Council is clear that we want our housing associations to move away from life time term tenancies to fixed term tenancies – to enable greater movement of people within our social housing sector (16% of all housing stock within the district). If a tenant no longer needs social housing they can be encouraged to buy their own home. We also want to ensure that homes are not left empty for long. We want to lobby the government to keep local connections for

all affordable housing in the district.

We examined *Managing Housing Needs*. Members want to support aspirational people, who wish to be good home owners or tenants, to have the opportunity to own or rent a home. We will achieve this through tenant accreditation schemes such as *Flying Start* and by providing advice and support through our award winning HERO scheme.

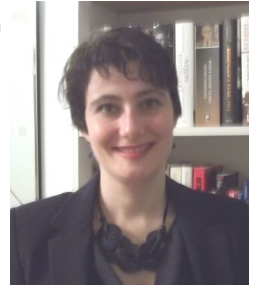
We looked at *Tying in Housing, Health and Leisure* aiming to minimise health inequalities by promoting suitable homes with easy access to local amenities. Finally, we also looked at how to maximise our output of affordable homes.

We have much work ahead, including more research to find out what housing needs exist and where they are concentrated, so that we can use our planning policies to help as many local people as possible to live in suitable homes.

As soon as our new Housing Policy is available I will let you know. It is very exciting as a councillor to really try to come to grips with one of the most important issues that affects our district.

With best wishes,

Michelle



LYRICS AND LIVES: HYMN WRITERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES

The Navy Hymn: Eternal Father strong to save

Storm Frank has been taking his turn along with his siblings in the game of Battering Britain. So it seems fitting to consider the Navy hymn "For those in peril on the sea". As is often the case, it is the only one by its author, William Whiting, we use today.

William was born in about 1825. We know little of his childhood, the earliest record being in the 1841 census when, aged 15, he was living in Winchester, his home for the rest of his life. He was in The Training School for the Quiristers of Winchester College, with seven other boys and David Waugh in charge.

For many decades the Quiristers had a difficult time as discipline was lax and education poor and the boys were just as likely to be found throwing stones at houses as going about their duties or singing well. However, reforms were put in place and in 1844 William, aged 19 and a very good musician, became their school master. By 1851, the sixteen Quiristers, aged 8-14 years, living in College Street were well cared for by William and his wife Fanny.

In 1860 one of his pupils was about to set sail for the US. The pupil confided his fear of the impending voyage to William. Not long before this, William had experienced the mind numbing terror of turbulent, violent seas himself and had felt his life had been spared by God when the ship he was in nearly sank. This instilled in him a belief in God's command over the many moods of the ocean.

It is hard to be at sea and not feel the need to pray at some point and William wrote the hymn to anchor his pupil's faith. The Navy

hymn is a prayer and was set to music in 1861 by the Rev J.B. Dykes to his tune Melita (Malta where St Paul was shipwrecked), a fitting vehicle for the words of Whiting. By coincidence the same year the pioneering FitzRoy and Beaufort published the first weather forecast in The Times, a guiding aid to sailors hoping to travel safely.

William's own experiences and Psalm 107 provided inspiration for the words. Originally of four verses for Father, Son, Holy Spirit and the Trinity, the hymn has been added to over the years. New verses now cover the dangers experienced by Navy Seals, Coast Guards and even Astronauts. It has been adopted by the navy of both GB and the USA and sung on many public occasions.

When William died in 1878 he was still teaching at the College but had been in poor health for some while. His widow died a few months later and was survived by their three children.

Gillian Shilling



William Whiting

FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

February:

Letting God into our lives at Lent

Pause for thought: Read the Bible story on page 15. It tells us that after Jesus had been baptized, the Spirit led him into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. Jesus was aged about 30, and was about to begin his ministry. Throughout this time he often went off to a quiet place to talk to God his Father. If you have a daily quiet time to pray and to be with God, think about the different ways in which this refreshes you and how you might explain the value of this time to the children in your life. Let them catch you spending time with God: 'Its OK, you can come in! I'm just having my early morning quiet time with God. I've got such a busy day ahead and so I'm asking him to make me a sort of pathway through it all. He never lets me down!'

Our young people often pray 'corporately' at school or Sunday Clubs. How can we give them the time and space at home to develop their own personal relationship with God?

The Chatterbox

Jesus is tempted in the desert

Fill your special story box or tin with some stones, some toy bricks or stacking objects and a map or small globe.

Tell the story of the three temptations, using the objects above as props. Look up in a Bible what Jesus replied to each one.

Wondering: What else do we need in life to keep going apart from food? (Answers might

include knowing we are loved, encouragement, guidance, etc.)

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Have fun making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, which this year falls on 9th

February. There are lots of recipes on the internet, but you will need 4oz plain flour,

2 eggs, 4 tbsp melted butter and ½ pint milk and water mixed together for 12 pancakes. Try spreading them with jam and folding into squares, spreading with syrup and folding into triangles or sprinkle with lemon juice and roll up.



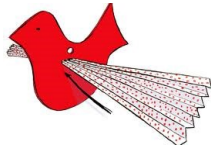
Table talk: You could explain that Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent, a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) when Christians have traditionally tried to follow the example of Jesus in the desert by giving up luxury items and practicing self-discipline. (The pancakes were made to use up the excess of fatty ingredients.) It is also an opportunity to allow God into our lives more fully. Chat about the things that everyone might give up in order to spend more time with God. For example, 'Instead of playing computer games, I'm going to follow "LoveLifeLiveLent".' (Adults and kids booklets are available from @CHPublishing.) 'Well, I'm going to give up TV on a Tuesday evening and go to the Lent Series in the Church Centre.' 'Maybe I could read one story a night in my Children's Bible until Easter.'

Early birds or night owls?

Everyone decides whether they are more alert first thing in the morning or last thing at night and makes the appropriate craft bird!

The **early birds** will need: a piece of white card cut into a bird shape, two pieces of white A5 paper for the wings and tail, felt-tipped pens, ribbon, scissors and sticky tape.

Cut a slit for the wings and the tail. Fold each piece of paper backwards and forwards lengthways as if making a fan. Thread each through a slit. Fold upwards and secure with the tape. Draw eyes and stick on ribbon for hanging.



The **night owls** will need small and large paper plates, wiggly eyes, yellow paper for beak and feet, brown paint, sticky tape, glue.

Paint the small (head) and large (body) plates and tape one to the other. Glue on the eyes.

Cut a triangle for the beak and feet shapes and glue in place. (for ideas see <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/paper-plate-owl>)



Sharing: Chat about the quiet times you have with God including when you make time for these and sharing the benefits you feel. Hang the birds up, perhaps in bedrooms, to remind everyone to make time to be with God, perhaps when they wake up or before they go to sleep.

Encouraging personal prayer

Give everyone a notebook that has alternate lined and blank pages, if possible. Everyone heads seven double-page spreads with the days of the week and a topic for prayer and draws an accompanying picture.

For example, **Monday: My family, Tuesday: Friends, Wednesday: Teachers, Thursday: Doctors and Nurses, etc**

These could be used as daily prayer prompts during each of the four weeks of Lent. Everyone could add to each category as they progress through the weeks. For example, they could add in the names of extended family, a new friend or one from the past, people in different professions, etc.

Bedtime story: Teddy spring cleans

You could tell this story at bath time! Teddy is doing some spring cleaning in the house. He dusts here, he brushes there, he throws the rubbish out from his cupboards and makes everything as good as new! But now *he* is so dusty that he has to jump in the bath. He washes between his toes, and behind his ears, etc until he is sparkling clean! Link this with the idea of spring cleaning our lives during Lent in readiness for Easter. Lets get rid of all the rubbishy things and make ourselves ready for Easter!

Vicki Howie



IN CONVERSATION WITH...PHYLLIS PUTT

Turning eighty-eight later this year, Phyllis is justifiably proud of her age. Few people born in 1928 can claim to be as active as she is; she sings in two choirs (the Darent Valley Choir and Polychor), is a longstanding member of the Sevenoaks Camera Club, belongs to the Twinning Group (whilst learning French in support of this interest) and attends a keep fit class run by a sprightly eighty year old woman. She also loves keeping up with her many friends in the village and with her large family.

Phyllis was born in Ipswich where her father ran a village store on the outskirts of the town. The family, which included Phyllis' only sibling Diana, lived there until Phyllis was five when her father's work took them to London where they lodged with her maternal grandmother. Phyllis distinctly remembers the contrast between 'the nice private school' she had attended in Ipswich and the 'really rough' school she joined in Battersea. From Battersea the family moved to Finchley before buying a house in Golders Green. There Phyllis attended a French convent school where the Jewish children had Old Testament religious education, the Roman

Catholic children were instructed in the New Testament, and the Church of England pupils could choose between the two.

In 1939 war broke out; Phyllis does not remember being afraid although she said there were some 'nasty bangs' and some bombs that 'came too close for comfort'. In fact, in September 1940, a bomb landed on the coal store in the family garden causing the back wall of their home to crack and bulge. Phyllis recalls the water from the tanks in the roof pouring down the stairs. With the house unstable, Phyllis, Diana and their mother moved to Cambridge to stay with an aunt while her father continued to work in London. It took a couple of years before the house could be repaired and the family could move back in together.

In accordance with her father's wishes but against her own, Phyllis had to leave school at sixteen after obtaining her School Certificate. She found employment in a wartime day nursery where she initially earned just under a pound a week (with a free midday meal)! When war work for women ended, the government closed the nursery and Phyllis became a dental



receptionist in Golders Green. Around this time, she met her future husband Peter – ‘a penniless law student’ who was doing his articles whilst studying for qualifications. After marrying, the young couple rented a ‘miniscule’ flat in Buckingham Gate opposite the Army and Navy store. Phyllis was now working for Grindlay’s Bank to help them meet their bills.

Further moves ensued; firstly back to Golders Green then to St Albans where the Putts bought their first home. By now Peter had qualified and, since the idea of travelling appealed to them both, he accepted a post with the Army Legal Service (ALS). However before embarking on life overseas, three children were born to them – twin boys in 1958 (Nigel and Christopher) and a further son (Jeremy) in 1960. In 1961 the family were posted to Hong Kong where they were to spend three years. Although ‘a good experience’, Phyllis found that the heat and humidity, as well as the distance from home, took a bit of getting used to.

After Hong Kong the family enjoyed a three year posting to Germany, then went to Cyprus (where, on a church outing, Phyllis shook hands with Archbishop Makarios), then back to Germany until 1977 when, with Peter now a colonel, the family returned to England. Phyllis

loved the time spent abroad and has especially fond memories of curry lunches with the children in the Officers’ Mess, wine tastings, and swimming in the sea on Boxing Day in Cyprus. It was ‘a very sociable life’.

The Putts bought a home in Shenfield but sadly Peter’s health gradually declined as a result of malignant melanoma. After his death Phyllis decided to move to Otford where she began a new life – initially making friends on the platform at Otford Station whilst commuting to London to work for General Accident. She retired in 1990 and has been fully occupied with her various activities ever since – including looking after her lovely Samoyed dog, Sasha, who lived for fourteen years. The twenty eight years to date that Phyllis has spent in Otford represent the longest period she has lived anywhere. It has given her time to establish many good friendships and, more recently, to enjoy being part of the congregation of St Bart’s. I asked Phyllis if there had been any particular highlights in her life and she replied, ‘It’s been a good life all the way through’.

Thank you Phyllis – it was a pleasure talking to you.

Christeen Malan





IN MEMORIAM



Laurie Young, 1928-2015

Laurie was born in 1928 at Reddish, a suburb of Stockport in Cheshire. His father was a warehouseman, and his mother was a cotton weaver. Sadly, his father died when Laurie was just 8, and his mother had to take up employment as a cleaner.

Laurie left school at 14 to become an apprentice in the building trade with a local property repairer. He then worked with larger firm in Manchester. During this period he attended evening classes at Stockport and Manchester Technical Colleges, passing several City and Guilds examinations.

Laurie met his wife, Brenda, through a mutual friend in 1952, and they got married at Didsbury Parish Church in 1954 and lived at Maghull, a village just north of Liverpool. In the same year, Laurie started working in the drawing office of the Ministry of Works in Liverpool. In 1960, Laurie was transferred on promotion to the Manchester office, and he and Brenda moved to Poynton, Cheshire.

In 1963, Laurie and Brenda started a family with the birth of Martin. In December of that year, Laurie was transferred to the London office, and so the family came down south, living for six years at Great Bookham in Surrey. During this time Laurie continued his studies, and in 1964 he was successful in attaining membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers and he qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer. In 1965 Helen was born and their family was complete.

In 1970 Laurie got a job as an Associate Partner with a firm of consulting engineers based in Bromley, and so the family moved to Tudor Crescent in Otford.

From early days the family was actively involved in the life of St. Bart's. Laurie became a sidesman, and went on to serve as a Churchwarden from 1986 to 1991 and later as Treasurer for the Freewill Offering Fund and then six years as Church Treasurer. During the period 1986 to 2003 he was responsible for the upgrading and resurfacing of the car park, construction of the temporary nave platform, provision of lighting along the path, upgrading of the interior lighting, and he acted as project manager for the structural strengthening of the tower prior to the installation of four new bells.

In 1974, Laurie started work as a Senior Civil Engineer within the Water Division of the Department of the Environment, based in London. In 1981 he gained promotion as a Principal Civil Engineer, and in 1986 he became the Director of Public Health Engineering. His work took him as far afield as Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

Laurie and Brenda took great delight in their two grandsons. They moved to Wrotham in 2004, but returned to Otford in 2011. Sadly, Brenda died in the same year. Laurie continued his involvement with St. Bart's and we give thanks for his contribution to the life of our church and the village.



ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

The temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4: 1-11)

Jesus, having been baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, is then led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he fasts for 40 days and nights. The devil then appears to him and tempts him three times. First, he tempts the very hungry Jesus to turn stones into bread. Secondly, he tempts Jesus to throw himself off the roof of the Temple in Jerusalem, saying that God will send angels to save him in front of the crowds. Lastly, he shows Jesus the lands spread out below a high mountain, telling him they can be his if he will only bow down to worship him. Jesus' firm response to each temptation is to quote the Jewish scriptures. Eventually, realising he will get nowhere with these temptations, the devil leaves him alone.

We are not told clearly why Jesus went into the desert, but time out for fasting and meditation were not uncommon in first century Palestine. The baptism marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and maybe Jesus needed time to think and be with the Father in preparation. Whatever we might think of this spiritual experience Jesus, as a human being, might have been struggling with the enormity of what lay ahead, especially the culmination of the ministry: his death and resurrection. So what about the temptations themselves? Yes, Jesus was hungry, but he knew he would be able to get some food soon enough and he also knew that we are 'fed' in life by much more than just food. Our spiritual needs are fed by time with God. Did Jesus want to make a spectacular show of himself in the middle of

Jerusalem? No, that was not the sort of Messiah (whatever the expectations of some Jews at the time) Jesus had come to be: "I have not come to be served but to serve and to give my life for many". The lands did not belong to the devil, so he was actually offering something that was not his to give.

So what can we learn from this story? We need times of reflection in our lives in order to remain focussed on what is important. We need spiritual feeding, time with God, reading the Bible to ensure we know we are on the right path and to strengthen ourselves for when difficulties and temptations come. These times will also enable us to see through temptations, when they do come, because they are not always as tempting as they might at first seem.

Mags Southgate, Reader



MISSION MATTERS...FEBA

Speaking out against Ebola

Radio has been a powerful weapon in the fight against stigma and infection...

During the Ebola epidemic, Feba responded, working alongside Tearfund's partners on the ground to provide over 1,000 wind-up and solar-powered radios to some of the most vulnerable households in Sierra Leone. These radios helped families access crucial information on the prevention and treatment of the virus. As the epidemic has begun to wane and thoughts have turned to helping communities to recover, Feba is exploring how we can source high-quality, Christian-based material for local radio stations, on topics as diverse as the stigma around Ebola survivors, and the availability of health services.

The role played by radio has been critical in informing people about the virus: how it is caught and how it spreads. Broadcasts in local languages from community radio stations have been extremely useful in sharing accurate information and countering the stigma associated with Ebola.

Fatmata is an Ebola survivor, a widow and a mother of three children. Two of Fatmata's children contracted Ebola, and she was accused of bringing the virus to her village. Her solar-powered radio is making a huge difference to her, bringing vital information and raising her hopes for the restoration of her community.

Fatmata's story is far from unique. All too many people affected by Ebola have been

stigmatised and rejected by their communities. There is widespread belief that Ebola is caused by witchcraft. Alongside this problem, Sierra Leone's already extremely limited health systems have been left in further disarray. Health services are mistrusted and the understanding of the virus is very limited in some communities. For these reasons, it is very difficult for individuals and communities to recover from Ebola, and to prevent a recurrence of the virus. Feba hopes to be a part of the long-term solution to these issues.

The Hands on Health project will enable local communities to be active in eradicating Ebola and meeting challenges related to it. The project will use radio broadcasts to raise awareness of Ebola, address stigma and help communities rediscover a sense of resilience. Feba are planning to work with an established radio station as part of a pilot. There is some way to go before Hands on Health will be ready to broadcast, but it has real potential to make a lasting positive impact on a country just beginning the process of recovery.



THE NIGHT SKY IN OTFORD - FEBRUARY 2016

Last month I mentioned the Pole Star, Polaris, and the fact that because the Earth's north pole points almost exactly towards it, the entire night sky appears to revolve around it. This has not always been the case because the Earth's axis is not fixed but is describing a huge circle in space. It has been likened to a spinning top that is running down, and although this analogy is reasonably good, we need to remember that the south pole is replicating what the north is doing albeit in the opposite direction. It takes around 26,000 years to complete one circuit and return to its starting point.

No more than a cursory glance is needed for it to be obvious that the sky, and everything in it, moves from east to west with one revolution taking approximately 24 hours. This is an illusion because what is actually happening is that the Earth is rotating from west to east giving the impression of the sky moving in the opposite direction. It's easy to see why, up until the 16th century, the Earth was considered to be of special significance and at the centre of the entire universe. This was known as the Geocentric system which was proposed by Claudius Ptolemy around 150 AD. It was only when Nicolaus Copernicus published his life's work in 1543 that we began to realise how unimportant the Earth was. It was he who moved the Sun to the centre of the Solar System (the Heliocentric System) although he still thought the Sun was at the hub of the universe. Today, of course, we understand better the scale of the universe and how tiny and insignificant the Solar System is let alone our own Earth. But is there anything unique about our planet? Let us consider that there are in the order of 200 billion galaxies in the part of the universe we can see, and that each galaxy has billions of stars in it. Our own galaxy, the Milky

Way, has around 300 billion stars, and the Andromeda spiral galaxy (M31) has an estimated one trillion stars. Is it therefore conceivable that none of these stars have planets around them with life on and that the Earth is the only inhabited planet anywhere in the universe? The answer, quite simply, is no it is not.

From the beginning of February, if you look low down in the east after 9pm, you should be able to see the planet Jupiter. It should be easy to spot, in the constellation of Leo, as there is nothing of comparable brightness anywhere nearby. It will become more easily visible as the month progresses and will be at its closest to Earth, and therefore its brightest, at the beginning of March. The Moon is close to Jupiter on the night of February 24th. If you're up early, Venus is still brilliant in the morning skies, though low down in the south east, rising 1½ hours ahead of the Sun.

Brian Mills FRAS

Brian has been interested in astronomy since the age of 11. He has an observatory in Hildenborough where he carries out a particular kind of observation that requires timing the disappearance of stars behind the Moon.



Brian is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He lectures regularly to a variety of groups on Astronomy and writes for local Parish magazines and the British Astronomical Association's bi-monthly Journal.

OUT AND ABOUT...



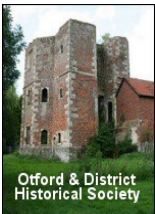
GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST BOX



Thank you to all who supported the 2015 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This again was a success and raised in total £417-88p which has been sent to the girls' chosen charities – Ellenor children's Hospice and Sevenoaks Counselling Service. A big thank you to Angela in the Library and Sue in the Parish

Office for helping us, also to Gerry Froggatt and Craig who continue every year to print the stamps and posters for us.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Our next meeting will be on 17th February at 8pm in Otford Memorial Hall. John Sheheard will be giving a talk on 'The London Temple of Mithras—or there and back again'.



OTFORD QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 19th March 2016,
19:00

Hospices of Hope Tearooms,
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£12.00 per person to include a light supper.

For tickets please contact

amy@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110



OTFORD EVENING WI Our next meeting is on February 11th @ 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall.

This month's speaker is Chris Stewart and his subject is Workaid - a charity that helps to train deprived people in Africa to earn a living to support their families.

Our President can be contacted on 01959 524831 for more information.

TONY'S TRAVELS

Congratulations to Tony Grogan on completing the Cambodia Trek Challenge for MacMillan Cancer Support. This involved trekking in hot sun along dirt roads through small villages, and across dazzling green rice-paddies; balancing on tiny wooden bridges over flowing streams; camping beside Pagodas and being woken early in the morning by the chanting of Buddhist monks; climbing a sacred mountain; enduring torrential downpours and wading through ankle-deep water; visiting the ancient temple of Angkor Wat; and viewing beautiful waterfalls.

In addition to these memorable experiences, the trek also had its low points; one participant broke a leg, and another had to be taken to hospital by air ambulance, and died the following day.

Tony raised over £5100, and the whole group raised over £120,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Tony has prepared a PowerPoint presentation and a DVD of the trek if you want to find out more.

PUZZLE PAGE

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through his death for us on the cross, and his resurrection, his love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

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Serves: 6

Makes 12 x 20cm crêpes

Oven: 200c / Gas 6

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50g / 2 oz Butter

110g / 4oz Plain Flour

1 large Egg

1 large Egg Yolk

12 fl oz Milk

1 tbsp Caster Sugar

1or 2 tbsp Cointreau or Grand Marnier

Zest of one Orange

Salt

325g Jar of Luxury Lemon Curd

200ml Crème Fraîche

Zest of one Unwaxed Lemon

8 tbsp Orange or Lemon Marmalade

Juice and Zest of one Orange / Lemon

2 level tbsp Caster Sugar

2 tbsp Cointreau

2 tbsp Grand Marnier

Melt most of the butter and leave to cool slightly. Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl with a good pinch of salt. Make a well in the centre of the flour then drop in the egg and egg yolk. Pour in the milk, butter, sugar, Cointreau and blend gently to a smooth batter. Stir in the orange zest and set aside for 30 mins.

Heat a small amount of butter and brush over to cover the surface of a 20cm (8”) crêpe pan. Stir the batter (it should be the thickness of double cream) and pour 2 ½ fl oz (approx) into the pan. Working quickly, tilt the pan so that the batter runs all over the surface making a neat round crêpe. The base should be covered in batter but not quite thin enough to see through. Let the crêpe cook for a minute or so until the underside is golden in patches and comes easily away from the pan. Tip it carefully onto a plate and cover with baking parchment. Brush the pan with a little more melted butter and continue until all the batter has been used.

Make the filling by stirring the lemon curd, crème fraîche and lemon zest together then cover with cling film and chill until required.

For the sauce, melt the marmalade in a small pan over a moderate heat. Stir in the orange juice, zest, caster sugar, Cointreau and Grand Marnier. Bring the mixture to the boil then turn down the heat and simmer gently for about 5 minutes.

Spread the crêpes with the filling, fold them into quarters and lay in an ovenproof dish. Cook for 15 minutes. Serve two crêpes per person with the hot sauce poured over.

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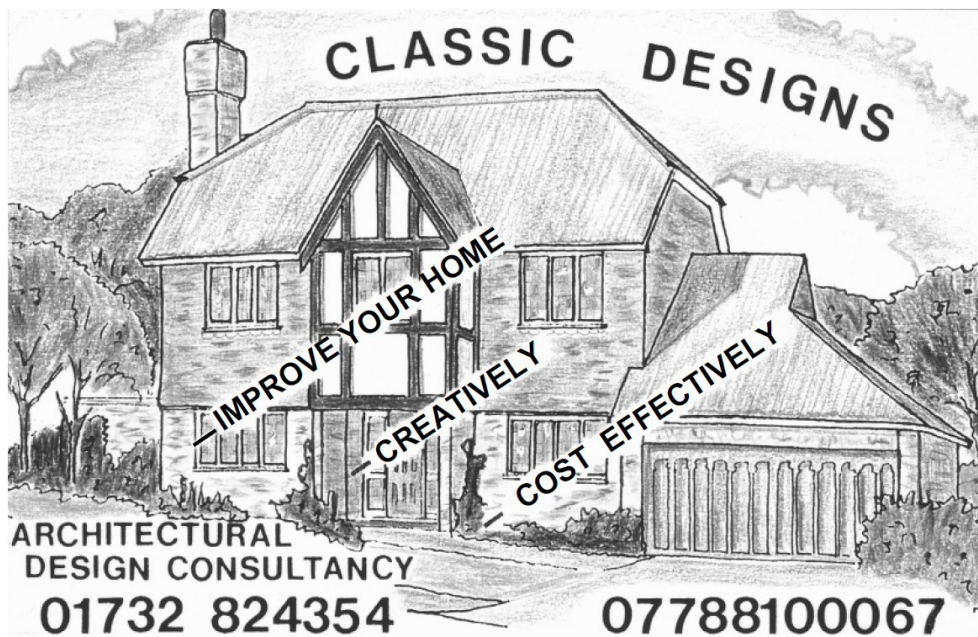


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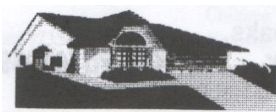
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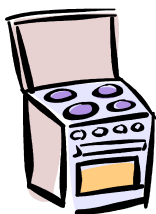
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Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

VICAR:	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
READERS:	Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Mags Southgate 01959 524720
READER EMERITUS:	Peter Downing 01959 522327
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
HONORARY MINISTER:	Chris Reed 01959 523439
CHURCHWARDENS	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Nick Page 01959 928071

Organist and Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117

Sacristan: Tony Grogan 01959 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Derek Shilling 01959 522059
Hon Treasurer: Janet Hunt 01959 523820
Freewill Offering Sec: Mervyn Harris 01959 522813
Hon Secretary: Sam Barnett

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 and pre-schoolchildren)
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 Nick Page, Samantha Barnett, Jo Chandler, Jason Gunn, Dawn Hallam*, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes, Vicki Howie, Janet Hunt*, Mike Jones, Bill Lattimer, Derek Shilling#, Sue Stephenson, Anne Stevens, Mark Tierney, Steve Vigis, James Wall.

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