

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

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

### 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

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### CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117

Practice night: Friday 8.00-9.30pm

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CHURCH COUNCIL The Vicar and the Churchwardens Margaret Lidbetter\* and Russell Edwards, Samantha Barnett, Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Dawn Hallam\*, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes, Vicki Howie, Janet Hunt\*, Mike Jones, Bill Lattimer, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Mags Southgate, Anne Stevens, Mark Tierney

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

## St Bartholomew's Church, Otford Parish News



May 2017 [www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)

60p

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

May	8.00am	10.00am	3.00pm	6.30pm
7th May 4th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones	Evensong
14th May 5th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
21st May 6th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	Civic Service	-	Evensong
25th May Ascension Day	-	-	-	Deanery Holy Communion (19.30)
28th May 7th Sunday of Easter	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

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## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Should we live for our résumé or our eulogy? This is an intriguing question posed by the writer David Brooks which caught my attention recently.

Let me unpack this a little more. Our résumé virtues are about accomplishment and success. They are largely task-oriented and are underpinned by ambition and striving. They lead to a list of achievements and a set of goals.

On the other hand, our eulogy virtues are about who we are in our inner character and the depth of relationships that we develop. They are about internal values, asking why we're here rather than how things work. They are underpinned by seeking connection and community.

David Brooks frames them in these terms because our résumé virtues are more about our skills and competencies, whereas what we primarily remember about others at the end of their lives (when such skills may have declined over the years) is the quality of our relationship with them.

On reflection we can see that résumé and eulogy virtues are based on quite different dynamics. Résumé virtues are at home in the context of economics: input leads to output, risk leads to reward. However, eulogy virtues have a different basis: giving is better than receiving; happiness is more likely to be found in detachment rather than acquisition; we find a strength within ourselves by acknowledging a love beyond ourselves. Résumé virtues are developed by building on our strengths; eulogy virtues are often developed by acknowledging and accepting our weaknesses and failings.

There is some truth in the observation that résumé virtues feature more prominently

in the first half of life, whereas eulogy virtues come more to the fore in the second half of life. Carl Jung once famously observed, "One cannot live the afternoon of life according to the programme of life's morning; for what was great in the morning will be of little importance in the evening, and what in the morning was true will at evening have become a lie."

I find myself dwelling on this theme this month because on the 7th May we are holding our annual Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones service. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the enduring legacy that our loved ones have left us. As we remember them, it is worth asking the question, "What do we want our life to stand for?" and then to spend a little bit of time each day working towards that vision. This is all the more important given the fact we live in a society which largely focuses on résumé virtues and gives much less attention to eulogy virtues.

St. Paul who, by worldly standards, had a very impressive résumé, came to regard his credentials as of little worth, and instead commended to his friends the enduring qualities of faith, hope and love. As we see these virtues in our loved ones, may that be an inspiration for ourselves.

Your friend and Vicar, Richard





## DIARY FOR MAY 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 | 7.45 pm  | Bank Holiday: Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue)     |
| 3 | 9.30 am  | 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West) |
|   | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP)                                  |
|   | 8.00 pm  | PCC meeting (Church Centre)                           |
| 4 | 7.30 pm  | Confirmation Group (The Vicarage)                     |
| 6 | 9.00 am  | Churchyard Working Party                              |

### 7 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
|    | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                         |
|    | 10.00 am | All Together Worship                   |
|    | 3.00 pm  | Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones   |
|    | 6.30 pm  | Evensong                               |
| 8  | 7.45 pm  | Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)          |
| 9  | 8.00 pm  | Fabric Committee                       |
| 10 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards |
|    | 2.15 pm  | Magazine Editorial Team (The Vicarage) |
| 11 | 7.30 pm  | Confirmation Group (The Vicarage)      |
| 13 | 6.00 pm  | EPIC (Church Centre)                   |

### 14 The Fifth Sunday of Easter: Christian Aid Week

- |    |            |   |
|----|------------|---|
|    | 8.00 am    | Holy Communion  |
|    | 10.00 am   | Holy Communion  |
|    | 3-4.00 pm  | Otford Junior Choir (Church Centre)                   |
| 15 | 12-2.00 pm | Lunch (Church Centre)                                 |
|    | 7.45 pm    | Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)                        |
| 17 | 9.30 am    | 'First Steps' (Otford Free Church, Pilgrims Way West) |
|    | 10.00 am   | Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)                |

### 21 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
|    | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                               |
|    | 10.00 am | Civic Service                                |
|    | 6.30 pm  | Evensong                                     |
| 22 | 7.45 pm  | Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)                |
| 24 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards       |
|    | 7.45 pm  | Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre) |

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## 25 Ascension Day

7.30 pm Deanery Holy Communion followed by Deanery Synod

## 28 The 7th Sunday of Easter: Sunday after Ascension

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)

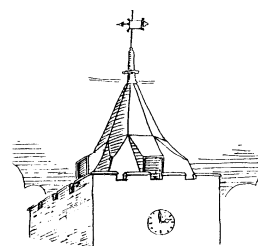
10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev. Chris Reed)

## 29 Bank Holiday: Village Fete

7.45 pm Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue)

31 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed)

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### CIVIC SERVICE

The annual Civic Service is on Sunday, 21st May, 10.00 am at St. Bartholomew's Church. We warmly invite you to join us at this service.

### ASCENSION DAY (25th May)

On Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, we think of the completion of Jesus' ministry on earth and his return to our heavenly Father. It is, in effect, the other side of the coin from Christmas. At his Ascension, Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, which we focus on at Pentecost (Sunday 4th June). You are warmly invited to join us for these two important Christian festivals.

### OTFORD JUNIOR CHOIR

A new group of young people was formed last autumn, aged 9 or over, to enjoy some fun learning to sing. It doesn't matter if you can already sing, or not - just come along! The next two dates are **Sunday, 14th May and Sunday 4th June, 3-4.00 pm in the Church Centre.**

### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on **Saturday, 6th May at 9.00 am.** We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools too!

### COMMEMORATION OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES

The annual service to commemorate departed loved ones will take place in church on Sunday, 7th May at 3.00 pm

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTION****14th-20th May**

We hope you will be kind and generous to those who give up their time to deliver and then collect envelopes on behalf of Christian Aid, which gives us all an opportunity to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. We are grateful to our magazine distributors for undertaking this task. Please leave the filled envelopes in the Parish Church office.

**PLEASE NOTE: MEMBERS OF OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH WILL BE COLLECTING IN THE FOLLOWING ROADS THIS YEAR:**

Bubblestone Road, The Butts, Evelyn Road, Flowerfield, Hopfield Close, Knighton Road, Sidney Gardens, Shoreham Road (north), The Old Walk, Tudor Crescent, Tudor Drive, Warham Road, Well Road and Willow Park. (Magazine distributors do not need to take envelopes to deliver in these roads. Thank you.)

**BIG CHURCH DAY OUT**

**Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May at Wiston House near Worthing.**

An outdoor Christian music festival for all ages with lots of activities and all styles of music. Join us for just one or both days. Website: [www.bigchurchdayout.com](http://www.bigchurchdayout.com) and speak to Mags Southgate (524720) about tickets.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR****Saturday 17th June from 2pm**

The Church Fair will be held this year on The Green and the surrounding areas from 2.00 pm. There will be the usual array of stalls and attractions. Proceeds will go to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's so please book the date in your diary and come and support the church. If you can help in any way, please contact Andrew Hill (01732 469538),

Margie Torry (524463) or the Parish Church Office (523185). Further details of the Fair will follow in next month's magazine.

**YOUTH WEEKEND AT KENCH HILL: 7th-9th July.**

This year's youth weekend will take place from 7th—9th July at Kench Hill near Tenterden. The cost of the weekend will be £40 per child for the whole weekend. If you can only come for the day speak to Mags Southgate, 01959 524720 about day rates. Leaflets about the weekend are available in the Church Centre.

**MID MAY SOUP LUNCH** Thank you to those who supported the mid Lent soup lunch. £150 was raised towards the work and mission of St. Bartholomew's. The next lunch is planned for **Monday, 15th May, 12-2 pm** in the Church Centre. Join us if you can.



*Mid Lent soup lunch*

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As you know, due to our financial self-sufficiency plans, Sevenoaks District Council is one of the first councils in the country to be completely self-sufficient of central government funding – which is good news because from this financial year we will not be receiving any more money from central government.

The council has recently invested in 96 High Street, Sevenoaks and 26/28 Pembroke Road to add to our property portfolio that we use to subsidise our services, such as our much valued weekly rubbish collection.

Due to our self-sufficiency agenda and our vision of making sure that all our functions (planning, housing, licensing, environmental health, economic development, leisure, direct services – rubbish collection, street cleaning etc.) work together in harmony to promote the wellbeing of our residents – we became the first district council ever to win the Local Government Chronicle's (LGC) Council of the Year Award. This prestigious award comes on top of winning the Municipal Journal's (MJ) award for Innovation in Finance and Commercialism in the Property Estate, and on top of being the overall winner of the Guardian's Public Service Awards 2016.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), have shortlisted the council as finalists in their very first Public Finance Innovation Awards for our investment strategy as the Public Finance Innovator of the Year. We will hear the results later this month.

It is great to win so many national awards against so much tough competition that

includes much larger county councils, London boroughs and large unitary city authorities. What is good for us is that we are receiving excellent feedback from our peers that we are doing the

right thing with your money and your public services. We are determined not to sit on our laurels but to continue to innovate and do even more with less – ensuring that you receive the services you deserve. Our MP, the Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon, summed this all up very nicely when he referred to it as 'excellence on a shoestring!'

You may have seen images of me running around Knole Park in a red track suit. It's our first ever running event in support of dementia. It takes place on Sunday 14th May at Knole Park and we are encouraging people to take part in one of three runs: 3km, 5km and 10km. Check out the SDC website or the latest 'In Shape' if you would like to join my family, my dog Bourbon and me in one of the runs!

As a final reminder there are Kent County Council elections on 4th May. Polling stations are open from 7am until 10pm. If you need a postal vote you have until Tuesday 18th April at 5pm to apply for one. Don't forget if you have a postal vote you can drop it into a polling station on polling day itself. If you have any questions please contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000 or email: [elreg@Sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:elreg@Sevenoaks.gov.uk)

With best wishes, Michelle Lowe







## IN MEMORIAM



### ROY CHANDLER, 1931 - 2017



Roy was born in 1931 in Rotherfield in East Sussex at his grandmother's house. Together with his younger sister, Pauline, he grew up in Mayfield. He attended the village school, and for his secondary schooling he went to Tunbridge Wells.

At the age of 14, Roy left school to work in a garage in Mayfield as an apprentice mechanic. He maintained a love of cars throughout his life. For his National Service, Roy served with the RAF from 1949-1951. He was based in Norfolk and, using his knowledge of engines and car mechanics, he had responsibility for the tanker lorries. After his National Service, Roy returned to the garage in Mayfield where he worked until he got married in 1958.

Roy met his wife, Margaret, through village circles, both being in the church and in the youth group. Margaret was five years younger than Roy, and they started courting when Margaret was 16. She then went to Cambridge as a student, and it was in her second year, when she was just 19, that they got engaged. They got married in June 1958 in Mayfield Church.

Roy and Margaret's first home was in a flat near Victoria. Margaret had a job with the Patent Office in London, and Roy got a job at a garage near Lord's – this suited him well because it meant he could watch the cricket in the evening after a day's work.

From London Roy and Margaret moved to Chislehurst. Here their daughter, Sue, was born in 1967. The following year, in 1968, the young

family moved to Otford, to Willow Park. In 1969, their son Steven was born. Both Sue and Steven attended the local village school. In 1976 the family moved across the village to Evelyn Road, where Roy and Margaret have stayed ever since.

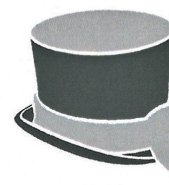
Roy worked as an insurance assessor. His job was to assess the extent of damage to vehicles involved in accidents.

Roy retired in 1998 at the age of 67. In retirement, he and Margaret enjoyed travelling, going on cruises, and visiting countries as far afield as Australia and Canada. Roy and Margaret found companionship through the Sevenoaks Friendship Society, going on outings, walks and holidays with them.

In earlier years Roy was an accomplished sportsman, especially cricket. He and Margaret also enjoyed playing golf and outdoor and indoor bowls.

This love of sport was passed on to their children, and Roy would spend a lot of time driving his daughter, Sue, to hockey matches as she progressed up to international level, and accompanying his son, Steven, to cricket matches.

Roy was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1993 at the age of 62. This was effectively treated and Roy was able to continue in work for a further five years. However, cancer returned as lymphoma in 2005 and Roy bravely lived with this for his remaining years in an uncomplaining fashion. He was one who had a positive outlook on life, one for whom the glass was half-full rather than half-empty. He had a kind temperament, and was both caring and good humoured.



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## IN MEMORIAM



### ANN WILTCHER, 1933 - 2017

Ann was born in 1933 in Hextable. She was only six when the Second World War broke out. Her father worked as a booking clerk on the railways and in the war he was involved in the transport of troops. In connection with this, the family was relocated to Glasgow. They returned to Hextable in 1944 when Ann was 11, and she started attending Dartford Girls Grammar School. Upon leaving school, Ann worked for ICI in their London headquarters.

Ann commuted to London on the train, and it was on one such journey that she met her husband, Bernard. He was returning home to Hextable on leave from the Royal Navy and he had a migraine attack as the train approached Swanley station, making it hard for him to see. Ann came to his rescue and helped him on to the bus and then home. By way of return, as a gesture of thankfulness, Bernard took Ann to the cinema, to see "Snows of Kilimanjaro", starring Gregory Peck. From this point on Ann and Bernard's relationship blossomed, and after courting for three years they got married on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1957 at St. Paul's Church, Swanley Village. This year would have been their diamond wedding anniversary.

For their first home, Ann and Bernard lived in Hextable, buying the house that Bernard's mother had rented prior to her move to St. Mary's Cray.

Family life developed with the birth of Helen in 1959 and then Ross in 1961. In 1962 the young family moved to Otford, to Evelyn Road, where Ann and Bernard have lived ever since. In 1964 Frances was born and the family was complete. There was an historic family connection with Otford since Ann's grandmother had moved from Sevenoaks

Weald to Otford in 1902 and Ann's father grew up in the village and stayed for many years here.

On starting a family, Ann gave up paid employment. Instead, she became actively involved in village life. The children went to the local school for their primary education, and Ann knew the network of families at the school gate. She was involved in the Scout and Guiding movement, and the RSPCA. Ann was also a member of the Church and helped out on various occasions, although during her middle years much of her time was taken up with selflessly caring first for her father and later for her aunt. She loved the local countryside, which she knew well. In later years, she enjoyed travelling to Belgium to visit her daughter Frances who had moved there and spending time with her 3 grandchildren.

For the family, Ann was a constant presence. She kept the family running in her own quiet but determined way. She was a devoted wife and mother and a loyal and true friend. She will indeed be sorely missed, and her memory warmly treasured.



## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### Jesus ascends into heaven

(Acts 1:1-11)

**Pause for thought:** The Ascension is one of the four most important Church festivals. The story marks the end of Jesus' work on the Earth and the beginning of the next stage of God's plan.

During the time that Jesus walked alongside his disciples, he showed them how to live God's way and taught them about the kingdom of God. In the weeks after the resurrection and before his ascension, he appeared to them many times, explaining how his death had fulfilled the Scriptures. Then he gave his



followers the instruction to "Go and make disciples of all men". It was now up to this small group of ordinary men to change the world! How ill equipped they must have felt – until they received the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!

Stop and think about a time in your life when a period of teaching came to an end and you were "on your own!" Examples might include driving after passing a driving test, beginning working life after passing professional exams, coming home from hospital with a new baby! How did you feel?

When the children we know grow up and "go it alone", the way we treat them now will influence how they do that: the things we say to them may become their inner voice; the way we react to different situations and people may turn out to be their way too!

Jesus made a point of showing how much he values children. Perhaps we can do the same by trying to show them a Christian way of life, admitting that we all fall short, but explaining that Jesus is always with us to help us? Perhaps we can show more trust in older children to do the right thing, letting them know we are on hand to help if need be?

**Jesus goes home to heaven:** Read the Bible story on page 14 together and talk about the questions posed.

Wonder about it as follows:

I wonder how each of us heard about Jesus?

I wonder how long it would take to tell everyone in the world about Jesus?

**Helicopter parents?** It can be tempting to hover over our children, doing everything for them and saving them from problems of their own making! The trouble is, this does not encourage responsibility!

In a family discussion, decide what it is up to them to do and stick to it! For instance:

Packing items needed for school So in future, a text that reads, "I forgot my violin" might trigger the response, "Oh no, what a shame!" rather than an unexpected dash to school!

Putting dirty clothes in the wash basket. If clean gym kit is required, it needs to go in the linen



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basket not on the floor! A telling off from the gym teacher may mean this is not repeated!

Setting an alarm clock. If not done, perhaps they will just be late?

**Make (cloud-like) meringues:** You will need 275g/10oz icing sugar, 1 egg white

Mix together the icing sugar and egg white in a large bowl to form a soft dough. Take turns to knead gently with fingertips until smooth and shiny.

Allow children to roll the mixture into 24 balls.

Cook eight at a time, well-spaced out, on a sheet of non-stick baking paper. (Approx 1½ mins on full power in the microwave.) Watch that the bottoms do not burn!

Allow to cool. Enjoy a decorating session by sandwiching two meringues together with whipped double cream and dribbling with melted chocolate.

Chat about the cloud that hid Jesus as he went up, in the story. You could explain that in the Bible, this implies a mystery, but that Jesus was going home to heaven.

**Computer creed:** As a way of putting the story of Ascension into context, look up the words of the Nicene Creed together on the Internet. Explain that this sets out the important things that Christians believe. Ask children to listen out for the reference to the Ascension. In church, encourage them to look for the Creed in the service sheet.

**A new skill:** Think of a skill you have that you could pass on to your children or grandchildren. This could be something serious or just good fun. Examples might include: knitting, how to play a card game, how to draw an animal or face, how to write a thoughtful thank you letter, how to iron a shirt, etc.

Map reading: Many people today cannot read a map, thanks to relying on the Sat-nav! Ask a child to be the navigator on a family outing in the car or on foot. Leave extra time and show patience!

**Bird's Eye View:** Go for a walk, not up the Mount of Olives, but up Otford Mount and look down on the village. Working out from the centre, try to identify different things such as:

The school, a particular road, the surgery, the recreation ground, a church, a shop or business, the railway line, a farm

Chat about how this view could inspire your prayers. For instance, "Tonight, I could pray for teachers, people who don't feel well," etc.

As you make your way back down the hill, talk about Jesus going up to heaven and the promise that he will return one day.

**Design a poster:** As a way of telling people about Jesus, perhaps children could design a poster for Messy Church? Make it bold and colourful and let it show why they enjoy coming along. Hand it in to the Church Office for display! Perhaps they could make a matching invitation to invite a friend to come next time?

**Bedtime story:** You will need a big pile of soft toys on the bedroom floor!

Your toddler names a soft toy, which you fetch, and they tell it "Jesus is my friend!" This toy then tells two more chosen toys this good news, etc, etc, until all the toys are safely gathered on the bed!

Vicki Howie



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## IN CONVERSATION WITH...MARGARET MCKENDRICK

### Award winning horticultural botanist



*Margaret in her garden,  
1990*

In July last year Margaret, a youthful 86 at the time, went to the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show to receive the Brickell award for excellence in the field of plant conservation. Margaret has been a National Plant Collection Holder since 1982 and looks after a unique collection

of some sixty different Japanese anemone cultivars in her garden – an aim being to ensure that these plants are secured in propagation. Margaret has widely researched the Japanese anemone genus and, over the years, has brought back to cultivation several cultivars thought to have been lost.

was now attending Old Palace in Croydon (an Anglo Catholic convent grammar school) and remembers a ceiling coming down, due to a bomb falling nearby, during one of her school certificate exams.

In the first year after the war, at the age of 16, Margaret went to Wye College to read for a degree in Horticulture. Her interest in this subject arose partly because of enthusiasm in the family: her mother was a keen gardener and her grandfather, a headmaster who also loved gardening, ran the London Schools Gardening Association. Margaret had a 'marvellous time' at Wye College; although all the young women were school leavers, most of the men were returning from the armed services and proved particularly adept at setting up clubs and societies. Margaret enjoyed singing in the choir and attending gym classes, and also became secretary of the archaeological society.

Thereafter Margaret gained a diploma from King's College, London in order to try her hand at teaching. For three years she taught at schools in Kent and Wiltshire but hated it. Having loved learning herself, she had no time for pupils who refused to engage and concluded that she was not the right person for the job. The next three years were spent helping to run a fruit farm in Ditchling (East Sussex) where, although the hours were long, she thoroughly enjoyed working. In her spare time she sang in both the church choir and with the Ditchling Singers.

Returning to the world of education, Margaret found employment at the Kent Horticultural Institute in Hextable where she lectured in fruit growing and had a role as a County Horticultural Advisor (providing a free service to members of the public). For most of the ten years she was

An Otford resident for fifty years, Margaret was born just outside Croydon, in Shirley, where her parents' house was the last one before the open fields. She had a happy childhood and loved going to school. She told me she was interested in every subject so it is perhaps not surprising that she passed the scholarship exam and was able to go to grammar school. However, war then broke out and her family were evacuated to Torquay for three years. Eventually her father's job with the Prudential brought them back to Shirley – just as the V1s and V2s were beginning to come over. Margaret



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Bourne River, Hadlow, 1985

there she was the only woman on the staff. In 1967 Kent County Council opened a new college at Hadlow to combine horticulture with agriculture which meant a move for Margaret. It was now that she came to Otford where she bought her house for £6000. At Hadlow College, where Margaret stayed for over twenty years until retirement, she became a chartered biologist and began a new job as a lecturer in horticultural botany. She also studied on a part time basis for her Master's degree in Plant Taxonomy (the classification of plants).

Outside work, rowing has been an important part of Margaret's life. As a member of the United Universities Women's Boat Club she travelled throughout Europe, including behind the Iron Curtain to Prague and East Berlin, to compete in the European Rowing Championships. Unfortunately, as amateurs, a lack of funding affected the club's performance; whereas the British women had jobs and rowed in their spare time, the Eastern Europeans were full time professionals who gained additional strength from their 'vitamin pills'! Margaret made lifelong friends through rowing and said that the women were welcomed everywhere they went and had a lot of fun – not least in trying to outwit their Eastern European minds when they were exploring their countries. Later

Margaret qualified as a rowing coach and umpire and became secretary for the South East Region. Other interests of Margaret have included bee keeping and helping with the Otford Rangers (which Margaret led), Guides and Brownies.

Margaret's Christian faith has always been an important part of her life. Her parents were Presbyterians and took her to the only Non-conformist church in Shirley, the Methodist church. There, her father played the organ and both Margaret and her mother sang in the choir. When Margaret moved to Otford she started with the Methodists but, when the services became more informal, she transferred to St Bartholomew's where she enjoys attending the Wednesday 10am service. For several years she was a bell-ringer but retired three years ago at the age of 85. Now 'God willing and weather permitting' she goes along on a Sunday morning to read a prayer before the ringing begins for the 10am service. In April 2011 Margaret felt honoured to be selected as one of three church members to receive Maundy Money from the Queen in Westminster Abbey. She said it was a magnificent service and 'quite an experience'.

Christeen Malan



Eynsford Castle, 2010



## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

### Jesus goes home to heaven (Acts 1: 1-11)

In the weeks after his death on the Cross and the discovery of the empty tomb, Jesus appeared to us, his friends, many times. Those of us who saw him knew for certain that he was no ghost but was truly alive again - we could touch him, he ate with us, and we recognized his special way of blessing the bread, breaking it and sharing it. Once again, our hearts beat fast at his words. But others, who only heard about these things, doubted.

Well, what would you have thought if you had heard rumours that Jesus was alive?

During that short time, he helped us to see that he was always meant to suffer and die on the cross – for me, for you – and to rise again. He showed us how the Scriptures all pointed to this. How strange that we had never taken this in before!

At one meal, Jesus gave us an important instruction. He said, “Don’t leave Jerusalem, but wait here for God to send you the Holy Spirit – the gift that I have told you about. My cousin John baptised people with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit”.

It made us wonder what was going to happen to us and why? What would you have thought?

One day, Jesus led us up the Mount of Olives. I felt bold and hopeful, and I asked him, “Lord, is it time for you to be crowned as our new King?” But Jesus replied, “Leave such things to God. Instead, look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit, when you will receive the power to tell

people about me. Start right here in Jerusalem, and then go out to Judea and Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth!”

Did he mean . . .? The truth began to dawn on us. What do you think Jesus was trusting us to do?

Before we could speak, he held out his arms to bless us and at once he was taken up into Heaven. We were left staring up into the sky, seeing nothing but clouds. Suddenly, two men dressed in white stood beside us. “Men of Galilee!” they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? There’s work to be done, for one day Jesus will come back in just the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

You know what that work was, don’t you?

So we went back down into Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit to come, as Jesus had commanded. I expect you can imagine how we felt!

*Vicki Howie*



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## MISSION MATTERS... CMS - FAITH GORDON

Faith and Vanessa (Faith's adopted daughter) spent their first Christmas and New Year in Brazil, which was quite a different experience – every culture has its own traditions and Brazil is no exception. Added to this, as the economy is so weak now, there were not as many decorations up, as well as it being the being the middle of summer. At midnight on New Year's Eve, they went to the beach and watched the fireworks going off along the coast in Boa Viagem, which is the affluent part of the southern end of Recife. Faith also was able to watch first hand as people offered gifts to the spirits of the sea (a tradition that goes back to the time of slavery when African beliefs became enmeshed with Roman Catholicism).

Just before Christmas, Faith had been invited to preach her first sermon in Portuguese at a church located in a favela community in Olinda, constructed on a series of hills. Although the drive offers amazing views over Recife it is not an easy one up unmade roads so another missionary, Alison, joined Faith on her trip following the pastor's car that was driven by a lady who lived and worked in the community. Being rather nervous about preaching her first sermon in Portuguese Faith was encouraged when the first person that she was introduced to at the church was the mission secretary Rafa who was wearing a t-shirt with one of the sermon texts on it. All went well and Faith says she believes God will continue to work in that church and see their numbers grow.

Meanwhile, Faith continues to enjoy her English Bible study class and has been preparing some documentation and training

for the staff of the Revive project, run by fellow CMS mission partners Andy and Rose Roberts, in Olinda. God continues to challenge her heart with Luke 15 and the fact that there are so many here who don't know God's love in their lives. The questions Faith is working through are:

- 1) How can I most effectively reach these people outside the church?
- 2) How can my presence in Brazil help our brothers and sisters live out our Biblical mandate to reach out to others?
- 3) How can I make the greatest impact for the Kingdom of Heaven this year?

Vanessa is now eight and is making very good progress with her reading and writing. With the new move, she now has many more children to play with and that has been great to watch. She started school at the beginning of February.

*Mags Southgate*



*Faith Gordon our CMS Link Partner*

## THE RISE & FALL OF LULLINGSTONE VILLA (PART TWO)

The year is now 300AD. Fleets of Roman grain ships transport wheat to the Rhine from all along the southern coast of Britannia. The family decide to build themselves a great granary beside the river. Optimism turns to grief though, at the sudden death of the owner's younger brother and his wife. They were just 21 years old. In their memory, he builds a mausoleum beside the little temple behind the house. Years later, its bricks will be used in the building of little Lullingstone Church on the very same spot.

With peace and stability across the Empire, trade and success continue. The next generation build a great curved dining room at the back of the villa. It is decorated with lavish murals and has, at its centre, a classically-themed mosaic reflecting the family's standing and learning.

This stability cannot last though. On the death of the emperor Constantine, the Empire is finally divided between his two dysfunctional sons, Constans and Constantius II. While in Gaul, the psychotic Constans is murdered by a British legionary commander, Magnentius, who is acclaimed as the new Caesar. It is about this time that our family discover Christianity. With the zeal of new converts, they set aside the whole east wing of their villa as a dedicated house church, the first of its kind in Britannia.

A beautifully executed painting of the Chi Rho Christian symbol is painted in the wet plaster of the ante-chamber to the church room. A second is painted within the church-room itself, surrounded by colourful figures in attitudes of prayer. The altar, almost at the room's centre, is raised on a plinth of pink marble. It was evidently a happy and uplifting environment in which to pray.

Constantius II, marching from the eastern frontier,

now attacks the army of Magnentius in a bloody battle outside Rome. 150,000 troops are slain. Constantius orders a notorious Spanish bureaucrat, Paulus, to extort the emperor's revenge on Britannia. It is 353 and the reprisals now begin.

It was a calculated campaign of total shock and awe. Anyone who had shown even the faintest support for Magnentius, whether officer or villa owner, is now put into chains, executed or taken as a slave to Gaul. Whole estates were reduced to ruin and destruction. Freeborn men were shackled in handcuffs, then weighed down with chains and dragged off like wild animals. Paulus soon earns his nickname, *Catena* – the chain.



*Captives of Catena (c 355AD)*

It is impossible to believe that Lullingstone's influential owner would have been spared. To the horror of his family, he would have been dragged away. There is little chance he would have survived. After three years of terror, the Emperor's revenge was sated. The Darent Valley would never again feel a safe haven.

In 367, a large part of Britannia was suddenly overwhelmed by warring bands of Picts, Scotti and even German Saxons. For two years, until reinforcements had beaten them back, the

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country was in anarchy. Trade ceased. In Lullingstone the family are forced to sell off much of their landholding.

In 383, the new governor of Britannia, Magnus Maximus is proclaimed emperor by his Britannic troops. Taking a large proportion of the British garrison with him, Magnus takes ship across the Channel to create his base in Gaul. With no army to feed, the demand for grain ceases. In Lullingstone, the empty granary is used as a cart shed.

With their father murdered and fields depleted, the family decide all the baths complex at the north end of the house should be dismantled. Useful timber and stone can be sold on to others. Soon, even the great granary building is also broken up and sold. Farming finally ceases in 390 AD. The noble estate of Lullingstone, the pride of the Darent Valley, has come to its end. They cannot find a buyer for the house, so the family leave.

Vagrants move into the empty villa. Archaeologists are able to identify considerable food remains spread throughout the corridor beyond the reception room – which had obviously been turned into a convenient in-house rubbish dump.

When it happened or why it happened we do not know. There was enough lawlessness about to point to any culprit. We know that the fire broke out in the Deep Room beneath the house church and spread quickly. It burnt for many days. All the heavy timbers supporting that end of the building were completely burnt through and the whole house church area collapsed with all its roof tiles into the Deep Room below. Strangely, the reception room and veranda, probably up-wind of the fire's centre, survived.

The villa of Lullingstone which had stood here for almost 300 years, has been destroyed. Politics, played a thousand miles away in Rome, have finally decided upon Lullingstone's fate.

*Rod Shelton*



*The villa in its prime c340AD*

## OUT AND ABOUT...



**OTFORD EVENING WI** Our Annual Meeting will be held on May 11th in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

We will also be holding a Silent Auction at this meeting, so please come along and donate something that you no longer need which may be a bargain for someone else to buy. For more details please contact 01959 524831



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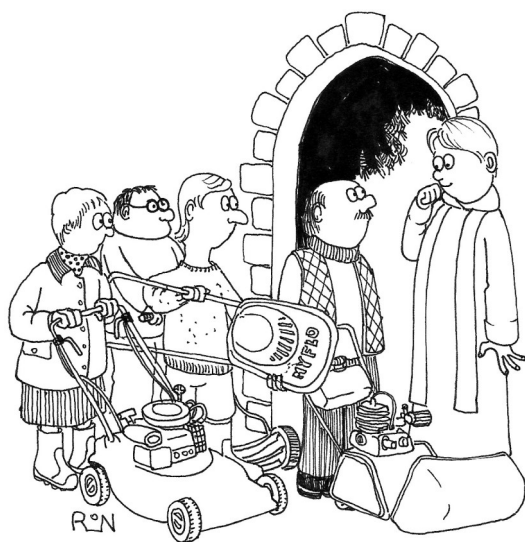
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### Otford Quiz

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Doors open at 19:00, supper served at 19:30 Hospices of Hope Tearoom, 11a High Street, Otford, Kent, TN14 5PG. £12.00 per person to include a light supper.

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*All she had said was it was time for her annual lawnmower service*

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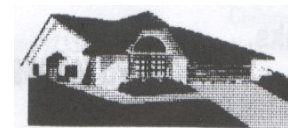
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**Scouts (Age 10½ - 14)** Meetings: Fridays 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

All enquiries and hall bookings to Garry Norris 01732 455854 or [gjnorris@btinternet.com](mailto:gjnorris@btinternet.com)

## PUZZLE PAGE

### King George VI

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth took place at Westminster Abbey 80 years ago this month, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937. It should have been for Edward, of course, but he abdicated. That occasion marked the BBC's first official TV outdoor broadcast. It was the first coronation to be

filmed: the 40-strong camera crew inside the Abbey had to wear evening dress. As in the film *The King's Speech*, there was concern about the King's stutter, but he delivered his speech without a problem. He later wrote to the Archbishop: "I felt I was being helped all the time by Someone Else, as you said I would."

N	E	E	U	Q	L	S	S	E	R	D	S	N
Y	D	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	D	O	B
E	E	V	E	N	I	N	G	L	T	I	M	A
B	P	R	E	T	S	N	I	M	T	S	E	W
B	L	E	H	O	A	Z	R	A	U	E	O	D
A	E	I	E	R	A	C	N	O	T	H	N	O
G	H	G	I	B	P	O	I	G	S	O	E	E
E	I	H	E	B	R	O	A	D	C	A	S	T
O	U	T	D	O	O	R	E	R	B	L	B	D
R	H	Y	C	K	B	M	E	A	E	A	A	B
G	P	C	I	B	L	W	R	W	S	M	L	R
E	E	N	C	I	E	N	H	D	E	B	A	L
R	G	G	F	B	M	H	C	E	E	P	S	C

Coronation  
King  
George  
Queen  
Elizabeth  
Westminster  
Abbey  
Eighty  
Edward

Abdicated  
BBC  
Outdoor  
Broadcast  
Filmed  
Camera  
Crew  
Evening  
Dress

Speech  
Stutter  
Delivered  
Problem  
Helped  
Someone  
Else

## MINISTRONE SOUP

### Ingredients

Pancetta/ bacon (I use diced pancetta 2 x 77g packet)

1 large chopped courgette

1 chopped stick celery

1 chopped leek

1 400g tin of chopped tomatoes

1 litre chicken or vegetable stock

Tomato puree

Handful of small pasta shapes

1 packet fresh basil - chopped

Salt and pepper

(I like spicy food so I add 2 x red Thai chillies when cooking for myself!)

### Method

Fry pancetta then add vegetables to the pan. When vegetables start to sweat add tomatoes, stock and basil to pan.

Add puree to thicken according to taste (I use about half a tube). Leave to simmer gently until the vegetables soften.

About 10 minutes before serving add the pasta and check seasoning. Serve with parmesan or grated cheddar cheese.

*Sam Barnett*



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