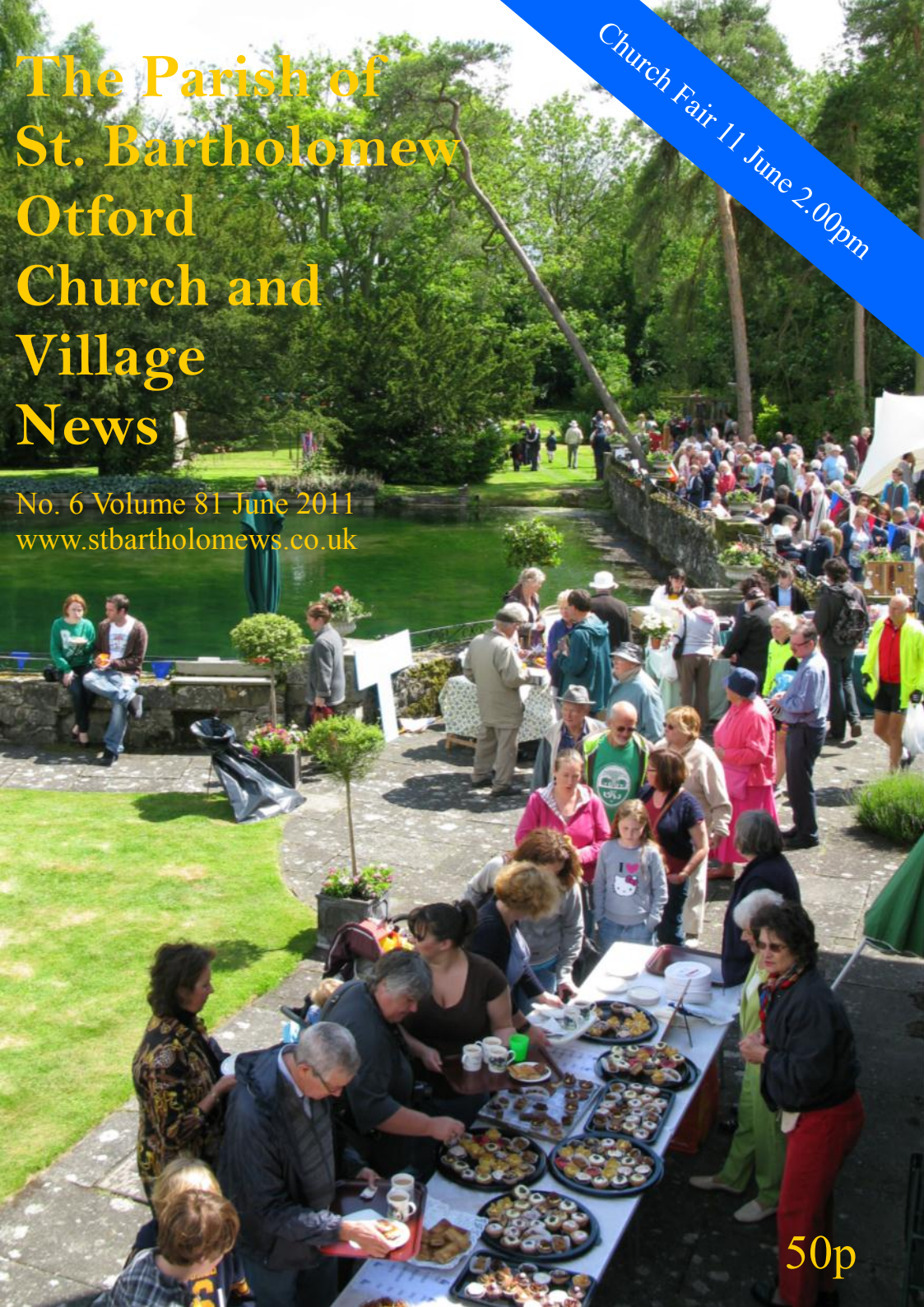


# The Parish of St. Bartholomew Otford Church and Village News

Church Fair 11 June 2.00pm

No. 6 Volume 81 June 2011  
[www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)



50p

## **SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH**

June	8.00 am	10.00 am	5.00 pm	6.30 pm
Ascension Day (2nd)	-	-	-	Holy Communion (8.00pm)
7th Sunday of Easter (5th)	Holy Communion	Church Family Worship	CU@5	Evensong
Pentecost (12th)	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	CU@5	-
Trinity Sunday (19th)	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	CU@5	Evensong
1st Sunday after Trinity (26th)	BCP Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Messy Church (3pm)	Deanery Evensong at Shipbourne Church

### **Sunday Mornings**

#### **SUNDAY CLUB** (for ages 0-14)

Crèche: 0-2 years (every Sunday)

Infant (3-7)

Junior (8-11)

Senior (12-14)

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

### **Sunday Evenings**

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

### **Weekdays**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

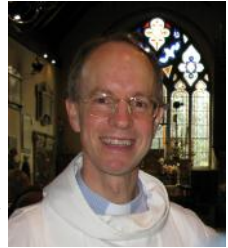
Every Wednesday 10.00am (BCP)

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

**VICAR'S OFF DUTY DAY: Friday**

Cover photograph taken by Irene Roy (Church Fair 2010)  
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services (see page 36).

# Vicar's Viewpoint



The work on the tower has begun! After months of detailed planning and fund-raising, the project is now underway. The need for repairs to the tower first became evident back in April 2006 when a fall of render from the north-west corner of the tower revealed the fragile nature of the exterior structure. More recently, further falls of render in January 2010 have only served to confirm the urgent nature of the repair work. The problem itself goes back to the 1930s when impermeable Portland cement render was applied to the tower, thus trapping moisture in the fabric. Prior to this, the external surfaces were covered with a lime render which allowed moisture to pass through.

The lower part of the tower is amongst the oldest parts of the church, being built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century with flint and other stones. The original structure was probably taller than at present, but in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century there was a serious fire, necessitating a rebuilding of the upper portion of the tower, using brick. It will be interesting to see the nature of the composite construction of the tower once the render is removed.

As I write this article, the contractors, Bakers of Danbury, have already demolished the old boiler house that was constructed in the 1960s. (The new boilers are now located in the Church Centre.) Scaffolding will soon be erected around the tower and, following further investigations of the tower structure, work on removing the render is expected to begin towards the end of June. Before that, the clock face will be removed and the bells will be silenced as they are covered in protective wrapping. Once the render is removed the next job will be to do any necessary repairs to the external tower masonry. In addition, there will be work going on inside the tower, with the removal of the internal render and similar repairs to the masonry.

During the rest of the summer, repair work will be done on the timbers of the tower roof and the upper level floor structures, on the masonry of the tower parapets and on the rainwater disposal arrangements. Two other projects will also be undertaken during this time. Firstly, the stonework above the large west window in the south aisle needs repair. Secondly, the 17th century west porch adjoining the tower will be repaired. The doors and the sides will be taken away to a workshop and during this time the roof will be supported on the tower scaffold.

All this work should be completed by the autumn and then, with protective sheeting in place, the structure will be allowed to dry out until April 2012 when the contractors will return to apply an appropriate lime render. The fabric won't be completely dry (historic structures of this type rarely are) as moisture is continually drawn in from the ground, but without cement render this moisture can be released into the atmosphere until a state of equilibrium is reached. This does mean that when the new lime render is applied it may develop some damp spots and become blemished over time, but this can be dealt with by a new coat of lime wash after 5-10 years.

I will keep you posted as the work progresses. I am very grateful to Derek Shilling, the Fabric Committee and Rena Pitsilli-Graham of Thomas Ford and Partners for all their hard work on this project so far. Your friend and Vicar, Richard



## DIARY FOR JUNE 2011

**Morning Prayer is said in Church on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
each week at 9.00 am**

- 1      10.00 am    Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 2      8.00 pm      Holy Communion for Ascension Day
- 4      2.45 pm      Wedding of Todd McCord and Katie Evans
  
- 5      **The Sunday after Ascension**
  - 8.00 am    Holy Communion**
  - 10.00 am   Church Family Worship and baptism of Archie Brown**
  - 5.00 pm    CU@5**
  - 6.30 pm    Evensong**
- 6      7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 7      8.00 pm      Homegroup (Park Farm House, Park Lane)
- 8      9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 am    Holy Communion (BCP)
- 3.00 pm      Friends of Kent Churches visit
- 8.00 pm      Finance & Standing Committee (Vicarage)
- 10      6.00 pm      Help required at the Church Hall to move tables, chairs, to  
                         Castle House
- Magazine material by today, please, to the Church Office**
- 11      **2.00 pm    St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (Castle House)**
  
- 12      **Pentecost/Whit Sunday**
  - 8.00 am    Holy Communion**
  - 10.00 am   Holy Communion**
  - 12 noon    Baptism of Rosalie Kirsop**
  - 5.00 pm    CU@5 (Church Centre)**
- 13      7.45 pm      Cameo/Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 15      10.00 am    Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 8.00 pm      Fabric Committee
- 18      9.00 am      Churchyard Working Party
  
- 19      **Trinity Sunday**
  - 8.00 am    Holy Communion**
  - 10.00 am   Morning Worship**
  - 5.00 pm    CU@5 (Church Centre)**
  - 6.00 pm    Evensong**
- 20      7.45 pm      Cameo Coffee & Chat at Jenny's home (14 Warham Road)
- 21      11.30 am    Interment of the ashes of Brian Walters
- 8.00 pm      Homegroup (Park Farm House, Park Lane)

- 22     9.30 am     'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)  
        10.00 am     Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25     11.30 am     Wedding of Mark Howe and Sarah Daley  
        3.00 pm     Wedding of Christopher Sargent and Louise Hayes
- 26     The First Sunday after Trinity**  
        8.00 am     Holy Communion (BCP)  
        10.00 am     Holy Communion  
        3.00 pm     Messy Church (Church Centre)  
        6.30 pm     Deanery Choral Evensong at Shipbourne
- 27     12 noon     Interment of the ashes of Eileen Stevenson  
        7.45 pm     Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 29     10.00 am     Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 30     7.00 pm     Men's Fellowship summer walk (meet at 7pm in St. Bart's Car Park)



*Registers*



#### **Baptism (Our Welcome)**

15th May Lillie-Mae Underwood

#### **Funerals (Our Condolences)**

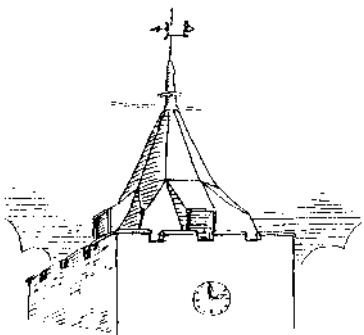
30th April John Masson (aged 76)

4th May Virginia James (aged 82)

#### **Church Offerings in April 2011**

Open Collections for Charities and Church Expenses.....£ 447.65

Freewill Offering.....£7,878.00



## FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

**From the APCM:** At the meeting on 13th April, Derek Shilling and Elaine Wilkins were elected as Churchwardens with Janet Hunt standing down after completing six years in office. There was also a change of PCC Officers, with Colin Fleetwood standing down as Church Treasurer, to be replaced by Janet Hunt, and Susan Reid standing down as PCC Secretary and being replaced by Sam Barnett.

Those completing their elected term on the PCC were Sam Barnett, Joan Beacom, Chris Bishop and Russell Edwards. Sam, Joan and Russell stood down.

We are very grateful for all that the retiring members have done during their time on the PCC. We are pleased to welcome back Chris Bishop and Susan Reid, and to welcome for the first time Penny Beacom, David Calcott and Susan Wandless as newly elected members of the PCC. Also, Margaret Lidbetter and Pat Mills were re-elected as Deanery Synod representatives and Janet Hunt was newly elected on to the Deanery Synod.

### **ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR - SATURDAY 11th JUNE at 2.00 pm** **in the grounds of CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD**

By kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy, St. Bartholomew's Fair is once again being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House.

The Committee would be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of church or in the Church Office, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so that they can be sorted and priced. Alternatively, arrangements can be made for them to be collected. In particular, this applies to the following:

- Books:** Colin Fleetwood, 523582
- Bottles:** Church Office, 523185
- Craft items:** Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117
- Food Hall - cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves:**  
Hilary Fothergill, 524120; Susan Reid, 523234
- New Gifts:** Mags Southgate, 524720
- Plants:** Sue Stephenson, 523789; Pat Mills, 524667
- Sweets, small toys or items suitable for children's prizes:**  
Christeen Malan, 522654; Deborah Vigis, 523331
- Toys, DVD's, CDs:** Margie Torry, 524463
- White Elephant:** Heather Stanley, 523194



There will be the usual Children's Art Competition with the theme, "Memories of the Royal Wedding." There will also be a Single Rose Competition which is open to all.

Anybody willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood, and assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. We shall be meeting at the Church Hall at about 6.00 pm on Friday, 10th June to collect tables, chairs and other equipment to be taken to Castle House and clearing away starts immediately after the Fair.

Programmes, price 50p, will be on sale in all the roads in Otford from the end of May.

**From the Freewill Offering Treasurer:** It concerns me that in 2010 over £5,000 was collected during services, none of which was Gift Aided. Some of this must surely have come from donors who pay tax. Providing that during the year you pay sufficient tax to cover the tax on your donations (this is 25% of what you give) the church can reclaim this tax at no cost to you. You merely need to sign a Gift Aid declaration once and it will apply to all the money you give to the church thereafter. These forms are available at the back of church. All donations are known only to me as Freewill Offering Treasurer. Numbered envelopes ensure anonymity.

**Bellringers' Mystery:** Readers may be aware that a peal was rung recently to mark the tenth anniversary of the installation of the new bells.

Ringling and concentrating for just over two and a half hours is thirsty work so, when we had finished ringing, the six of us retired to the Crown for some refreshment.

When we ordered the drinks we were informed by a smiling landlord that we did not have to pay. Someone who wished to remain anonymous had left enough money behind the bar to pay the bill.

We have tried and tried to establish who was so kind. We think it was a lady but we cannot extract any further information from Mark at the Crown. All other enquiries have proved fruitless.

It was a lovely gesture and we so enjoyed it but now our thanks are due to someone and we can only try, through the parish magazine and the local bell ringers' newsletter, to show our gratitude. Thank you, whoever you are!



### **Joint July and August Magazine**

As last year, we will be producing a joint magazine for the months of July and August. This is mainly due to less copy being available in these months and the summer holidays.

Please make sure that any article you want to appear in the July/August magazine is at the Church Office by 10th June.

## THE ROYAL MAUNDY

The Royal Maundy is an important service in the Church of England, at which the monarch distributes specially minted coins as symbolic alms to elderly recipients. The Maundy gift is given to retired persons who have given much service to church and community. The name Maundy and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction or mandatum of Jesus at the Last Supper, that his followers should love one another; indeed the opening words of the Maundy ceremony are: 'I give you a new commandment: love one another: as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.'

The Maundy ceremony is thought to go back to c. 597 A.D., when St Augustine referred to it; the first English ceremony held was in 1210, when King John was at Knaresborough. In England, the tradition started with the monarch giving out food, clothing and wine. The first recorded instance of the monarch giving out money was in Rochester in 1213, when King John gave 13 pence to thirteen poor men. The monarch washed the feet of the poor, imitating Christ's actions, but this became much less frequent in the 17th century and was discontinued in the 18th century.

In modern times, as many gentlemen and ladies as there are years in the sovereign's life are presented with one penny for each year of her life - and this year Maundy Thursday actually fell on her 85th birthday.

It was an unbelievable surprise for Nobby, Margaret and myself to be invited to become recipients this year. We all felt undeserving and very humble, but also tremendously honoured. The great day eventually arrived, and after going through strict security we found ourselves seated, with our friends and families, in separate parts of Westminster Abbey. For me, it was one of the most moving and memorable experiences of my life. The atmosphere was wonderful in the packed Abbey, the music and choirs superb; the service was taken most beautifully and the distribution of the money was tremendous. The yeomen had huge silver-gilt dishes, some dating from the 17th century, on which the alms were carried. We were each given a red purse containing a crown (the £5 coin marking Prince Philip's 90th birthday), and a 50p piece (showing the 2012 London Olympic Games), together with a white purse containing the Maundy coins, which were in little packs of four coins (1,2,3 and 4 pence, making 10 pence), totalling 85p.

Her Majesty, for whom this is one of her favourite duties, looked beautiful and smiled as she gave each person the money. Everyone in the procession carried a nosegay, another very old tradition (to ward off the smell of unwashed feet, and the diseases supposedly carried by smells!).

Afterwards, Kevin, Margaret, Susan and I joined many others for a superb lunch in Church House. All the staff there were extremely kind and looked after everyone very well. After this, Kevin and I joined our family for afternoon tea, which was most enjoyable. Then we went our separate ways home; this had been a truly amazing day.

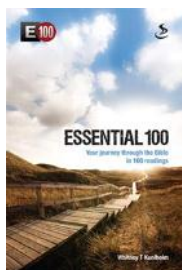
I thought long and hard before accepting this honour, and decided that I owed this to all the people who have touched my life, especially my loving Christian family and all the children I have met, all of whom have made me what I am today.



**A note from Kevin Grafton** - At lunch in Church House, we were seated with some other Maundy recipients, and Revd. Robert Reiss, Canon Treasurer of the Abbey. He asked one of the recipients what she had done to make her eligible for this honour, then, without waiting for her answer, turned to her husband and said: 'Of course, it's no use asking her that question - I should ask you!' He was absolutely right, and summed up the type of person who is nominated.

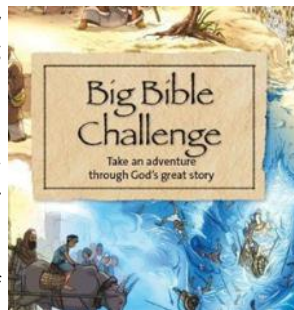
## MISSION MATTERS.....SCRIPTURE UNION

Scripture Union don't just run holidays and missions for children – they also publish a whole load of books and study guides to help ordinary people connect with the Bible



The E100 Bible Reading Challenge is based around 100 carefully selected Bible readings (50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament) designed to give participants a good understanding of the overall Bible story from Genesis to Revelation. The 'E' stands for Essential and each of the Essential 100 readings ranges from a few verses to a few chapters. *(There is a copy in the Church Office if you would like to look through it.)*

Big Bible Challenge is a child-friendly version of the E100 Bible reading programme, exploring the big story of the Bible through 100 selected 'essential' passages. It is a complete Bible engagement strategy for children and adults together. Big Bible Challenge invites each young person, particularly aged 7-12 years, to connect with another Christian – their 'Bible Coach' – for a shared journey through the Bible and life. Big Bible Challenge equips them to explore 100 Bible stories, discuss issues of faith and discover the big story of the Bible, together.



Each section of the Big Bible Challenge book gives taster questions; Bible text from one story with linking information; facts and information; questions to explore the Bible passage; prayer ideas; things to make or do; genuine questions and answers from real children and adults; full colour artwork in a 'medley' style with 5 Bible stories depicted in each picture; and Bible exploration on four more Bible stories.

It is a full-colour book for children to enjoy, ideally with their adult 'coach' (parent, older friend, children's worker, group leader). Both books are available from the Scripture Union web site or local Christian bookshops

And if you get a taste for reading the Bible every day then daily reading notes are available – talk to Dawn if you would like to know what there is and how to order.

## SAINT OF THE MONTH....

Barnabas (1<sup>st</sup> century) Saint's Day, 11<sup>th</sup> June

Barnabas played a significant role in the formation of the early church by spreading the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. Born in Cyprus in the first century to a Greek speaking Levite family who originally called him Joseph, he was renamed by the apostles as Barnabas. This name means 'Son of Encouragement' and reflects his positive and enthusiastic approach to his missionary calling. In Acts 11:23-24 we are told that Barnabas 'was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith'. Barnabas was held in such high regard by the apostles that he was able to convince them to trust Saul, the former persecutor of Christians, after the latter's conversion on the road to Damascus.



In Acts we read that many of the earliest disciples had scattered as a result of the persecutions against the Church in Jerusalem and through them the gospel had begun to spread. The Church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch (in Syria) to strengthen and encourage this work. After a while he went to Tarsus to find Saul and brought him back to Antioch where they taught 'great numbers of people'. It was then that the disciples were first called Christians.

Later the Church at Antioch sent Saul and Barnabas on an important missionary journey. They travelled firstly to Cyprus and then widely in Asia Minor proclaiming the word of God. They made countless converts but were often persecuted and forced to shake 'the dust from their feet' and move on. It was during this period that Saul became known as Paul. Together they worked tirelessly to spread the good news and to help organise the early church, eventually returning to Antioch where they encouraged the disciples by recounting all that God had done through them. On a later mission Paul and Barnabas travelled to Jerusalem to resolve the issue of whether Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to receive salvation. They returned to Antioch with the positive message that this practice was not essential.

Paul and Barnabas parted company due to a 'sharp disagreement' over John Mark. Together they had planned a mission to reinforce the faith in the towns they had previously visited and Barnabas had wanted to take John Mark with them. Paul was against this because John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia. Thereafter they went their separate ways and not much more is written about Barnabas in the Bible – probably because Luke (the author of Acts) continued to accompany Paul.

We do not know how Barnabas died although legend has it that he was stoned to death in 61 AD. Whatever the truth, it is certain that Barnabas lived up to his name as a 'Son of Encouragement'. Both as an energetic missionary, and as 'a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith', he provides an example to us all.

Christeen Malan

## SEASONAL REFLECTION ON.... PENTECOST

After his resurrection at Easter, Jesus appeared to his friends many times over a short period, even to five hundred of them together on one occasion. During this time, he helped them to understand that his Kingdom is not an earthly one, to be found on a map, but a heavenly one, open to all believers after his death for all of us on the cross.

Jesus explained that he was going back to his Father, but that there was work for all the disciples to do teaching others to follow him, first in Jerusalem and then throughout the whole world. This must have seemed a daunting task to such ordinary men and women, but Jesus reassured them that he would be with them – in a new and closer way – through the Holy Spirit. They were to wait in Jerusalem for his Spirit to come to them. Jesus then ascended into heaven forty days after Easter.

Pentecost (meaning ‘the fiftieth day’) is the great festival that celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and with it, the birth of the Church as we know it today.

The story of Pentecost is a dramatic one. The disciples, along with Jesus’ mother and family, are praying together in a house in Jerusalem. It is the fiftieth day after Easter - the day on which a harvest thanksgiving for the first ripe crops is celebrated, attracting people from many different countries.

Suddenly, they hear the sound of a violent rushing wind, not outside, but inside. It fills the entire house. They see tongues of fire, like a cloud of red butterflies, which separate and come to rest on each one of them.

All at once, they feel just as they had when Jesus was among them – full of life and joy! They know for certain his promised Holy Spirit has come to live within them forever.

The disciples spill out into the street, bursting with joy at this wonderful gift. A crowd soon gathers, and to their amazement, everyone can understand what the disciples are saying, whichever country they have come from – the Good News is for everyone!

But some people are not convinced, observing that the disciples seem to have drunk too much. Then Peter, filled with a new confidence, addresses them, finding the right words to explain what has happened. He points out that Jesus died for our sins and is God’s chosen King of Kings.

Now the crowd is devastated that they handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross. What can they do to make amends? Peter tells them to repent and to be baptised. He assures them of God’s forgiveness and that they too will receive the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit to guide, teach and lead them to life in all its richness!

Pentecost is sometimes called ‘Whit Sunday’. This is because the early church used to baptise adults at Pentecost who wore white robes for the occasion, leading to the name ‘White’ or ‘Whit Sunday’.



## Faith@home

You might like to help children or grandchildren make a white dove (symbolizing the Holy Spirit) to make Pentecost a special day.

You will need: white card cut into the shape of a dove's body, two A5-size pieces of white paper for the wings and tail, a felt-tip pen, ribbon, scissors and sticky tape



Cut two slits in the body shape, one for the wings and the other for the tail. Fold each piece of paper backwards and forwards (lengthways) as if you were making a fan. Thread one through each slit. Fold them upwards and secure with the tape. Draw some features on the dove and stick on a loop of ribbon for hanging.

(You might like to point out that the action of folding the paper backwards and forwards reminds us of Jesus as he goes between people and God, taking him our prayers and bringing us back God's loving forgiveness.)

If you like arranging flowers, fill a vase with white flowers for the table.

Vicki Howie

## NEW MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



A new social group for men living in or connected with the parish is launched on the **evening of Thursday 30th June**. Any man over 18 is welcome to join us. Do bring (male!) friends with you. The aim of the group is to strengthen social bonds and fellowship between men, many of whom may find it difficult in busy lives and/or because they work some distance from the area to spend as much time as they would wish getting to know others in the community.

Our plan is to gather in the church car park from about 7pm for a 7.15 pm departure. The precise route is to be determined nearer the time, depending on weather and ground conditions. If the elements are in our favour, the aim is to walk for a couple of hours or so to make use of one of the longest summer evenings and to enjoy the beauty of the Darenth Valley and to spend some time in one of the local hostelrys, with a view to being back at the car park by about 10.30 pm. If the weather is poor the walking element will be shorter. Sensible footwear is recommended! If you do not have time to eat before setting out you are recommended to bring some sandwiches with you. There is no charge for the walk but there will be a "whip round" for a drinks kitty, probably £5. If you have a railway season ticket do bring it with you because we may take the train up the Valley so we are not just doing a circular walk in familiar Otford territory - the fare for those who do not have a season ticket will not exceed £2.50.

The walk will be led by Douglas Howie, who tells the editors that the climb up the hill past the telephone exchange is as steep as anything he encountered when conquering Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak.

Whilst it is not necessary to book in advance it would help if you were able to give the organizers notice of your intention to come, or of any apologies for absence. Please email [douglashowie@btopenworld.com](mailto:douglashowie@btopenworld.com) or [Richard.worssam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Richard.worssam@tiscali.co.uk). Douglas would also be pleased to answer any questions which anyone may have. If you need an emergency contact number for the organizers on the day please call 07766 426621.

We look forward to seeing you on 30th June.

## OUT AND ABOUT



**THE QUILLING GUILD – OTFORD BRANCH** The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 11th June** in Otford Memorial Hall from 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Diane Bowden will lead a workshop in the morning, and in the afternoon members will continue with their own work. Drinks will be provided; members provide their own lunch. More information may be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

**SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD** The next meeting will take place in Otford Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 25th June**. The morning session begins at 10.00 am, during which members may work on their own projects. Coffee and biscuits will be available. The afternoon session begins at 2.00 pm, with tea and home-made cake available. A talk and demonstration entitled *Felt underneath – felt as a basis for stitch* will be given by Joanna O'Neill. More information may be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.



**OTFORD EVENING WI** Having recently had a most successful 52nd birthday meeting with an excellent meal provided by 'Cooks' and the committee, Otford Evening WI are now looking forward to the Garden Party in July, and their visit to the House of Commons, also in July.

We welcome any new residents in the village to join us as visitors. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday in the month, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**SASRA -The Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association** invite you to their AGM at which their President, General Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, will be the guest speaker. The SASRA Chairman Brigadier Ian Dobbie will also be in attendance, accompanied by Army Scripture Reader Tiaan de Klerk. The AGM will take place on Monday 13th June 2011, 8 pm at St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JA. Light refreshments will be available at 7.30 pm. Please contact Local Representative Malcolm Pugh 01732 885400 [malcolmpugh@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmpugh@btinternet.com) for further details.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: John Allen

Parish Clerk: Brenda Hambrook

Tel: 01959 524808

email: [parishcouncil@otford.net](mailto:parishcouncil@otford.net) Web: [www.otford.info/parishcouncil](http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil)

It seems appropriate now to glance back at the high points of the last 20 years to put today's problems and hopes in perspective.

Twenty years ago the council was winding up the village youth club: the facilities existed but there was no replacement leader. As today, we were chasing the Highways Department, then about Pilgrims Way East by the chalk pit where the bank was starting to crumble. It took years before they had to spend a great deal of money building supports.

The council paid peppercorn rents for areas of District Council land to maintain standards that they could not afford - and still cannot. More recently SDC left care of the public toilets to burden the parish precept. But we must thank them for largely funding the Oxenhill woodlands for us. The parish council purchased the woodland on Sevenoaks Road.

Traffic speeds have long been seen as excessive and because mothers taking children to school used Pilgrims Way West, it created most complaints. A prominent white "gateway" was erected near the railway bridge but did not reduce the number of complaints. A trial "pinch-point" also had no effect, and eventually Otford was offered traffic calming. However, when residents realised this entailed road humps, noise and lighting, it was comprehensively rejected. Then we waited seven years for a vehicle-activated sign on PWW. Another such sign was later erected on the Sevenoaks road; recently a motorcyclist hit it and was killed. Other road signs are a longer story. But for all this, periodic attempts were made to have removed the large and incorrect sign in the car park. Agreement was reached last year and action is awaited. Continual increases in car numbers and village facilities caused demand for more parking spaces, and the car park was enlarged for the fifth time during this period, by enlarging the recreation ground and taking over a portion.

The most profound change for the parish council was obtaining an office (and Heritage Centre) in the High Street rather than the clerk working from home. The workload increased considerably because of help given to residents and central government devolving responsibilities to parishes. To meet the demand we employed an assistant clerk. A monthly newsletter was produced and delivered by public-spirited volunteers. The building also enabled a Community Warden and PCSO to work efficiently in the area.

The design work and building supervision for School House was done by councillor Eric Dilley (at great saving to the village). He similarly produced the sports pavilion on the recreation ground, opened by the Duke of Kent.

These things improved Otford, but one addition has put us on the international map: the large-scale model of the Solar System. Conceived by David Thomas (and executed together with councillor Barrie Keenan), it was a way of marking the millennium by placing within the parish boundary pillars representing the sun and planets in the relative positions they had at the start of this millennium. Now countries far away have scale models in their museums or observatories based on Otford's sun!

John Allen



## **DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS**

Telephone: 01732 227000

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Thank you for voting for Parish Councillor and lifelong Otford resident John Edwards-Winsor and for me at the Sevenoaks District Council elections on 5th May. In return we promise to represent you as best we can and to stand up for the interests of Otford at Sevenoaks District Council and beyond. For those of you that are interested, the turnout in Otford and Shoreham was a massive 54.95% - very high for a local election, and more than 10% higher than the Sevenoaks average turnout which was 45.4%. Four years ago the turnout was only 43.19% which shows how the AV referendum affected the turnout in our two villages. For those of you that don't know, Sevenoaks said No to the AV referendum with 75.19% of you saying No (while nationally the figure was only 67.9%) and only 24.81% said yes on a district-wide turnout of nearly 50%.

Now that we have finished celebrating our re-election results we will be getting down to running your services and your council once again. Over the next four years we are committed to achieving a balanced and sustainable budget on a significantly reduced income, while protecting high-quality public services, such as your weekly rubbish collection. We aim to do this while reducing the burden on you - the tax payer. We have already frozen our element of your council tax for this year. We will continue to provide value for money and make sure that your council tax is well spent. Again we have a track record of making savings whilst protecting and enhancing your services. This is not an easy task, but it is the right thing to do. We mainly achieve the big savings by sharing services with other councils: for example saving you £250,000 a year by merging our council tax and benefit services with Dartford Borough Council.

Like you, we value our greenbelt, and we will continue to enhance our environment while fighting inappropriate development in the greenbelt. Our newly agreed Local Development Framework significantly strengthens the protection of the greenbelt. We will also pursue energy-efficient measures for the Council's buildings and look at alternative energy production.




As your local member, I will try to work with you to achieve what you and the other residents of Otford need. Whether it is help fighting garden-grabbing development or the need for parking restrictions, I will do my best to make sure Otford remains the wonderful village it is to live in. It is a real honour to represent you, the residents of Otford & Shoreham.

Thank you once again for returning me as your local District Councillor. If you want to contact me about anything, please email me at:

[Cllr.Lowe@Sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Lowe@Sevenoaks.gov.uk).

With best wishes, Michelle Lowe

	<p><b>KENT POLICE - Working with you in Otford and Shoreham</b></p> <p>To report a non-urgent crime 01622 690690</p> <p>Local Neighbourhood Officer PC Brian Smith – 07972 004450</p> <p>Local Neighbourhood Officer PCSO Jane Wright – 07772 226036</p>
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A rogue trader is someone who comes to your house without invitation (cold calling), offers services or goods and overcharges you for them. This includes overcharging for unnecessary work, damaging property deliberately to get money, leaving work unfinished and intimidating someone to get money. To try and minimise your risk of employing a rogue trader:

- do not deal with doorstep callers offering work on your home or garden;
- use traders who are members of officially recognised organizations;
- check that the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from;
- ask for quotes in writing;
- ring more than three traders to get a feel for an average price for the job;
- remember traders must give you written notice of your right to seven days cancellation when agreeing to do work at your home, including work gained from a cold call;
- please contact your local police station if you have any doubts about whether a tradesperson is legitimate.

You can find details of approved traders on **[www.buywithconfidence.info](http://www.buywithconfidence.info)** or by calling Consumer Direct on **08454 040506**. You can also call this number to report problems involving suspected rogue traders.

**Trading Standards** is also involved with the setting up of Cold Calling Control Zones in areas the county, aimed at stopping people being targeted in the first place. You can report issues by filling in the form at **[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent)**

If you would like further crime reduction advice, or to talk about any local policing issues, why not come along to one of our regular neighbourhood meetings? The next one takes place on **Saturday 2 July** from **12pm-4pm** at **Otford Primary School**.



## COMMUNITY CLOSE UP

### Focussing on....Otford Art Group

Gathering together without fail every Tuesday morning in the Methodist Church Hall from 9.30 am to 12 noon (unless Christmas Day falls on a Tuesday), the Otford Art Group comprises a dedicated and friendly band of artists. On my visit to see them in action I was struck by the atmosphere of industrious calm and by the feeling of harmony in the pursuit of individual excellence. I was also most impressed by the standard of art being produced and saw some delightful pictures, in a variety of media and sizes, of flowers, children, landscapes, fruit, local buildings and WWII industry.



The Group has been meeting for many years and has built up a loyal following. At present there are some twenty four members on the books, the majority of whom come every week. As well as affording precious time to paint, the Art Group is also a great way to meet fellow artists and to learn from one another. Art skills are further developed by the monthly visit of one of a number of professionals who either does a demonstration or runs a workshop on a topic such as painting flowers or buildings.

The Art Group is open to beginners and experts alike and the cost of membership is £20 per term. Since the group does not break for holidays the current term is fourteen weeks long. Newcomers are made to feel welcome, as are visitors who are simply interested in coming to admire the artwork being produced. Many of the members have displayed samples of their work as the 'Picture of the Month' in the Heritage Centre (details of which are provided in the Otford Parish Council monthly newsletter).

A further opportunity to enjoy the excellent work of this group occurs twice a year when exhibitions are staged. The next one will take place (all day) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Hope Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is no charge for entry and pictures can be purchased from about £25 upwards. From the quality of the painting I saw on my recent visit, I am sure the exhibition will prove to be a real treat.

For further information please drop by at the Methodist Church Hall between 9.30 am and 12 noon on a Tuesday morning.

*Christeen Malan (with thanks to Betty Cooper for having given up so much of her valuable painting time to talk to me).*

## THE PARISH PLAN - A ROADMAP FOR OUR FUTURE?

As you may have noticed, our Parish Plan is out in print as well as online and is now available to all the members of our community. It has taken a little over two years in its preparation and a considerable amount of work to achieve. It also involved a large number of people from all over the village. Why? Because the important part about our Parish Plan is that it is a community-led document, not some remote directive from a higher authority.

“You’ll never get anywhere, unless first of all you know where you are going.” An old truism perhaps but a Parish Plan tries to do just that - to point the way for all of us, into a better future. To show how we can bring improvements to our lives to help not only ourselves but others in our community. How we get there and how soon we get there, will be down to each of us to play their part.

When we set out, it seemed a pretty straightforward objective to achieve: what are the concerns of the community and what can we do, in a practical way, to address them? Small rural community we may be, but we are still a world in microcosm when it comes to the things that affect all of us. The dangers on the roads, the vulnerability of getting older, the pressures to build more and more houses, knowing that our shops and services will always be there to serve us, litter and lack of care in our environment – and what about our young people? Are we giving them the sort of opportunities we had when growing up?

We cannot hope to have all the answers but your Parish Plan does at least point to some of the ways forward. It suggests what we can do and how we can do it. But, most importantly, it rests upon one vital tenet. If you really believe you can achieve something, you’ll always get more than half way there – and usually there will be someone else to give you a hand along the way.

In carrying out our Parish Plan we are trying to help everyone in our community. In a small way each of us is putting the good of the community ahead of self-advantage. It does not require any great breast-beating or fanfare to do so. But in many ways, perhaps achieving the aims of the Parish Plan will in itself also quietly demonstrate what being a practicing Christian really means.

Rod Shelton

Chairman Otford Parish Plan Steering Committee



## FAITH @ WORK

### A day in the life of Susan Wandless LLM, Construction Solicitor

I work as a Construction Solicitor for a legal practice in Crawley that specializes in Construction Law. I generally work from my home in Sevenoaks, speaking with colleagues either on the telephone or via e-mail during the day or attending the office to either meet clients or alternatively discuss management issues or cases. I work in this way so that I can look after the home as well as work. Consequently, my day is a mix of family 'work' and professional 'work'.



For my professional work, I will generally be at my desk by 9 am. I work until approximately 4pm when I stop to get ready for the kids coming back from school.

My work falls into three loose categories: Legal Work, Practice Development and Administration. I don't necessarily do all three activities every day, but usually legal work and practice development feature most days.

Although I do get involved in drafting or negotiating contracts for building works, most of the time I deal with disputes between parties involved in building projects. I have represented all sides: people commissioning building work, designers and building contractors.

I spend a lot of my time obtaining relevant evidence, considering it, working out what the legal position is in the light of this evidence and advising the client. Even at an early stage of this process, I advise the client of potential ways to resolve the dispute having regard to the merits of the case, the dispute resolution processes available, and available financial resources to pay for my advice including insurance.

I am a convinced supporter of Alternative Dispute Resolution. In the construction industry, this usually means resolving disputes via adjudication, mediation or negotiation. Not only is it quicker and cheaper than the alternatives (litigation or arbitration), I also think it follows Jesus' words in Matthew 5:25 to 'Settle matters quickly....'. When I started in practice in 1986, the only formal methods of resolving disputes were litigation or arbitration, which processes were both time consuming and costly, and very often did not promote early settlement. Clients became totally consumed by the dispute and often were very stressed – just what they didn't need after a building project had gone wrong! Now, after reforms of the court system, the alternatives of adjudication, mediation or negotiation are actively considered for every case by the court, the parties and their advisers. This is much better for all concerned and in my view it is good to see that the court system is now taking Jesus' advice seriously!

## THE BIBLE IN VOICE AND VERSE

*On Wednesday 22 June, actor and poetry performer Lance Pierson will be celebrating 400 years of the Authorised Version of the Bible at St Luke's Church, Eardley Road at 8 pm as part of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival. Vicki Howie asked him about this special concert of words and music:*



**Lance, you will be performing with soprano Belinda Yates and pianist Heather Chamberlain. Can you tell us more about the concert?**

The concert is a celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. It is a journey through the Bible narrative from Genesis to Revelation where I read the text interspersed with pieces of music which those words inspired, sung by Belinda. The music will include excerpts from Haydn's 'Creation', Handel's 'Messiah', Mendelssohn's 'Oh for the Wings of a Dove' and several modern compositions. We are also accompanied by pictures of the Bible stories on a screen, so it's a real multi-media experience!

**Please tell us more about the trio 'In Voice and Verse' and how you put concert programmes together.**

I met Belinda (soprano) and Heather (pianist) at the celebrations of John Milton's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary at King's Place in 2008. I was reading Milton's poems and they were performing music which those words had been set to. We hit it off immediately and formed a concert based on that combination of words and music. With the King James Bible anniversary approaching we turned our attention to the Bible and of course the wonderful selection of music that it has inspired.

**Where is your concert tour taking you and how have the reviews been so far?**

The demand for the concert has been overwhelming and we will go beyond seventy performances by the end of the year! We were delighted to perform at Durham Cathedral in March and still to come are visits to Ely Cathedral, the Chichester Festivities, the Edinburgh Fringe and churches of all denominations. We have received many kind compliments, with the Church of England newspaper describing it as 'Must see' and the former Bishop of Ely Stephen Sykes saying 'It was an unforgettable evening'.

**Could you tell us about your career as a poetry performer and actor? And how has your Christian faith influenced your work?**

I turned to acting and poetry performance full-time in 1998 as that is where my faith most clearly expresses itself. My two most successful performances have been an abridged version of Mark's Gospel and a biographical entertainment about the life of John Betjeman. I have focussed my poetry performance on famous Christian poets.

## Where can we find out more about future concerts and performances?

Visit [www.invoiceandverse.co.uk](http://www.invoiceandverse.co.uk) for more information about the concert tour and [www.lancepierson.org](http://www.lancepierson.org) for more about me.

Tickets (£7/£5 concessions) can be obtained by calling 01732 743045 or 01732 452462 or emailing [admin@stlukes-sevenoaks.org.uk](mailto:admin@stlukes-sevenoaks.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

### Children have their own preparations for the Royal Wedding

*The Year two class at Russell House all wrote letters to Prince William and Catherine to send them best wishes for their wedding day. Here are a selection:*

*Dear Prince William and Kate*

Hoping you have a really lovely time at your wedding. And have a lovely time together.  
From Melody

Hope you don't get scared. Happy living together. Kind regards James

Hope you're not nervous about getting married. Hope nothing goes wrong. Kind regards James

Congratulations on the wedding. Have a lovely life. From Theo

Have a nice wedding and nice wishes. From William

I hope you have a great wedding. Hope nothing goes wrong. Wish you a happy day. Kind regards Alice

Hope you have a great wedding day and all your wishes come true. Kind regards Orla

I hope you have a lovely day at your wedding. I hope it is special and nothing bad happens because it is a really special day. From Natasha

Hope your wedding goes well and you don't get scared. We all hope you have a good life together. Kind regards Ruby

I hope you both have a lovely wedding. I hope both your wishes come true. I wish your wedding goes well. From Millie



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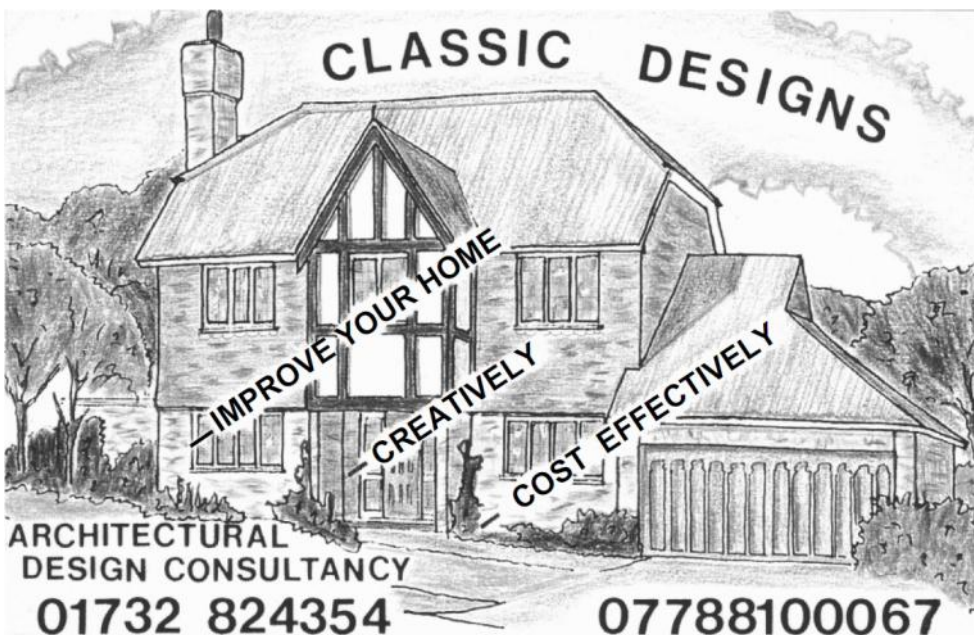
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# Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
<b>READERS:</b>	Peter Downing 01959 522327 Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Brian Raynor 01959 523327 Betty Reed, 01959 523439
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
<b>HONORARY MINISTERS:</b>	David Casiot 01959 522588 Chris Reed 01959 523439
<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>	Derek Shilling 01959 522059 Elaine Wilkins 01959 525533

**Organist and Choirmaster:** Kevin Grafton 01732 452117

**Sacristan:** Tony Grogan 01959 523649

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Derek Shilling 01959 522059

*Hon. Secretary:* Sam Barnett 01959 522153

*Hon. Treasurer:* Janet Hunt 01595 523820

*Freewill Offering Fund:* Brian Beacom 01959 524304

## PARISH OFFICE

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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

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## BELLRINGERS:

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*Secretary:* Janet Whitehead 01959 524088

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Ex-Officio (Deanery Synod): Janet Hunt, Margaret Lidbetter, Pat Mills .