

The Parish of St Bartholomew Church and Village News



June 2012 No 06 Volume 82

50p

www.stbartholomews.co.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

June	8.00am	10.00am		6.30pm
Sunday 3rd Trinity Sunday	Holy Communion	Church Family Worship	Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service (3.30pm)	-
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
Sunday 17th Fathers' Day	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
Sunday 24th	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	CU@5 (5pm)	-

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 the first Sunday when in Church for Church Family Worship.

Sunday Evenings

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP meet 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: Monday

Cover photograph taken by Richard Worssam
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services (see page 40)

Vicar's Viewpoint



The Anglican Church has always had a close relationship with the monarchy. This will be illustrated in the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee celebrations with the service of thanksgiving to be held in St. Paul's Cathedral as a central feature of all the associated national events.

In the context of our country, these close ties go back to the time of Henry VIII and the declaration in 1534 that the English monarch was to be the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. However, in a broader context of Christian life and thought, going right back to Biblical times, there has always been a recognition of the importance of good relations between Church and State. Jesus himself spoke about the need to balance our civic and religious responsibilities with his famous comment, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) In addition, St. Paul gave this advice, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

An ordered and civil society is a wonderful blessing. It is also something that we can easily take for granted. Over the last sixty years the Queen has played an important role in the stability of our society and our national identity. She has done this with a genuine recognition of her authority in the perspective of her status as a servant of God. There is a prayer which we use every week in Church from the Book of Common Prayer Communion Service which encapsulates this succinctly:

"Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite, have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, that she (knowing whose minister she is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all her subjects (duly considering whose authority she hath) may faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey her, in thee and for thee, according to thy blessed word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen"

I hope you will be able to join us for our service of thanksgiving for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday 3rd June (followed by the Big Tea on The Green at 4.30 p.m.

Your friend and Vicar, Richard



DIARY FOR JUNE 2012

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

2 7.30 pm Jubilee Prom! Performed by the Sackville Singers (in Church)

3 Trinity Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Church Family Worship and the Baptism of Robert Simmons

3.30 pm Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

4.30 pm 'The Big Tea' (Village Green)

4 Bank Holiday: Village Fete

5 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Street Parties

6 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party

10 The First Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

**Material for the July magazine by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net**

11 7.45 pm Focus Group: Lindisfarne (17 Leonard Avenue)

8.00 pm Fair Committee meeting ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)

12 8.00 pm Mission Links Committee (52 High Street)

8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

13 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards

8.00 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

17 The Second Sunday after Trinity - Fathers' Day

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Worship

12 noon Baptism of Emily Johnson

6.30 pm Evensong

18 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

19 2.00 pm Afternoon Social Group (Church Centre)

8.00 pm Growing in Faith course - The Sacraments (Church Centre)

20 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

22 6.00 pm Help required at the Church Hall to move tables, chairs, etc. to Castle House

- 23 2.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (Castle House)
- 24 **The Birth of John the Baptist**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Holy Communion and the Baptism of Imogen Gain
5.00 pm C U @ 5
- 25 7.45 pm Coffee & chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 26 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 27 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 30 12 noon Otford School Fete (School ground)



Baptism (Our Welcome)

- 29th April Grace Elizabeth **Hopkins**
6th May Henry Benjamin **Child**
13th May Sophia Daisy Elizabeth **Easton**

Weddings (Our Congratulations)

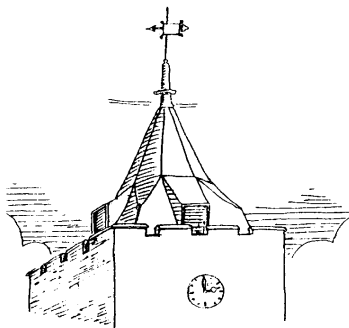
- 28th April Terence Lee **Gayton** and Charlotte Victoria **Berger**
12th May Nicholas Robert Christopher **Power** and Hester Margaret Alban **Davies**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

- 6th May John Denis Robbins

Church Offerings in April

- Open Collections for Charities and Church Expenses.....£ 769.10
Freewill Offering.....£ 10,171.00



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Thank you to Derek Shilling. *The Vicar writes:*

I am very grateful for all that Derek Shilling has done during his nine years as churchwarden. The role and responsibilities of churchwardens are set out in Anglican Canon Law in the following terms: "They shall be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote peace and unity among them. They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service." Derek has certainly done all this with distinction! During the last nine years there have been significant developments in the life of St. Bart's, including the building of the Church Centre, the ministry and retirement of Pat Hopkins, the interregnum leading to my appointment, and the extensive repair work to the tower. Officially, churchwardens are appointed annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, up to a maximum of six years. However, in exceptional circumstances, the APCM can pass a motion to elect a churchwarden for a further period in office. This has been the case for Derek because he has been able to provide strength of leadership and continuity during all these changes and developments. In addition to a public role on Sundays, Derek has done a huge amount of work behind the scenes. As vice-chairman of the PCC he has conducted meetings with clarity and thoroughness. We have greatly benefitted from his expertise as chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which deals with the fabric of churches throughout the diocese. Throughout his time as churchwarden, Derek has served with dedication and commitment. Although he is now stepping down, he will continue to be a member of the PCC (serving as vice-chairman). He will also continue to be involved with the Finance and Standing Committee and the Fabric Committee. Thank you, Derek, for all that you have done, and we look forward to your continuing ministry.

New Churchwardens. I am very thankful that Elaine Wilkins has agreed to serve for a second year as churchwarden. Over the last year we have all been grateful for her warmth of friendship and spiritual wisdom. I also look forward very much to working alongside Mark Holmes who begins his first year as churchwarden. In next month's magazine we'll feature an article introducing Mark.

Other news from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Three members stood down after completing their elected term on the PCC: Colin Fleetwood, Bill Lattimer and Steve Vigis. We are very grateful for all that the retiring members have contributed to the life of St. Bart's during their time on the PCC.

Heather Stanley will continue for an additional three-year term. We are also pleased to welcome back Russell Edwards and to welcome for the first time Mervyn Harris, Neil Inskip and Mags Southgate. We also look forward to having Ben Southgate join the PCC as

a co-opted member in his final year before University. Also Janet Hunt, Margaret Lidbetter and Pat Mills were re-elected as Deanery Synod representatives.

Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

The date for this service is **Sunday, 3rd June at 3.30 pm** followed by **The Big Tea** on the Village Green at 4.30 pm You are warmly invited to join us to celebrate this special occasion in the life of our nation.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR - SATURDAY 23rd JUNE at 2.00 pm

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	Donna Worssam, 525417; 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, 523593
Sweets, small toys or items suitable for children's prizes	Christeen Malan, 522654; Deborah Vigis 523331
Toys, DVD's, CD's	Margie Torry, 524463
White Elephant	Heather Stanley, 523194

There will be the usual Children's Art Competition with the theme, "Memories of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee". Bring your most beautiful rose by 2.30 pm on the day of the Fair (entry 50p) to the small tent and enter the Single Rose competition, 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, 22nd 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 beginning of June.

Storage of Books

Please can anybody offer dry storage for unsold books from the book stall following the Church Fair? Colin Fleetwood would be very pleased to hear from you if you can help (01959 523582).

CHURCH LIFE: ALISON CRAWLEY, BAPTISM VISITOR

I have been a baptism visitor for about two years and my role is to visit the families of babies due to be baptised at St Bart's Church.

Once a request for a baptism has been received, Rev'd Richard Worssam makes an initial visit to arrange a date and to discuss the biblical reasons for baptising a child into the Christian faith. I consider myself to be the 'human link' between the Vicar and the Church.

I often arrive at homes to find that families are expecting a 'serious talk'. In fact what I try to do is befriend families.

We often talk about practical issues, such as what the baby will be wearing on the day, the taking of photographs, the number of guests invited and the choice of Godparents. All families are given a book about baptism in the Church of England. It contains beautiful photographs that sometimes give an opening to discuss the text. For example, we might discuss the qualities families might look for in a Godparent. We also have a brief look at the baptism service itself. Sometimes a family will express an interest in including a favourite poem or a reading, or they may request a prayer that is especially meaningful to them. I really enjoy making these baptism visits - especially having the opportunity to cuddle the babies!

Following on from the visit, I often have email or phone contact with families, especially as the date of the baptism gets closer, to clarify practicalities. I also liaise with Susan Reid in the parish office (who prepares the baptism certificates, the candle which is given to the family and the cards for the Godparents), and meet with Richard to discuss any information relevant to the forthcoming baptism.

On the day of the baptism, I help Richard in preparing the Church, for instance getting the font, water and baptism oil ready. I greet the families and give out orders of service. During the service, guests often ask me for directions to the toilets, or to the place where they can change their baby's nappy! It feels a real privilege to be part of this special occasion of welcoming a child into the Lord's family.

Mark and Clare Spagnoli: We had a very friendly meeting with Alison before our baby Samuel was baptised. We had a question about Godparents that we were able to discuss with her. The church had a very flexible approach to the service, including enabling Clare's Dad, a minister at another church, to perform the baptism.

Jason and Geraldine Gunn: We very much wanted to have Oliver baptised but at the time we were not regular churchgoers. We were introduced to Alison through St Bartholomew's Church. She came to visit us at our home and made the experience very 'approachable'. Alison was able to talk us through the event in a kind and relaxed manner, which was very helpful in making Oliver's baptism the special day that it was. Her role as a facilitator was excellent.



HERO OF THE FAITH....

RICHARD BAXTER 1615-1691

COMMEMORATED 14TH JUNE



Born in Rowton, Shropshire, into a very turbulent century, Richard Baxter was an English Puritan divine who had a great influence on the spiritual life the country. Although he was largely self-taught and never received a university education, he read avidly and was a reflective and fiercely independent thinker.

Throughout his life Baxter suffered from ill health but he wrote that, 'weakness and pain helped me to study how to die, and that set me studying how to live'. In 1638 this led him to be ordained into the Anglican Church. Soon thereafter he grew conscious of some of the weaknesses and failings of the established church and this, combined with his disapproval of Archbishop Laud's intolerance of nonconformity, encouraged him to become allied to the Puritans.

In 1641 Baxter was appointed as preacher attached to St Mary's Church in Kidderminster where huge crowds came to hear his powerful sermons. He became widely famed for his preaching and, except for a short spell during the Civil War when he was chaplain to a Roundhead regiment, he worked selflessly in his ministry in the town for some twenty years. In 1875 a statue of Baxter was erected in Kidderminster bearing the inscription, 'In a stormy and divided age he advocated unity and comprehension pointing the way to the everlasting rest'.

As someone who longed for peace and agreement, Baxter favoured the return of Charles II. After the Restoration, the king initially advocated tolerance for Nonconformists; Baxter was appointed a royal chaplain and was then offered the Bishopric of Hereford which he declined. At the 1661 Savoy Conference, which was called to revise the Prayer Book (it had been suppressed by Cromwell), Baxter was intransigent with regard to amendments he wanted made and even proposed a new alternative liturgy – something that was rejected by the bishops. There then followed the Act of Uniformity (1662) which led to Baxter resigning from the Church of England as he could not swear the oath accepting its wording. Thereafter Nonconformists suffered increased oppression and, in 1685, Baxter was imprisoned for two years by the infamous Judge Jeffreys.

Richard Baxter wrote some two hundred tracts and books, including the extremely popular devotional work, 'The Saints Everlasting Rest' (1650), and 'The Reformed Pastor' (1656). He also wrote poems and hymns; 'Ye holy angels bright' being amongst the best known.

In later life he admitted that in his youth he had been too ready to stir up controversy. He is said to have grown fond of saying, 'In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity'.

Christeen Malan

'Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God for ever.'

REFLECTION ON A FAVOURITE HYMN...

Awake my soul, and with the sun,
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
live this day as if 'twere thy last:
improve thy talent with due care;
for the great day thyself prepare.

Let all thy converse be sincere,
thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
think how all-seeing God thy ways
and all thy secret thoughts surveys.

By influence of the light divine
let thy own light in good works shine;
reflect all heaven's propitious ways
in ardent love and cheerful praise.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Thomas Ken 1637-1711

I was born in 1938 and my parents lived beside a railway line into London. My father was above call up age and worked in London. To make sure I survived German bombs they sent me to Cambridge where both sets of grandparents lived.

I can remember at about four years old asking my grandfather, on a country walk, how he knew there was a God. His reply still lives with me, 'You only have to look at the sky, listen to the birds, look at all the plants growing in the fields and you know there is a God.'

When I woke up, I would creep into bed with my grandmother who was brilliant at telling me bible stories.

Awake my soul and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off thy sloth and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

I have always woken up early and love seeing the days get lighter earlier. In Russell House attic, I regularly jumped out of bed with enthusiasm for the new day and banged my head on the sloping ceiling. I loved each new day and its challenges.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past;
Live this day as if 'twere thy last;
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare.

Living in the school attic I had no commuting time in which to prepare myself. The opening in 1986 of the Sencio swimming pool was my salvation and I was queuing up for it to open at 6.30 in the morning. Twenty lengths of peace with my own thoughts and plans for the day was heaven.

Let thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noon day clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy inner thoughts surveys.

I taught all my life. As a teenager I would go into my mother's school and ex-soldiers often chose teaching after the war. I learned such a lot from them and they loved me to read to their class while they caught up with their marking. In the summer holidays, before I went to college to train as a teacher, I stood in for two weeks in July and again in September for sickly teachers. For these four weeks I received no pay, but I was in heaven with the experience. (Local authorities were different then!)

By influence of the Light divine
Let thy own light in good works shine;
Reflect all heaven's propitious ways
In ardent love and cheerful praise.

After nearly half a century of being involved in school assemblies at the start of the day, I have chosen thousands of hymns to go with readings and prayers. I always found it an inspirational way to begin the working day in a wonderful community spirit and including the Lord's Prayer. As multiculturalism developed, we all still believed in the same God.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This hymn is one of many written by Thomas Ken, 1637 – 1711. During his long life he had exciting and varied experiences including visiting Rome in 1674 with Izaak Walton where he re-confirmed his Anglican faith. In 1684 he travelled to Tangier with Lord Dartmouth, among a group including Pepys who recorded kindly reminiscences about the quality of his services.

He was chaplain to Charles II and made Bishop of Bath and Wells, however in 1688 James II reverted to Catholicism so Thomas was committed to the Tower, but acquitted! He lived in retirement giving him plenty of time to write a large number of hymns and prayers.

He died on 19 March 1711 and at dawn the following day his friends sang this hymn as he was laid to rest in a village church in his old diocese of Bath and Wells.

Elisabeth Lindsay

OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING WI If you wonder what the WI is actually like, do come along. You are under no obligation whatsoever. Meetings are held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. For more details please contact Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887

OTFORD AFTERNOON WI Otford Afternoon's next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14th at 2.00 pm in the Village Hall. If you are interested in joining our WI please contact Kath Larkin on 522355

OTFORD OAST WI meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9.30 am in Otford Village Hall. A crèche facility is provided. For more details please contact Jane Dean on 01732 460512.

STEAMING THROUGH THE 40s.....Are you looking for a fabulous day out of nostalgia and excitement for all the family? Take a look at the Spa Valley Railway website, www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk. to find out more about the 40s weekend on 23rd and 24th June this year.

Building on the success of previous years we are delighted to be able to stimulate your interest with: period steam trains with journeys along the line, people in clothes of the day, period military and other vehicles, forties food and drink and, above all plenty of stalls and activities to create atmosphere, entertain the kids and show us all what life was like then. Although it is too early to guarantee, in past years we have always managed a flypast on the Saturday from one of the 'planes from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

We look forward to seeing you, ideally dressed in period style clothes if you can, at what will be a family, fun filled weekend reliving those wonderful war years.



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: John Edwards–Winsor Parish Clerk: Brenda Hambrook

Tel: 01959 524808

email: parishcouncil@otford.net Web: www.otford.info/parishcouncil

We are all preparing for the forthcoming jubilee weekend in June. You can find the detailed programme of the long weekend's events in the May edition of the Parish newsletter. Some of us are rushing around like headless chickens, but I am assured that "it will be alright on the day" and I am sure that it will be. Fingers crossed for fine weather over the weekend.

You might have noticed the missing duck-house from the pond. Unfortunately it broke free from its moorings in the recent gales and has had to be removed for repairs and a bit of a spring-clean; hopefully it will be ready in time for the jubilee weekend when it will be suitably attired.

Several community projects are waiting on the outcome of funding arrangements with various organisations and unfortunately in these days of austerity there isn't a fall-back situation for most of them as the Parish's coffers are fixed by the budget set in November.

Our Parish Council litter picker Simon cannot be everywhere so if you see any litter outside your house, please don't wait for someone else to pick it up; let's all be responsible and try and keep our village litter-free especially in this Jubilee year. Thank you.

Don't forget there will be a Labyrinth or Maze which will be mown into the grass of Palace Field to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and it will be available for all to walk. The Labyrinth is available to children of all ages from 3 to 93 who will have great fun following its route. Mazes and Labyrinths were a particular favourite of the Tudors and by establishing one at the Palace site we celebrate the Queen's lineage from that mighty dynasty and her association with the first great Elizabethan Age. The positioning of the Labyrinth is also appropriate as Tudor knot-gardens would have once stood here in the Palace's pleasure gardens.

There will be a network of 2,012 Beacons which will be lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom - and we will have one in Otford - as well as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth. As in 2002, The Queen will light the National Beacon, followed by all the participating organisations at their allotted times – ours is at 10.15pm.





DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone: 01732 227000

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://michellelowe.yourcldr.com>

I hope that you enjoyed the May bank holiday long weekend and are looking forward to the many activities that Otford has planned for the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations.

Kent County Council are planning to make a £43 million investment to update the broadband infrastructure in Kent and Medway. They have a target of 90% of homes in Kent being able to get access to superfast broadband and the remaining 10% of homes to get a minimum of 2mbs. If you are interested in receiving faster broadband visit www.makekentquicker.com and register your interest. If people don't demand it, we won't get it.

You maybe interested to know that Village SOS are looking to award grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 (including VAT) for truly enterprising and original community enterprises. So if you have a project for Otford that you think could be eligible for one of these grants, register on the Village SOS website: <http://www.villagesos.org.uk/funding>, read their questions and answers and find out more about community enterprises. Application forms can be downloaded from the site.

To get down to basics, our rubbish collection will be affected over the Jubilee celebrations due to the large number of bank holidays, so the new schedule will be as follows: if your rubbish is due to be collected on

Bank holiday Monday 4 June it will be collected one week later on Monday 11 June

Bank holiday Tuesday 5 June it will be collected the next day on Wednesday 6 June

Wednesday 6 June it will be collected the next day Thursday 7 June

Thursday 7 June it will be collected the next day Friday 8 June

Friday 8 June it will be collected the next day Saturday 9 June

Please put your sacks out by 7am on your rescheduled collection day.

Regarding the not so new yellow lines and posts in the village, Sevenoaks District Council have looked at the positioning of posts, they have moved some of them and insist the rest meet with highway regulations and refuse to move any more - despite my insistence. I can only apologise to any of you who are unhappy with your posts.

Hope to see many of you over the Jubilee weekend. My son is particularly looking forward to the solar system planet walk on Saturday 2 June.

With best wishes

Michelle



KENT POLICE - Working with you in Otford and Shoreham

Local Neighbourhood Officer PCSO Jane Wright – 07772 226036

Dear Resident,

The Sevenoaks district is a safe place to live. However, it's that time of the year when we see an increase in sheds being broken into in the area of Otford and Shoreham. In order to combat this police have stepped up patrols at the times this is most likely to happen. In view of the above I would like to take this opportunity to advise you on some simple steps to reduce the risk of your shed or garage becoming a target.

- Put all property away after use and lock the shed or garage, using the best possible lock you can afford.
- Shed alarms can be fitted quite cheaply and hanging curtains or nets at windows prevents the thief from viewing your property.
- Do you have a clear line of sight to your shed or garage? If not, can trimming bushes and trees rectify this?
- Up and over garage doors can be made more secure by fitting a padlock with a hasp and staple to both sides.
- If your garage is attached to the main building ensure that connecting doors are locked and as secure as external doors.
- Security mark your property with your house number and post code. Details of specific makes, models and serial numbers should be recorded and stored safely. For larger and more distinctive items it is also useful to take photographs to keep with the other details also mentioned.
- All ladders should be locked inside sheds or garages so thieves do not use them to gain access to the rest of the house. If this is not possible, try to chain them up.

Expensive mowers and bicycles should be secured to a fixed object or the floor to make them more difficult to move.

Please don't forget about home security. Remember to keep doors and windows locked and don't leave keys in the lock or on show nearby. At night take all house and car keys upstairs to prevent them being in sight of down stairs windows or letter box. If you are out when it's dark or away for a few days use a time switch to turn lights on at pre-set times. Finally, never let unexpected callers in no matter what excuse they give.

In the area of Otford we have seen a few incidents of fires occurring so can I ask that if you see anyone acting suspiciously near to the area, call us and if possible get a description of the person and / or vehicle. Please do not approach them.

If you would like more advice on how you can make these measures work for you or to find out about security marking your property, shed locks and alarms please contact any member of the Sevenoaks neighbourhood team on 101

Kind regards

PCSO Jane Wright, Otford and Shoreham wards



COMMUNITY CLOSE UP

Focussing on....The Rainbows

On Tuesday afternoons in term time, between the hours of 3.45pm and 4.45 pm, the Church Hall comes alive with the sound of joyful voices and excited laughter as the Otford Rainbows gather together for their weekly session. Wearing their cheerful red uniforms, the little girls bubble with enthusiasm as they participate in songs, lively games and other activities.



Every session begins with the formation of a circle and the singing of the Rainbow Song whose words embody the aims of the organisation; to look, learn, laugh and love. Being a Rainbow is great fun for girls aged five to seven (after which they become Brownies) and the experience helps them not only to learn but also to develop self-confidence and build friendships in a happy and safe environment.

Each term the Otford Rainbows work towards earning a different badge and they also have a varied programme of visits – in the week after my visit PC Paul was going to talk to them about road safety and later in the term a lady was coming to show them Irish dancing. They also have occasional excursions; for example last winter, using money they had raised by helping with the refreshments at the village fete, they went to the pantomime.

The Otford unit comprises fifteen Rainbows divided into three packs (ducks, cats and monkeys) and is energetically led by Heather Linard and her two fellow leaders, Sarah and Diane. They took over the pack in January this year when it was facing possible closure and between them they clearly provide a high point in the young girls' week. Indeed, Rainbows is so popular that there is a waiting list of seventeen (limited to Otford residents) and there would evidently be scope to set up a second Otford unit if a suitable adult felt willing to put herself forward as a leader. I know Heather would be pleased to talk to you about this.

An alternative and less demanding way of helping is to ensure that, when Sainsburys offer 'Active Kids' vouchers, you collect them and hand them in to the Parish Office; in the past these vouchers have enabled the Rainbows and Brownies to pay for outside tuition for activities such as dancing, skipping and cheerleading! The Rainbows and Brownies are very grateful to the Parish Office for the role they play in collecting the vouchers for them.

Heather would also be keen to hear from anyone who has a craft or hobby they would be willing share with the girls.

For more information please contact Heather Linard: 01959 524421 email: the.linards@virgin.net

Christeen Malan with thanks to Heather Linard

FROM THE SCHOOLS

Roman Day at Otford Primary School.

Year 3 travelled to Lullingstone Roman Villa to learn more about the Romans. We all felt extremely excited.

I climbed on the coach and chatted with Rosie until we got there. When we arrived we walked into the villa and started dressing up in Roman clothes and posing in the mirror. We took them off and watched a clip about the villa. Then we made a mosaic, played the Roman board game and went to the shop and did a quiz.



I would recommend Lullingstone Roman Villa if your school topic is the Romans. My favourite bit was the shopping but I also liked looking at the ancient villa. It was as ancient as Egypt.

Mia Wood, Nightingales, Year 3

Adventure Holidays at Russell House School

As part of their "Leavers' Programme", the children of Form 7 went on a five-day residential trip to Wales. Lily and Rose describe the Chum's Challenge:

First we were instructed to smother our faces in mud. Our instructor made sure of that by throwing massive buckets of disgusting water at us! The first challenge was to tiptoe across planks of wood. You had to be careful you didn't slip! The see-saw came next! It was terrifying, because you didn't know when it was going to tip and if you weren't ready you would end up in the mud. Next came the dreaded tyres: our only way to get past them was to belly slide or wriggle through the goo on our stomachs. When we crawled off the tyres there was a sudden SPLASH! The instructor had thrown a bucket load of water at us whilst we weren't looking. The final challenge was another rope quest. At the



entrance was loads of mud, which I think most of us stepped in. We had to climb up another wooden ladder, but what was different about this one was that there were wooden logs above the rope so you either had to go under or over. Once we had got to the end of the final challenge our instructor told us we had to get as muddy as we could, to see if we could beat the other group to see who was the muddiest!

All in all a fantastic trip!

SYMBOLS OF MONARCHY AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

In St. Bartholomew's Church there are various symbols of monarchy. With which monarchs are the following four pictures associated? (*Answers on page 21*)

1



2





3



4

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In these excerpts, we read about a number of new developments in the first few months of Rev. Elder's ministry, including a new youth group, a new library, a revitalised Mothers' Union, and his forthcoming marriage. Some aspects of parish life have a perennial feel to them, such as the Jumble Sale. The Vicarage he mentions is the former one on the Shoreham Road.

August 1924

Arrangements are being made to continue the work of the Mothers' Union in this parish and before long we hope to be ready to have our branch as active as we would like it to be. Those who went to the Festival at Ightham recently must have caught the inspiration which comes from belonging to such a great Society. When our plans are fully matured an announcement will be made and it is hoped that this autumn and winter will see our branch flourishing again.

November 1924

Parishioners will be glad to know that the debt on the Vicarage has now been removed. The support of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance, which lately made us a second grant of £25, in addition to a former grant of £30, and the generous help of people in Otford, have made it possible for us to secure the £100 offered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on condition that another £100 was raised from some other source. This is a great relief to the present incumbent, and it removes from the living a charge upon it of over £20 a year for the next ten years. Most grateful thanks are due to the Parochial Church Council for shouldering this responsibility, and to all those who have so generously given their help.

The Jumble Sale has made a very useful contribution towards the Church Hall, having realized £27. This fine result is due to the thoughtfulness of those who gave articles, and to the splendid management of Mrs. Smart, who was so ably assisted by the ladies who took charge of the stalls.

The Young People's Guild has made a very promising start, and the boys and girls who came the first night seemed to enjoy themselves very much. We still have some of our arrangements to make, but every fortnight the Guild will find some interesting event at the Church Hall.

The Vicar wishes to take this opportunity of announcing his approaching marriage to Miss Dorothy Gertrude Riley, youngest daughter of Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Riley, of Beechin Wood, Platt. The wedding will shortly take place quietly in London.

December 1924

A village library has been started, with a good selection of modern fiction. It is open at the Church Institute on Thursdays from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m. and it is hoped that all over the age of fourteen will find books to suit their taste, and especially the men of Otford. The subscription is 1d. a week for books in Class A., and ½d. for books in Class B, which are intended for those under sixteen.

PUZZLE PAGE

This is a special month for the British Royal family. The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee – 60 years on the throne! 125 years ago this month, Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee. And 30 years ago this month, Prince William was born. This is certainly the month for Union Jacks and street parties as we look back down 60 years of Queen Elizabeth’s reign. What comes to your mind? Royal walkabouts... royal carriages...posies of flowers...Christmas Day broadcasts.... Queen’s Honours Lists... a wreath at the Cenotaph... headscarves... corgis... horses... Garden Parties... always a warm smile... a wave from the balcony of Buckingham Palace?



Royal
Queen
diamond
Victoria
William
Sixty
Union
Jack
Broadcast

Corgi
Walkabout
Smile
Headscarf
Garden
Buckingham
Warm
Wave
Carriage

Flowers
Balcony
Sandringham
Balmoral
Jubilee
Golden
Cenotaph
Wreath
Horses

Answers to the picture quiz
1. The Tudor Rose of Henry VIII
2. The Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
3. The Silver Jubilee of George V
4. The Pomegranate of Catherine of Aragon

FAITH IN ACTION

Pat Dallas, Fundraiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind

I have always enjoyed fundraising and became interested in Guide Dogs for the Blind when I was teaching at Walthamstow Hall Junior School. The mother of two of my pupils was blind and she has now had five guide dogs. She gave me a collecting box and when I went to return it to a committee member, I was invited to the next Guide Dogs meeting. Before I knew it I was on the committee and I gradually took over dealing with the stock which is sold at Guide Dog sales and other events.



It is not always easy to choose what will sell well so, when the new catalogue arrived, I used to ask other committee members to help me make decisions. The soft toys are popular with children and at Christmas time stocking fillers sell well.

Over the years, I have supplemented this stock with homemade Dundee and ginger cakes, fruit loaves and sponges. Pot plants have been another good fundraiser. I have used the seeds of my Busy Lizzies and then grown them in my little heated greenhouse. I was lucky to have a friend who taught at Walthamstow Hall who was given orders for these plants and then she would transplant them to school for me. Since the demise of the Busy Lizzies, I am hoping that the small Begonias and Pelargoniums will become popular.

Our big fundraiser was our coffee morning, which we held annually at Fay Plant's house. This became well known and we usually raised over £1,000 each time.

At the moment there are ten of us on the committee and we have a very good chairman, which I think is very important. Each year the calendar is full of events and we sell at the Otford Fete and the Heavy Horse Show at Shoreham, where we also have good quality bric-a-brac. There is also a big annual flag day and we regularly collect at supermarkets, garden centres and railway stations.

I enjoy working with the other volunteers as there is something very warm and giving about them. Of course I love the dogs as they are so good-natured with everyone and are such fun when they are not actually working. I owned a guide dog for twelve years. She had not passed her final test, which proved to be lucky for me!

Most of the money raised goes towards breeding and training the dogs. This is now about £40,000 for each dog. We have lots of puppy walkers in this area and they look after them from when they are about 8 weeks old until they are 10 months, when they go for more intensive training and then meet their new owners.

I know quite a few blind people who have guide dogs and I think that they are amazing. Therefore, I am delighted to work for this worthwhile charity.

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Lester Electricals	26
PJA Plumbing	26
Chaili Plumbing	27
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R Nunn	27

Cars & Bikes

R&I Autos	38
Westerham Garage	29
Express Factors (car spares)	37
Palmar Motorcycles (bike spares)	37

Catering

Fresh Catering	39
----------------	----

Chimney Sweep

David Fairman	30
---------------	----

Computers

CML Software Solutions	34
Need help with your computer (Prosphero)	34

Disco/Karaoke

The Really Old Skool Disco	41
----------------------------	----

Domestic Appliance Repairs

Trevor's Domestic Repairs	39
---------------------------	----

Education

Longacre Day Nursery	31
Russell House School	32
St Michael's School	32

Estate Agent

Sheffords Chartered Surveyor	34
Ibbett Mosely	33
Willow Residential	33

Flooring

Naos - Stone and wood floors	24
------------------------------	----

Funeral Directors

Welham Jones	35
Dove Funerals	35

Garden Landscaping

Woodstone Landscaping	28
Gardenscape	26
Heritage Landscapes	28

Gas Services

Wicks Gas	38
-----------	----

Hair and Beauty

Milo's Barber's	38
Head to Toe	31

Halls for Hire

Otford Church Hall	29
--------------------	----

Hotel

The Bull Hotel, Wrotham	36
-------------------------	----

Leisure

Darenth Valley Golf Club	39
Sevenoaks Archery Club	31

Pharmacy

Otford Pharmacy	34
-----------------	----

Printing Services

Silver Pines Services	40
-----------------------	----

Scouts

15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scouts	41
--------------------------------	----

Stonemason

Burslem	40
Dignified Memorials	40

Taxi

Space Travel	41
--------------	----

Timber Treatment

Gulliver Timber Treatment	42
---------------------------	----

Treework

Down to Earth	42
---------------	----

Upholstering

Upholsterer - Declan Quigley	43
------------------------------	----

Watch and Clock

MJ Leach	30
----------	----

Water Softeners

Softflo Water Softeners	43
Kemsing Water Softeners	43

Wills and Estate Planning

WILLSEC Ltd	29
-------------	----

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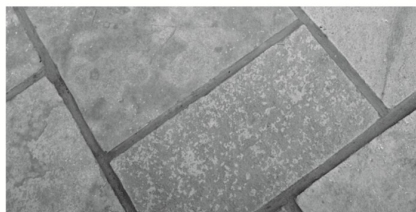
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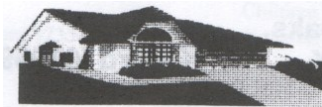
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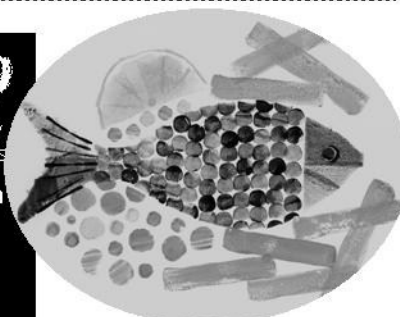
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Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

VICAR:	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
READERS:	Peter Downing 01959 522327 Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Betty Reed, 01959 523439
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
HONORARY MINISTERS:	David Casiot 01959 522588 Chris Reed 01959 523439
CHURCHWARDENS	Mark Holmes 01959 522080 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 01959 523820

Freewill Offering Fund: Brian Beacom 01959 524304

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 10.30am-12.30pm:

Susan Reid,

Clive Southgate

01959 523185

Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Robert Hunt 01959 523820

MAGAZINE

Editorial team: 01959 523185

Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,

Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam

Advertisements: Deborah Vigis 01959 523331

st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton 01732 452117

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YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

'First Steps' (for parents and pre-schoolchildren)

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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 Committee:

Andrew Hill 01732 469538

BELLRINGERS

The Tower Captain: Bobbie Fairclough 01959 522696

Secretary: Janet Whitehead 01959 524088

Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and Churchwardens, Gordon Aylward, Penny Beacom, Chris Bishop, David Calcott, David Crawley, Russell Edwards, Dawn Hallam, Mervyn Harris, Vicki Howie, Neil Inskip, Susan Reid, Ben Southgate (co-opted), Mags Southgate, Heather Stanley, Margie Torry, Susan Wandless.

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