

REORDERING AND REDECORATION

Please note that all services will be held in the Church Centre for the duration of the reordering and redecoration work.

MAGAZINES

Material for the February magazine should be sent to the Parish Office, st.bartholomews@otford.net by Wednesday, 10th January.

JANUARY SOUP LUNCH

Monday 15th January, 12-2.00 pm

Do come along to the next lunch in the Church Centre and enjoy the homemade soup, bread and light dessert. Our coffee-time guest will be Gordon Mungeam. All are welcome. £5 to the mission of St. Bart's. Please sign the list on the book table if you wish to come.

BIBLE READING NOTES

If you would like to order "New Daylight" Bible reading notes for next year, please see Margaret Lidbetter. For a group of 10 or more the annual subscription is £13.50 for 3 issues, May 18th, September 18th and January 2019.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place at Holy Trinity RC Church, Otford, on Sunday, 21st January at 6.30 pm. Please note that there will be no evening service at St. Bartholomew's since we will be joining together with the other churches in our village.

MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church event will take place on Sunday, 28th January at 3.00 pm. An enjoyable afternoon is promised for all who come. It is particularly suitable for families with children up to the age of 11.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday, 7th January Otford Junior Choir, 3-4.00 pm
- Sunday, 21st January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Holy Trinity RC Church, Otford, 6.30 pm
- Saturday, 27th January Burns Night Supper, 7.00 pm (Church Centre)
- Sunday, 28th January Messy Church, 3.00 pm (Church Centre)

OTFORD JUNIOR CHOIR

This takes place this afternoon from 3.00-4.00 pm in the Church Centre and is for children age 8 years and over. Come along and enjoy singing with your friends. For further information contact Chris Bishop on 07746 091517.

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Saturday 27th January - Church Centre 7.00 pm

Do come along for a 3-course Scottish meal with traditional toasts, readings, songs and a table quiz. Make up a table of 8 or apply individually and we will join you with others. Please bring your own drink and advise us of any dietary requirements. Tickets from Vicki Howie (vickihowie@btopenworld.com or 01959 522413). Minimum donation on the night, £20 in aid of church funds.

Please wear something Scottish - if only a token tartan ribbon!

FLOWER ROTA 2018

If you can help to arrange the Sunday flowers during this year, please sign your name on the rota which is on the noticeboard in the Church Centre.

THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, OTFORD



Vicar: Rev. Richard Worssam
tel: 01959 523185
e-mail: Richard.Worssam@tiscali.co.uk
www.StBartholomews.co.uk

WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 7th January 2018

The First Sunday of Epiphany

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Amen.

At the communion services, all who are confirmed or who are full members of other churches are welcome to receive Communion. All others, adults and children, are invited to come forward for a blessing.

TODAY'S SERVICES

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
 Leader and Celebrant: The Vicar
 Preacher: Bill Lattimer
- 10.00 am All Together Worship**
 Leader: The Vicar
 Preacher: Dawn Hallam
- Hymns are printed on the service sheet
- 3-4.00 pm Otford Junior Choir (Church Centre)**
- 6.30 pm Evensong**
 Leader: The Vicar
 Preacher: Bill Lattimer

You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the Church Centre after the 10 am Service

PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

In our cycle of prayer, we pray for the residents in **Shinecroft** and the work of **Sevenoaks Counselling Service**.

OFFERTORY ARRANGEMENTS

There is no plate collection in our services. Please place your offering in the box at the back of the Church Centre for it to be presented and dedicated during the course of our worship. Thank you!

DAILY READINGS

Day	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	89:19-29	1 Samuel 16:1-3, 13	John 1:29-34
Tues	9	Genesis 1:20-2:3	Matthew 21:18-32
Weds	77	Genesis 2:4-end	Matthew 21:33-end
Thurs	21	Genesis ch.3	Matthew 22:1-14
Fri	67	Genesis 4:1-16,25-26	Matthew 22:15-33
Sat	33	Genesis 6:1-10	Matthew 22:34-end

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6 (page 746 OT)

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah speaks of hope beyond darkness. The Israelites are to look towards the time when the age of the Messiah dawns and people of all nations will make their way to Zion. All those who come will be beneficiaries of God's grace.

Ephesians 3:1-12 (page 1174 NT)

In the reading from his letter to the Ephesians Paul expresses the revolutionary idea that God's mission to the world extends beyond the boundaries of Israel. Paul perceives the wider picture and the fathomless extent of God's grace. In the Church of Christ there are to be no divisions which might deny the universality of that grace.

Matthews 2:1-12 (page 966 NT)

In the reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew the visit of the Magi fulfils the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah 60. In Bethlehem there will be born a King who will be superior to all other powers and very different from them. People of all nations, as represented by the magi, will worship him. The gifts brought by the Magi symbolize the nature of that unique King - gold for royalty, frankincense for his priestly ministry and myrrh for his redemptive suffering and death.

VERSES FOR THE WEEK

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday 8th January

Vicar's off-duty day
 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

Tuesday 9th January

9.00 am Morning Prayer
 2.15 pm Magazine Editorial Meeting (The Vicarage)

Wednesday 10th January

9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00 pm Contemplative Prayer (The Vicarage)

Thursday, 11th January

9.00 am Morning Prayer
 7.45 pm Bellringing Practice

Friday 12th January

9.00 am Prayer group
 8.00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday 13th January

6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)

NEXT SUNDAY - 14th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Communion

Leader: Margaret Lidbetter
 Preacher and Celebrant: The Vicar

10.00 am Holy Communion

Leader: Margaret Lidbetter
 Preacher and Celebrant: The Vicar