

PARISH LENT COURSE
COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

In our Lent Course this year members of the Readers and Revs team will be sharing with us reflections on a selection of writers, poets and musicians from across the centuries who have been helpful companions for them at various times in their own journeys of faith. The sessions will not just focus on the authors and composers, but will also have a personal element, sharing stories about particular events or circumstances when they were especially significant and helpful. The aim is that as we are introduced to these fellow companions of faith we may also want to try journeying with them for a while.

The Parish Lent Course will be held on five Tuesday evenings in Lent, **20th February-20th March from 8.00-9.30 pm** in the Church Centre.

- 20th Feb Mags & Ben Southgate
Dietrich Bonhoeffer & Rend Collective
- 27th Feb Bill Lattimer
Biblical poetry & Gerard Manley Hopkins
- 6th March Dawn Hallam - Rob Bell
- 13th March The Vicar - Margaret Silf
- 20th March Chris Reed - Paul & his letters

FELLOWSHIP MEETING AT OTFORD METHODISTCHURCH HALL
You are invited to join our friends at Otford Methodist Church Hall this Wednesday, 21st February at 2.30 pm. After a brief look at the music for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service, to be held on 2nd March, the speaker, will give an update on the work of Hospices of Hope. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

MID-MARCH SOUP LUNCH

The next Soup Lunch will be on Monday, 12th March in the Church Centre from 12-2.00 pm. Do come along to join friends and enjoy the homemade soup and bread, followed by a light dessert. Our coffee-time guest will be Reader Dawn Hallam who will chat with Nick Page about her work in the NHS and with young people in the Church. Minimum donation: £5.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This service will be held on Friday 2nd March at 2.00 pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford. The service will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome to this ecumenical event.

AN EVENING WITH TERRY WAITE
Saturday 19th May, 6.30 pm

To mark the completion of our re-ordering and redecoration project, we will be welcoming Terry Waite to Otford for a special evening on Saturday 19th May at 6.30 pm when he will be in conversation with former BBC broadcaster, Nick Page. This will be followed by a reception with canapes and Terry's books will be available to be bought and signed. Tickets for this evening are now available from the Church Office and Joan Beacom, price £20.

As the international envoy for the Archbishop of Canterbury during the 1980s, Terry Waite successfully negotiated the release of British hostages, first from Iran and then from Libya. Then, when trying to do the same in Lebanon he was himself taken captive and held for nearly five years, most of that time in solitary confinement.

SCOUT QUIZ NIGHT

The two Scout groups (Tonbridge and Otford) are holding a Charity Quiz Night on Saturday, 10th March, 7.30 pm start at 2nd Tonbridge HQ in the The Ridgeway, Tonbridge, TN10 4NL. Teams should consist of up to 6 people at a cost of £3 per person, along with a raffle prize. Contact Graham Still, Assistant Scout Leader at Kazakova3@aol.com if you are interested in forming a team.

A CONCERT OF CHORAL MUSIC BY VOCE
VOICES OF CAMBRIDGE ENSEMBLE

Saturday 21st April, 7.30 pm

We are delighted to welcome back this group of former choral scholars (including choir member Mark Holmes) from Trinity College, Cambridge and friends who will sing music from across the centuries. Do come with your friends to hear this talented choir on a Spring evening in our newly refurbished church!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, 2018

Details of the thought-provoking Christian Aid Lent programme can be found at caid.org.uk/lent. As we think of Jesus in the wilderness, we are called to remember people around the world who are going through their own wilderness experiences, and we are invited to help in small but significant ways.

THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, OTFORD



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WELCOME TO
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 18th February 2018

The First Sunday of Lent

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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:	Mags Southgate
10.00 am	Morning Worship	
	Leader:	The Vicar
	All-Age talk:	Dawn Hallam
	Preacher:	Mags Southgate
	Hymns:	227, 72, 324, 325
6.30 pm	Evensong	
	Leader:	The Vicar
	Preacher:	Keith Lawrey
	Psalm 51 (page 409)	Hymns: 67, 70, 333

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

PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

This week we pray for the **residents in Tudor Drive and for the work of The Bible Society.**

OFFERTORY ARRANGEMENTS

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

DAILY READINGS

Day	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	43	Genesis 41:25-45	Galatians 3:23-4:7
Tues	48	Genesis 41:46-42:5	Galatians 4:8-20
Weds	119:57-80	Genesis 42:6-17	Galatians 4:21-5:1
Thurs	42	Genesis 42:18-28	Galatians 5:2-15
Fri	22	Genesis 42:29-end	Galatians 5:16-end
Sat	63:1-8	Genesis 43:1-15	Galatians ch.6

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17 (page 10 OT)

Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness was preceded by his baptism which marked the inauguration of his public ministry. This was characterised by his proclamation of the good news of God. Our Old Testament reading picks up these twin themes - the story of the flood gives a perspective on the meaning of baptism, washing away sins and regrets and allowing a fresh start with God; the covenant that God established with all creation is one of blessing.

1 Peter 3:18-end (page 1219 NT)

In his first epistle, Peter makes a link between the story of Noah and the flood and one way of interpreting the significance of baptism. Through baptism, God makes a new covenant with us all; we identify with Christ's death and resurrection, and the hope of heaven that awaits us.

Mark 1:9-15 (page 1002 NT)

At the start of Lent we reflect on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness at the beginning of his public ministry. The period of 40 days echoes other occasions in the Bible when God was at work in the lives of significant leaders of the Israelites, e.g. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai at the start of the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness; during this time he received the Ten Commandments. After a confrontation with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, Elijah travelled for 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Mount Horeb; here he was recommissioned by God and strengthened in his service. As a result of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness he gained clarity regarding his life's work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and how he would tackle difficulties and temptations along the way.

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14-15

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday 19th February

Vicar's off-duty day
 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
 8.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee ('Burway')

Tuesday 20th February

9.00 am Morning Prayer
 8.00 pm Parish Lent group (Church Centre)

Wednesday 21st February

9.30 am 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 7.45 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

Thursday 22nd February

9.00 am Morning Worship

Friday 23rd September

9.00 am Prayer group
 7.30 pm Bellringing practice
 8.00 pm Choir practice

NEXT SUNDAY - 25th February

The Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Preacher and Celebrant: The Vicar

10.00 am Holy Communion

Leader: Margaret Lidbetter
 Preacher and Celebrant: The Vicar