

# St Bartholomew's Church

## Otford Parish News



June 2019

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

£1

## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

June	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
2nd June 7th Sunday	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
9th June Pentecost <i>Whit Sunday</i>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
16th June Trinity Sunday Fathers' Day	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
23rd June 1st Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-
30th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Messy Church	-

**SUNDAY CLUB (FOR AGES 0-14) INFANT: 3-7**

**JUNIOR: 8-11**

**SENIOR: 12-14**

**First Steps** for toddlers and their carers meets on alternate Wednesdays during term time. For more details please contact Najen Harris, 01959 522813.

**EPIC** (for school years 5-7) meets on the 2nd Saturday in the month, 6-8 pm in the Church Centre.

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

**HOLY COMMUNION** Every Wednesday 10.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

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

**Vicar's off duty day:** Monday

Cover photo: The baptism of Finlay Hobbins King with his mother, Emily, standing by  
(Steve Moralee)

Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 06 Volume 89

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



With this edition of the magazine comes the news of my appointment as the next Vicar of Pembury. I'm now in my 12th year here in Otford, and so this move comes as a significant turning point. It will lead into my final chapter of stipendiary ministry.

One of the images I find helpful is that of being on a journey. In the New Testament we find that one of the words that the first Christians used to describe themselves was as pilgrims. A pilgrimage is a sacred journey to a holy place with an awareness of God's presence and guidance. We are all on a pilgrimage of faith that is marked in its earlier stages by our baptism and continues through life until we reach our heavenly home. This image comes out clearly in the baptism service, especially in the words the minister says to those who have just been baptised: "In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey. Together with all God's people you must explore the way of Jesus and grow in friendship with God, in love for his people and in serving others."

These words begin with the recognition that it is a shared journey. As I look back over the years we've been in Otford, we've certainly come a long way together. I invite you to pause for a moment now and think of some of the milestones in life you may have experienced since 2008.

In our own family, this is clearly illustrated in both our younger and older generations. When we first came to Otford, Christopher and Matthew were just 14 & 12 and pupils at Dartford Grammar School. Now they have both been through school and university and are following their own career paths, Christopher at the British Embassy in Washington, and Matthew doing research in Cambridge into the treatment of heart disease.

With regard to the older generation, when we came in 2008 my parents were both active in many clubs and societies in Otford and they were regular members of St. Bart's. But my mother died in 2016 and my father now needs the care available in a residential home.

As a parish we've been on a journey, marked in many different ways. In terms of church members, the ministry of baptisms, weddings and funerals has marked significant events in the lives of individuals and families. It has been a privilege to be alongside parishioners in these poignant occasions. In terms of our youth ministry, it has been a joy to see how those who were in Sunday Club and YPF when we first came are now involved in Christian leadership and service in different ways. In terms of church fabric, I rejoice in the completion of the re-ordering and the new facilities with which we are now blessed.

In the Bible there are many different journeys which are recorded as individuals and groups sought to be faithful to God's leading. We can think of Abraham setting out from Ur of the Chaldees to Canaan, via Haran; there is the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness, from Egypt through to Palestine; several centuries later there is their journey from Babylon where they've been in exile back to their homeland; in the Gospels there is Jesus' journey to Jerusalem; and in the much of the New Testament we read of Paul's missionary journeys. In every case, those involved learned more about God's purposes and his faithfulness along the way.

So now we're on another stage of our own journeys. I'm very grateful for what we've shared along the way. My last Sunday here will be on 25th August, and I'll be instituted and inducted at Pembury on 19th September. Until then there is much to do, and I look forward to seeing you at the various summer events and special services coming up over the next couple of months.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

## DIARY FOR JUNE 2019

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

*From 30th May to 8th June (with the exception of Sunday), Morning Prayer will be said each morning at 9 am as part of the "Thy Kingdom Come" programme*

- 1      9.00 am      Churchyard Working Party
- 2      **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
      **8.00 am      Holy Communion**  
      **10.00 am     All Together Worship**  
      **12 noon      Baptism of Rowan Peake**  
      **6.30 pm      Evensong**
- 3      7.45 pm      Homegroup(17 Leonard Avenue)
- 5      9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)  
      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards
- 6      8.00 pm      Readers and Revs (10, Flowerfield)
- 7      2.15 pm      Magazine Editorial Team (The Vicarage)
- 8      6.00 pm      EPIC (Church Centre)
- 9      **Pentecost/Whit Sunday**  
      **8.00 am      Holy Communion**  
      **10.00 am     Holy Communion**
- 10     **Magazine material for the July/August edition by today, please, to the Church Office,  
st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 10     7.45 pm      CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 11     8.00 pm      Homegroup (Park Farm House)
- 12     10.00 am     Holy Communion (BCP)
- 14     2.30 pm      Memorial service for Michael Till  
      6.30 pm      Help required to move tables, etc. for the Church Fair
- 15     **2.00 pm      St. Bartholomew's Church Fair on The Green and surrounding areas  
(BBQ from 1.30 pm)**
- 16     **Trinity Sunday**  
      **8.00 am      Holy Communion**  
      **10.00 am     Morning Worship and the Baptism of Edie Ashworth**  
      **6.30 pm      Evensong**
- 17     7.45 pm      Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 18     1.30 pm      Interment of the ashes of Wayne Revell
- 19     9.30 am      'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)  
      10.00 am      Holy Communion (BCP) refreshments afterwards  
      7.45 pm      Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)
- 22     4.00 pm      Woolwich Readers' Association Summer Pilgrimage - visit to Otford

**23 The First Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

24 10.00 am Russell House Community Concert (collection from Church Car Park)

7.45 pm Cameo

25 8.00 pm Homegroup (Park Farm House)

8.00 pm Fabric Committee (Church Centre)

26 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

**30 The Second Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Morning Worship**

**3.00 pm Messy Church**



*Registers*



**BAPTISM (Our Welcome)**

12th May Finlay Graeme **Hobbins King**

26th May Ethan William **Chilman**

**WEDDINGS (Our Congratulations)**

4th May Colin George **Anderson** and Penelope Sarah **Beacom**

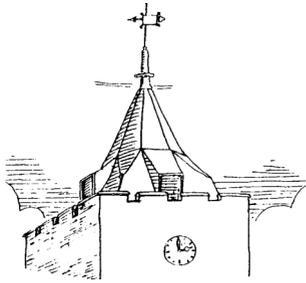
25th May Martin James **Boniface** and Emma Louise **Torry**

**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

16th April Frederick Arthur **Holmes** (aged 87)

22nd April Peter **Ford** (aged 81)

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT

The Bishop of Rochester and the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford are pleased to announce that the Revd Richard Worssam, will be the next Vicar of St Peter's, Pembury, subject to completion of the usual legal formalities. Richard and Donna are very grateful for their eleven years here in Otford, for ministry shared and friendships made. Their last Sunday will be 25<sup>th</sup> August, and Richard will be instituted and inducted at St. Peter's Pembury on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Richard and Donna would very much value your prayers at this time.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC

At the APCM on 28th April, Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt were re-appointed as Churchwardens. We are very grateful for all that they do for our church.

Four members stood down after completing their elected term of three years on the PCC: Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Mags Southgate and Nick Page. We thank them for all that they have contributed to the life of St. Bart's during their time on the PCC.

We are pleased to welcome Sam Barnett, Jocelyn Hart, Martin Lea and Emma Peters who were elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

We also welcome Jason Gunn who was elected for one year as our third representative on the Deanery Synod.

### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We are very grateful to all those who came last month to help in the Churchyard and we look forward to seeing everyone again on **Saturday, 1st June from 9.00-11.30 am**. If anyone can help for an hour or two it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools too!

### ST.BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

**Saturday, 15th June, 2-4.00 pm**

The Church Fair will be held on Saturday, 15th June on The Green and the surrounding areas. There will be the usual array of stalls and attractions. Books (Marianne Bradnock, 01959 928455), Bottles, Craft (Sylvia Grafton), Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves (Susan Reid 523234), New Gifts (Mags Southgate), Plants (Sue Stephenson), Raffle (Julie Hill), Sweets, small toys or items suitable for children's prizes (Christeen Malan), Teas (Joan Beacom), Toys (Margie Torry), White Elephant (Heather Stanley).

The fair opens at 2 pm, but there will be refreshments available on the Green from 1.30pm. Proceeds of the day will go to support the mission and ministry of St. Bartholomew's so please book the date in your diary and come and support the church.

**A BBQ will be available at lunch time from 1.30 pm.**

Anyone willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Andrew Hill (01732 469538) or the Parish Church Office (523185).

Assistance with setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. Help is also required on the day to serve and wash up in the Church Centre. Please contact Joan Beacom, 524304.

Programmes, price £1, will be on sale from the beginning of June. Enter the Lucky Programme competition by entering your details on the front of the programme and placing it in the box inside the Church Centre by 2.30 pm on the day.

### **MESSY CHURCH**

The next Messy Church will be held on Sunday 30th June, 3.00 pm in the Church Centre and is suitable for children up to the age of 11. Do come along for some messy fun!

### **SOUP LUNCH: ADVANCE NOTICE**

The next Soup Lunch will be on Monday, 15th July in the Church Centre, 12-2.00 pm. Suggested donation of £5. The speaker will be Philip Bowcock.

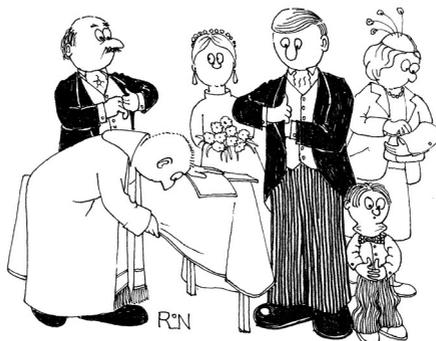
### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WEEKEND 2019**

St. Bart's will be running a youth and children's weekend from 12th-14th July at Kench Hill,

Tenterden for anyone over 8. Cost £40/person. Leaflets are now available at the back of church. For more information please ask Claire, Dawn, Donna, Mags or Russell.

### **THY KINGDOM COME 30th May - 8th June**

The period between Ascension Day (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost (50 days after Easter) is set aside as a time in the Church's calendar to focus on the work of the Holy Spirit. This is in anticipation of the celebration of Pentecost which marks both the gift of the Holy Spirit and also the birth of the Church with its empowerment to share the Gospel throughout the world. In recent years, with the encouragement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Anglican Church has highlighted this period with special events and programmes. In our parish we'll be setting aside half an hour each morning (with the exception of Sunday) for Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel from 9am to 9.30am, focusing on the lectionary readings which highlight different aspects of the Holy Spirit. You are warmly invited to join us.



*There was a hold up while they looked  
for the pen*

## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### June: The joy of helping!

#### Bible story: Nehemiah rebuilds the walls

Nehemiah is Mr Helpful! He likes to help anyone who is in trouble.

Nehemiah lives in Babylon where he helps the emperor by looking after his wine. He even tastes the wine - gulp - to make sure that it is good enough for the emperor to drink. That's a very important job!



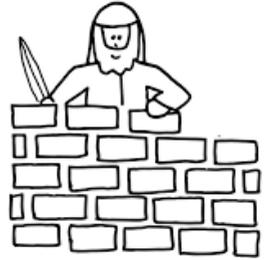
One day, a friend comes to visit Nehemiah. He is feeling sad. He tells him that the city walls in Jerusalem are all broken down. It's a disgrace! They need building up again in order to keep the people safe from their enemies.

Hmm! I wonder who can help to build the walls again? Any ideas? Who? Oh YES, of course! Nehemiah! Mr Helpful! But, oh dear! Will the Emperor let him go? What do you think?

Nehemiah says a prayer. Dear God, PLEASE let the Emperor say YES! Amen. Then he waits and waits. And at last the Emperor asks Nehemiah what is troubling him . . . Oh, I see, . . . Well, YES! You can go to mend the walls in Jerusalem. Here's a passport and some timber. My soldiers will keep you safe on the journey. Goodbye! Have a safe trip!

When Nehemiah reaches Jerusalem, he borrows a donkey. Then he rides all around the broken down walls. The rubble and rubbish is SO bad that the poor donkey can hardly step through it. Hee, haw! It is a disgrace!

So the next day, Nehemiah calls on the people of Jerusalem. Come on, everyone! God wants us to mend the broken walls together! It's a difficult job but he will give us the strength to do it!



Good work! Nehemiah has organized everyone into teams and they are working on different parts of the wall. But wait a minute! Who's this coming to make fun of them? It's Nehemiah's enemy, Mr Unhelpful!



He points and laughs. What a pathetic wall! Even a fox could break through that wall!

But nobody takes any notice of Mr Unhelpful. He's no help at all! They just keep on working and they sing a song to help them along. Nehemiah asks a bugler to sound the alarm if he spots the enemy and he gives every workman a sword to strap at his side.

When the walls are finished, Nehemiah tells everyone what a wonderful job they have done. Well done all you children, Mums, Dads, families, villagers and priests. Look what we can do when we work together! Let's praise the Lord for helping us to rebuild the walls.

Then everyone gathers safely in the city square to listen to the Bible. They say sorry to God that they have broken his laws in the past. But Nehemiah - Mr Helpful - encourages them. This is a happy day! Go home and have a feast, but don't forget to share it with those who have little. God's joy will make you strong!

**Just for parents:** Building a strong and happy family can sometimes seem like an impossible task! The story of Nehemiah shows us that God can give us the strength to keep going and to achieve great results! Perhaps we can imagine him as the cement, binding us building blocks together!

It is natural for young children to test the boundaries by refusing to co-operate at times. As parents, we need to be kind but firm, so that they understand that we mean what we say. Children will feel much happier and safer in the long run if they know where the boundaries lie.



**The Bible story:** Tell and then play the story of Nehemiah using toy bricks with young children or construction toys

with older ones. Wonder about it together:

Can you remember what job needed doing in the story?

I wonder how Nehemiah felt when he saw all the broken walls

I wonder how the people of Jerusalem felt safe without a strong wall around them

Shall we work as a team and build the bricks into a wall together?

I wonder what things you like helping with the best

I wonder who can give us the strength to be helpful

Tell your children how much you love it when they help you and praise them for a recent time when they did so. Talk about the joy we can feel in helping others.

**Toddler meal times:** Young children are more likely to eat if they are part of a relaxed family meal around the table. If they see everyone enjoying foods they will want to try them too.

Make a healthy Humpty Dumpty tea - time finger snack. Use a cracker or a slice of bread for the wall, sliced cucumber or cress for grass, and slices of orange/carrot for the sun. Cut an oval Humpty Dumpty shape out of a slice of cheese, add strips for his arms and legs and berries or currants for his features.

**In praise of toddlers!** Young children often go through a phase of saying "No!" to everything. Make a big fuss of them when they are helpful and make a point of praising them in front of a relative or friend. Be brisk and give less attention when they are unhelpful.

**Prayer:** Talk about the things you did to help each other or others today.

Dear God, Thank you that Joshua/Mum helped to . . . Thank you, God, that you are there helping us all the time. Nothing is impossible with you! **Amen**

Vicki Howie





## IN MEMORIAM



### **Doreen Chambers, 1929 - 2019**

Doreen was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1929 in Sidcup, the third in a family of five children. She was only 10 when the Second World War broke out and was evacuated to Chinnor in Oxfordshire.

On leaving school, Doreen's first job was working in a Post Office which was located in a paper shop. She then worked in office administration for a chain of clothing shops known as "Richard Shops" in London.

Doreen met her husband, Dick, at a dance one Saturday evening in Sidcup. They got married on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1951, at Holy Redeemer Church, Lamorbey in Sidcup. At first they lived with Dick's mother in Sidcup.

Doreen got a job with Rank, based at Crittalls Corner. She ran the wages office and continued there until her retirement.

From Sidcup, Dick and Doreen moved to Orpington, where they lived for 6 years. It was in the early 1960s that Dick and Doreen moved to Otford. They knew the area from cycling around here. They were attracted by its quietness and peacefulness. Having moved to Otford, Dick and Doreen would travel in to work together by car in the mornings and in the afternoon Doreen would catch the train home from St. Mary Cray.

Dick retired at the age of 60 in 1986 and Doreen took this as her cue to retire also – she was 57 at the time.

Doreen had a number of interests. In earlier years, she and Dick used to cycle together on a tandem. They covered long distances, even

cycling to the West Country, Wales and as far as Scotland. They would stay in B&Bs or pubs along the way.

Doreen was very proud of her nieces and nephews and their achievements and was always there (along with Dick) to support and cheer them on. She made life fun and was always full of advice. The family had many fabulous days out. One traditional summer outing was to St. Mary's Bay on the Kent coast. Over the years, Dick and Doreen's distinctive pink tent (it looked like a giant pram hood) became a familiar sight on the beach. It was still in use when the great nieces and nephews came along!

In later years Doreen and Dick travelled further afield. On one memorable trip they flew to Egypt on Concorde. They also travelled to Spain, across the Atlantic to America and Canada, visiting New York, New England and the Niagara Falls.

At home, Doreen loved her garden. She spent many happy hours in it and enjoyed going to garden centres. She was also good at dress making and was adept at doing alterations for her and the rest of the family's clothes. Many a Sunday afternoon the sewing machine came out to alter some garment that needed taking up or taking in. In addition, Doreen was an accomplished cook. There were always lovely homemade things to eat in her kitchen and her legendary Christmas cake recipe has now found fame all over England!

Having lived in her bungalow in Sidney Gardens for over 50 years, Doreen was very familiar with village life. She will be missed by family and friends alike.



## IN MEMORIAM



### **Fred Holmes, 1931 - 2019**

Fred was born in 1931 and together with his two older sisters he spent his early childhood in Southwark. The Second World War brought great disruption and family tragedy into his life. His father was killed while working as an ARP warden. Fred was evacuated to Worthing, where his grandfather was killed by strafing from a low-flying German aircraft. Fred was then evacuated to Reading where the school he attended was bombed. He was then sent to Peterborough.

After the war Fred returned to London where he trained as a mechanical apprentice. In 1949 he joined the Radar Research and Development Establishment at Malvern as an electronics apprentice. He did well in his course and he was given the opportunity to continue his studies in electronic engineering at Imperial College, London. After his exams he was invited to become a lecturer, but he had to return to Malvern as part of his contract with the MoD.

It was at the Radar Establishment that Fred met his wife, Margaret, who worked in the tracing office. They got married on 28th December 1951 when Fred was just 20, and Margaret was 21. Their three children, Sally, Jon and Debra were all born in Malvern.

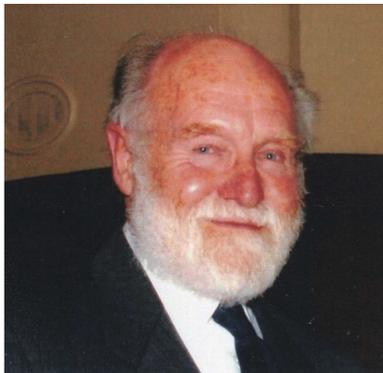
In 1961, Fred was posted to Washington where he worked as a scientific advisor at the British Embassy. The family lived in America for three years. In the summers they would enjoy long road trips visiting many National Parks along the way. In 1964 they returned to Malvern.

It was in 1976 that Fred was transferred to Fort Halstead. At first he rented a room in a house in Greenhill Road, and then in 1978 he bought

the house which thereafter became the family home. Fred finished his career working in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.

On his retirement at the age of 57 Fred took up a whole range of interests. In his earlier years he was a member of the Civil Service Motoring Association and he built and raced his own mini. He was a keen photographer. He was very practical and adept at carpentry, plumbing and heating. He maintained an active lifestyle in retirement, taking up canoeing and cycling. He helped with disabled-access sailing at Chipstead Lake (for which he received an award from Princess Anne) and he served as the Commodore of the Sailing Club. Fred was also a member of the U3A and Probus, and he was involved in emergency planning for the district.

Sadly, Margaret died in 2013, but Fred continued to live at home, doing all the home maintenance for as long as he could. Over the years his family grew to include 7 grandchildren and he took a keen interest in what they did. He will be remembered as one who made the most of life, doing everything to the best of his ability.



## IN CONVERSATION WITH ...CLIFF WARD

### Church member and Chairman of the Otford and District Historical Society

Cliff was born in June 1935 in a nursing home on top of Shooters Hill, South East London – an area once favoured by Dick Turpin. Both his grandfathers worked at Woolwich Arsenal and Cliff's father was an engineer who, in 1938, joined the Ministry of Defence and was tasked with setting up the Ministry of Supply in Central London; he was largely involved with tank production throughout and after World War II.

An only child, Cliff grew up in upper Barnehurst near Bexley. He had a good childhood and has especially fond memories of trips to his mother's cousin's farm in Norfolk. Cliff has always loved animals, especially dogs: his parents had an Airedale, a Scottie and an Alsatian, and he and Elizabeth have owned a succession of collies.

To escape from London during the war, Cliff and his mother moved to Oxfordshire for about a year, returning to Barnehurst in 1941. Meanwhile the neighbouring house had been completely demolished by a bomb. Cliff joined the local Cub group and earned all twelve of the possible badges. He later joined the Scouts, and then the Senior Scouts where he attained the Queen's Scout Award in her coronation year.

After the return to Barnehurst, for the next three years there were frequent night raids by the Luftwaffe and the family would often resort to sheltering behind the chimney breast and an armchair, or in an air-raid shelter in the garden. In September 1944 one of the Doodlebugs regularly passing overhead landed on the trolleybus depot a quarter of a mile away

destroying 77 buses and shattering glass in the windows of the Wards' home. The school Cliff attended had also been bombed leaving just two classrooms which were then supplemented by temporary buildings, 'two chicken huts on stilts', each having to house three classes of children. Cliff doesn't remember feeling afraid saying, 'it was just part of life'.

Cliff's love of books began with a copy of Arthur Ransome's Swallowdale given to him by his aunt and read to him behind the armchair during raids. He then joined his local library and has been a library member ever since. Currently the Wards estimate that they have some 6000 books in their house! Cliff attended Dartford Grammar School and participated in the school CCF. He became disillusioned with the army section so a friend persuaded him to join the RAF section where he learned to glide before he could drive a car!

At 17 Cliff joined H M Customs and Excise but was soon called up for National Service. After basic training, he was sent by the RAF on a Mandarin language course at SOAS for a year. He was then dispatched to Hong Kong where he worked as a translator, accumulating his leave for a three week trip around Japan, travelling by cargo ship.

Cliff then returned to Customs and Excise where he specialised in excise in a role which took him across South East England visiting breweries, manufacturers, the fashion business and ITN to name but a few. In 1973, after the UK joined the EEC, Cliff was assigned to a training function – covering the move from purchase tax to VAT. Two years later he helped to harmonise spirit duties to Common Market requirements before taking on another training role. He then moved to Tunbridge Wells to manage a VAT team

before transferring to Gatwick Airport as a shift manager in Customs; a very interesting job and his last before retirement in 1994. Not one to be idle, Cliff added that, 'Otford has filled my waking moments ever since!'



Cliff first met his wife, Elizabeth, on Otford station when she was in her last term of school. They were immediately drawn to each other and became friends; it only became more serious when Cliff invited her

to accompany him to ballroom dancing classes! The Wards married in 1963 in St Mary's Church, Kemsing, then moved to Crowborough to begin family life. Their son, Gavin, was born in 1965 and their daughter, Helen, in 1968. In 1988 Cliff's mother, who had lived since 1955 in one of the first houses to be built in Coombe Road, Otford, became incapacitated so the Wards moved in to look after her. After she died they continued to live in the house. They now have three grandchildren scattered across the world.

In his childhood Cliff attended the local Methodist Church with his parents and regularly went to Sunday school. He has been a churchgoer all his life and he and Elizabeth

attended the United Church in Crowborough for 25 years. On moving to Otford, the Wards first went to the Methodist Church where Cliff was a communion steward. However the changing style of services led to a decision to transfer to St Bartholomew's. They now enjoy attending the Wednesday morning service and also act as sidesmen at Evensong.

Turning to his other interests, Cliff told me that his first love, after Elizabeth, is archaeology and that he is a longstanding Council Member of the Kent Archaeology Society. The Wards started an archaeological group in Otford in 1965 which continues to this day. Cliff has been a member of the Otford and District Historical Society since 1957 and its chairman for about the last ten years. In 1997, when the Parish Council bought School House, the Wards founded a heritage centre on the top floor which has since expanded greatly. They are both members of the Gardeners' Society and Cliff has always enjoyed singing, a talent he inherited from his father. He sings with the Shoreham Singers, and the Kemsing Singers with Elizabeth. He is also interested in local history, railways, ships, miniature scale modelling, art, conservation and ecology!

*Christeen Malan*



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

I am both honoured and delighted to have been elected as your new District Councillor, along with John Edwards-Winsor, at the local elections in May. I am genuinely excited to be joining our multi award-winning District Council and to be working alongside such a talented team.

Of course, I have some sizeable shoes to fill, as I am sure you will all agree, Michelle will be a hard act to follow. In her 12 years on the Council Michelle accomplished a great deal, including winning a national award for her 'Wellbeing Starts at Home' initiative and services to the community. I am sure I speak for everyone when I wish her well in her next challenge with the Shaw Trust.

I have lived in the Parish of Otford with my husband and children for nearly 20 years. With a little more time on my hands as the children became more independent, I joined Otford Parish Council where I have been an active member since 2015. Many of you will be aware of the work I have carried out on traffic management for the Parish Council and this will continue alongside my new role on the District Council.

Attending my first election count was both very exciting and extremely tense; as with many wards across the District, Otford and Shoreham received an unusually large number of mixed votes so the count was not at all clear cut. The final outcome is that the composition of the Council remains largely unchanged which, especially in the context of national results, is a resounding endorsement of its strong local record and performance.

Since the election, I have been on a steep learning curve getting to grips with my new role. In the next few weeks I will be assigned to various committees on the District Council where I hope to be making decisions along with other Councillors that will improve the lives of local people. My primary focus as District Councillor will be to serve the residents of Otford and Shoreham and to make sure that their voice is heard on the District Council. Top of the agenda will be protecting the Greenbelt to maintain the distinction between town and country and to preserve the identity of our rural villages.

I very much look forward to representing the residents of Otford and Shoreham and if you have any local issues, or other concerns, you would like to discuss, or have raised on your behalf with the Council, please do get in touch.

*Cllr Irene Roy*  
*cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk*  
*Tel: 01959 525610*



## RECIPE FOR JUNE

### Date, Apple and Walnut Loaf

June means the Church Fair and the cake stall! The stall always has an amazing array of cakes, provided by generous contributors. This recipe is for a very easy loaf cake.

4oz margarine or butter  
4oz chopped walnuts  
6 oz soft brown sugar  
3 oz chopped dates  
2 eggs  
1 apple, peeled and chopped  
8 oz self-raising flour  
3-4 tablespoons milk  
pinch of salt

Line a 2lb loaf tin and pre-heat the oven to 180°. Use an electric mixer to combine the butter, sugar, eggs, flour and salt. Stir in the walnuts, dates and apple. Add milk to bring to a soft dropping consistency.

Cook for around an hour or until the loaf is springy and a skewer comes out clean.

*Hilary Fothergill*



## OUT AND ABOUT



### OTFORD-NEUFCHATEL- HARDELOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

If you would like to host our Hardelet Twins the weekend of 27/29th September 2019 and/or join the coach trip to Hampton Court on Saturday 28th September please contact Jane Lawrey c/o [clerk@otfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@otfordpc.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Remember that you would be welcome to join the car-sharing visit to Hardelet on the weekend of 6/8th July if you would like to explore the coast between Boulogne and Le Touquet.

Our Summer Social Gathering will be at The Woodman in Otford on Monday evening 3rd June from 7.30pm. Do join us.



### OTFORD EVENING W.I.

Our meeting in June is on Thursday the 13th at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

A member of the Hospice in the Weald team will be giving us an update on the organisation's progress and the work they do. We welcome anyone who would like to join us, and more information can be obtained from our President on 01959 524831.

## GREEN FINGERS AT OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Otford Primary School is very fortunate to have a wonderful green field that the children can play on during their break times. Now the weather is better they are able to explore the lovely natural areas that are around the school too.

Over the last few weeks the children have been out digging over the raised beds and preparing them for some planting. We had a vegetable competition within the school last term where the children were asked to design their perfect vegetable patch and suggest some recipes they could cook with their produce. The winners from each class have now planted their chosen seeds and the classes are waiting eagerly for the vegetables to grow so they can start cooking. This wonderful initiative has been led by Miss Thornby and provides another opportunity to get the children outside learning in nature. Miss Thornby has also set up an after school gardening club which is proving very popular.

The Early Years Children have a new growing garden too. They had such fun preparing the flower beds. They will shortly be planting a sensory bed and a herb bed, as well as a selection of flowers and vegetables in the main bed. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about seasonal growth, different plants and flowers and how to create a beautiful sensory area with plants they can smell.



## JUNE PUZZLE

This month the Church remembers the Irish monk who first brought Christianity to Britain in around 565. He was St Columba, and he left Ireland with 12 companions to settle on Iona, a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of

scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. For as well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts.

*A prayer of St Columba runs: My dearest Lord, Be Thou a bright flame before me, Be Thou a guiding star above me, Be Thou a smooth path beneath me, Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today and evermore. Amen*

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

Church	mull	ruler
Columba	monastery	fearless
First	tall	converted
Ireland	striking	dearest
Companions	powerful	bright
Settle	impressive	flame
Iona	skills	guiding
Tiny	scholar	star
island	poet	

## OTFORD HERITAGE TRAIL - THE WORKHOUSE AND THE HIGH STREET

On the north side of the High Street, close to the pond stands the old Parish Workhouse. In rural villages like Otford, a poor harvest would mean no work. No work meant no food upon the table. We often forget that in past times villagers lived their lives on the very edge of poverty. The workhouse was the place of last resort. Over your shoulder, across the road, once stood a group of period homes. You can still trace their shapes today.



*A home for Otford's poor from the 1790s to the 1830s.*

### THE PARISH WORKHOUSE

In 1790, philanthropist James Martyr, the owner of Colet's Well, built the Otford Workhouse at 20-24 High Street. He then leased this to the Otford Vestry, together with four cottages for the accommodation of paupers and the elderly of the parish. The Vestry ran the workhouse for the next 45 years until the Poor Law Amendment Act set up larger Parish Unions (derisively known as 'spikes') in their place.

The house once presented a fashionably, Georgian appearance with steps up to the front door and elegant sash windows. On the right-hand side an arched entrance with double doors led to an integrated carhouse. The separate little outhouse was probably used as the stable. The front doorway led directly into the parlour, beyond which was the

washhouse. To the left was a short passage to the stairs with doors opening to the kitchen (front) and pantry (rear). The Master and the Matron had separate bedrooms on the first floor, each with fire-places to warm themselves. The mansard roof was divided into two garrets to house the inmates, who had no fireplaces ! By 1830, the Otford poor were moved to the much larger 'Sevenoaks Union' at Ide Hill – renowned as a grim and foreboding place.

### THE HIGH STREET

Otford High Street is built along the line of a prehistoric trackway which once linked Dover with the West of England. A Victorian mapmaker named it the Pilgrims' Road. It now forms part of the North Downs Way to Canterbury.



*The north side of the High Street looking west towards the river. The cottage, formerly the Parish Workhouse, is on the right of the photo.*

The north-bound road from Sevenoaks followed a Roman road which once continued at Otford as New Park Lane leading to Shoreham. It would have run beside Henry VIII's great deer park connected with the palace. Thus, Otford has been sited at an important crossroads since the time of the Romans.

The overflow from the village pond once trickled into a stream which ran along the north side of the High Street to join the millstream. Notice how almost all the houses on this side of the street are built upon a base of Kentish ragstone 'to keep their skirts dry'! Little footbridges over the stream were constructed opposite each doorway to give access to the houses.

### 3-13 HIGH STREET

Imagine the row of shops as three quite independent properties built in quite different periods. At the far end, no.13 was built around 1750-75 using a combination of brick and ragstone. Many of its timbers appear to have been reused from another building.

In the centre (no.11) you can see a narrow, gabled building which stands at right-angles to the street. This was built a century earlier (1660 - 1680) than its neighbour. At that time the first floor would have been open to its timbered roof beams; the second floor was a Victorian addition. A handsome Georgian chimney was added, but is now much reduced. However, the original inglenook, with its high recess for the family salt, can still be seen inside.

The two shops replaced a pair of timber-framed cottages named Gibraltar Cottage. They had a very steep roof which appears to have

suffered from moss and rot. Built in 1790, they were demolished In 1935.



Driving sheep and cattle through Otford was once a familiar sight. In the 1970s, 'Brindle' – leading Hilldrop Farm's herd in the photo above – was the last cow to do so, in a tradition that stretched back centuries.

*With thanks to Rod Shelton, Phil Clucas and Ed Thompson*



1790

1660-1680

1750-1775



## A BOOK WHICH INFLUENCED ME...

### **'God's Undertaker - Has Science Buried God?'** by Prof John Lennox

Is it possible to believe in the claims of Christianity – that God made the universe, for instance - and at the same time believe in Science?

As a Physicist, this was a question I struggled with when I first started to read the Bible. Could one really be a scientist and a Christian? Weren't these two mutually exclusive worldviews? A friend lent me a video of some famous scientists discussing their Christian faith. Gosh, there were scientists who were committed Christian believers! Even more surprisingly, I found that Christians were at the forefront of countless discoveries that we now take for granted. For many of them, their beliefs drove their research. They wanted to explore the wonderful, rational universe that they believed a creative and rational God had made.

John Lennox is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Oxford. He has debated with several prominent atheists, including Richard Dawkins. In 'God's Undertaker' he takes on those who preach that religion is a delusion – or worse. Lennox is keen to point out, for example, that faith is not blind. 'Faith', he writes, 'is a response to evidence, not simply a rejoicing in the absence of evidence'.

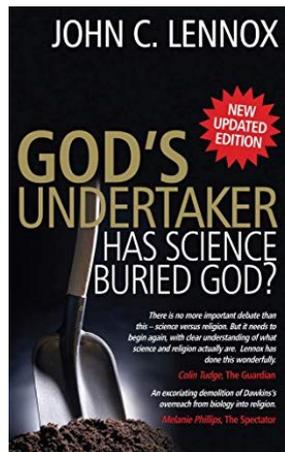
Science is more like religion than you might think, he says. You need a certain amount of faith to understand it. Mathematical models, for example, are fundamental to our interpretation of scientific data. But no-one knows why these abstract models should be so good at mirroring

how the universe works. Equally, no-one knows why the laws of physics should be the same everywhere in the universe, or why they should be unchanging through time. All science places great faith in foundational beliefs such as these.

The book counters the claim that science is the only way we have of knowing anything. The chemist Peter Atkins writes that 'there is no reason to believe that science cannot deal with every aspect of existence.' But Lennox points out that there are many aspects of existence, such as morality, where science has nothing to contribute. 'Science can tell you that if you add strychnine to someone's drink it will kill them. But it cannot tell you whether it is morally right or wrong to put it into your grandmother's tea so that you can inherit her property'.

Science is brilliant at answering 'how' questions: how things are made for example. The Bible answers the deeper questions which start with that little word 'why'? In this compelling book Lennox shows that we need both.

*Bill Lattimer*



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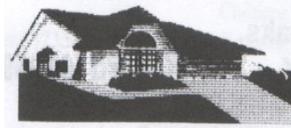
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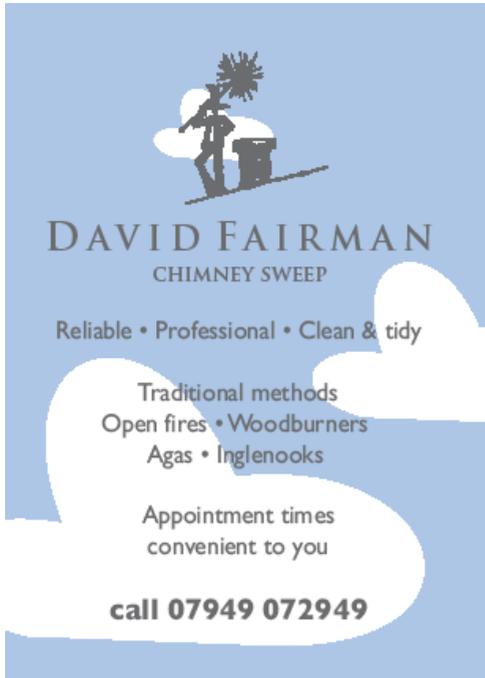
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine in a studio. The background shows other participants and reformer machines. The text is overlaid on a dark banner at the top and bottom of the image.



  
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or on 01959 523185

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam Bill Lattimer Margaret Lidbetter Mags Southgate
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid Margaret Lidbetter Donna Worssam
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Russell Edwards Janet Hunt
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:</b>	Kevin Grafton
<b>SACRISTAN:</b>	Tony Grogan

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### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Heather Stanley  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris  
Min. Sec: Mark Holmes

### PARISH OFFICE

*Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm:*  
Susan Reid, Clive Southgate  
01959 523185  
Email: [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)

### CHURCH HALL

*Manager and Booking Sec:* Robert Hunt

### MAGAZINE

*Editorial team:* Vicki Howie, Christeen Malan,  
Richard Worssam  
*Advertisements:* [st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net](mailto:st.bartsmagadvertising@otford.net)

### CHOIR

Choirmaster: Kevin Grafton  
Practice night: Friday 8.00-9.30pm New members  
always welcome

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### YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

**'First Steps'** (for parents/carers with pre-school children)  
*Contact:* Najen Harris

### SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

**Infants** (3-7s)  
**Juniors** (8-11s)  
**Seniors** (12-14)

For all groups contact Donna Worssam

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

*Contact:* Dawn Hallam

### OUTREACH

*Chairman of Mission Links:*  
Andrew Hill

### BELLRINGERS

*The Tower Captain:* Bobbie Fairclough  
*Secretary:* Janet Whitehead  
Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Russell Edwards and Janet Hunt, Sam Barnett, David Calcott, Jo Chandler, Colin Deane, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Jocelyn Hart, Mark Holmes\*, Martin Lea, Margaret Lidbetter\*, Emma Peters, Derek Shilling#, Ben Southgate, Heather Stanley

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