

# St Bartholomew's Church, Oxford Parish News



## SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Due to the reordering and redecoration of the church, all services will be held in the Church Centre until mid April

February	8am	10am		6.30pm
4 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion	All Together Worship	-	Evensong
11 February Sunday next before Lent	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	-
14 February ASH WEDNESDAY	-	Holy Communion (BCP)	-	Joint Communion Service at St. Barts with the
18 February 1st Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
25 February 2nd Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Communion	-	-

### 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 Hall.

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

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

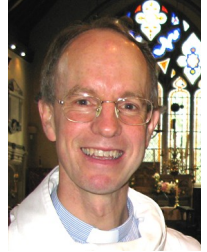
If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact the Church Office 01959 523185.

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

Cover photo by Richard Worssam: Enjoying Messy Church  
Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 02 Volume 88

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

As a church family we are currently on a journey. We've had to leave behind the familiar setting for our worship as the re-ordering and redecoration project gets underway. Bakers of Danbury began their work on 8th January and already they have made good progress. For these few months we are in a temporary arrangement, using the Church Centre for our worship services.



I am reminded of the journey of the Israelites recorded in the Book of Exodus. They looked forward to being settled in Palestine, but until they arrived there they had to accommodate themselves to transitional arrangements. They carried the Ark of the Covenant with them and pitched the Tent of Meeting at various points along the way. Interestingly enough, it was during these unsettled years that they gained some of their most foundational insights into the nature of their relationship with God.

The book that has influenced me most in my thinking about church architecture carries the title, "Repitching the Tent". In it the author, Richard Giles, develops the argument that the Church is constantly on the move, and church buildings reflect different stages along this journey.

We can take St. Bart's as an example. The origins of the current building go back to late Saxon times when Otford was a small village. The building was designed to serve the needs of this small community. However, in the 1300s there were fresh developments. The population, prior to the Black Death, had grown and so there was a need to add a south aisle. Also, the worship offered in the church had become more advanced with the development of the medieval Catholic liturgy of the eucharist. This led to the chancel being enlarged to accommodate this more elaborate liturgy and the enhanced role of the priest.

In the 1500s there were further developments associated with the Reformation. These were encapsulated in the various early editions of the Book of Common Prayer. Theology was expressed in liturgy and the altar of sacrifice was now regarded as the table of the Lord's Supper. In recognition of this, Cranmer stipulated that

the Holy Table should be brought closer to the people, and in St. Bart's this was done by placing it in the middle of the chancel.

In the 1800s there was a further renewal of worship associated with the Oxford Movement. Church leaders such as Newman, Keble and Pusey wanted to emphasise a sense of transcendence and beauty in worship. This saw the re-introduction of liturgical vestments, candles, and robed choirs. Here in St. Bart's, in 1863 there was a major re-ordering during which the church building was closed for a year while the work was going on. This saw the introduction of new pews, a new pulpit and new font and the construction of the stone arcade and chancel arch. Further enhancements were added in Edwardian times, especially in the Sanctuary with the new flooring and wooden panelling and with the introduction of the new organ.

In this perspective, our current re-ordering and redecoration project is another stage of this journey. It is driven by liturgical needs in which the nave platform has proven to be so useful over the years in the conduct of a whole range of different services. And we look forward to developing our links with the village in different ways by hosting more talks and concerts with our enhanced facilities.

We join with the faithful in earlier generations who have sought to make St. Bart's a place of worship and prayer and a centre of ministry reaching out to the whole community. We still benefit from their contributions, and we seek to continue in this living tradition that we have inherited as we journey on in faith.

Your friend and Vicar, *Richard*

## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2018

**Morning Prayer will be said on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays each week  
in the Cranmer Room at 9.00 am**

**4 The Second Sunday before Lent: Sexagesima**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am All Together Worship**

**3-4.00 pm Otford Junior Choir (Church Centre)**

**6.30 pm Evensong**

5 7.45 pm CAMEO

6 8.00 pm Deanery Synod (Plaxtol Church) Speaker from "Home for Good"

7 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

8.00 pm Contemplative Prayer Group (The Vicarage)

**9 Magazine material for the February edition by today, please, to the  
Church Office, [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)**

2.15 pm Magazine Team (The Vicarage)

10 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Hall)

**11 The Sunday next before Lent: Quinquagesima**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

12 7.45 pm CAMEO

**14 Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day**

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), refreshments afterwards

8.00 pm Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes (St. Bartholomew's)

**18 The First Sunday of Lent**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**10.00 am Morning Worship**

**6.30 pm Evensong**

19 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

8.00 pm St. Bartholomew's Fair Committee ('Burway' Sevenoaks Road)

20 8.00 pm Lent Course (Church Centre)

21 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.45 pm Finance & Standing Committee (Church Centre)

25 **The Second Sunday of Lent**

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00 am **Holy Communion**

26 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

27 8.00 pm Lent Course (Church Centre)

28 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), refreshments afterwards



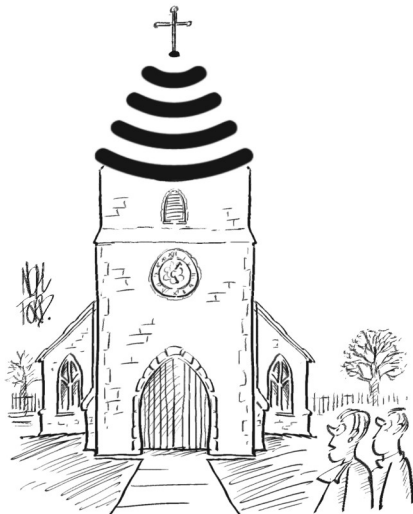
*Registers*



**FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)**

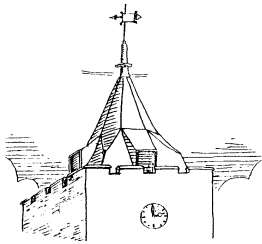
1st December

Olive **Munro** (aged 80)



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



### WORSHIP SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE RE-ORDERING AND REDECORATION

The re-ordering and redecoration commenced on 8th January and all Sunday services and the Wednesday midweek communion are currently being held in the Church Centre.

The middle and senior Sunday Club groups are meeting in the Vicarage and the junior Sunday Club group is meeting in the Cranmer Room.

YPF and EPIC are being held in the Church Hall. Thank you for your understanding and patience while the work is going on. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-April, and we look forward to worshipping in our newly refurbished church.

### OTFORD JUNIOR CHOIR

This will take place on **Sunday, 4th February and Sunday, 4th March in the Church Centre** and is for children aged 8 years and over. Come along and enjoy singing with your friends. For further information contact Chris Bishop on 07746 091517.

### PARISH LENT COURSE:

#### COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

In our Lent Course 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 8-9.30 pm** in the Church Centre.

### CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

This will take place on **Saturday, 3rd March at 9.00 am**. We are very short of helpers so if you could come for one hour it would make a difference. Come and join in the fun and bring some useful tools, too!

### 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.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY, 11th March

You are warmly invited to our Mothering Sunday services when posies will be offered to ladies in the congregation.

### MID-LENT SOUP LUNCH

You are warmly invited to our lunch on **Monday, 12th March from 12-2.00 pm** in the Church Centre. Minimum donation of £5 for home-made soup and bread and a light dessert. Guest: Dawn Hallam.

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FAIR

This will take place on **Saturday, 16th June at 2.00 pm** on and around the Green. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be with us, if you can.

## THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST

### Salvator Mundi (The Saviour of the World)

Painted by Leonardo da Vinci  
(around 1500 AD)

Back in November 2017 this picture made the headlines. I happened to receive an invitation to go and look at it on one of the days it was going to be on show in Christie's showroom in London, before the sale in New York.

The showroom was completely dark except for a light over the picture, and two security guards stood either side of it while members of the public slowly filed by, including me.

Did I like it? Not particularly, but standing in front of the painting felt like a significant moment. Everyone passing by appeared to be paying a hushed homage to it (via their phones!). My colleague from Christie's remarked 'I doubt that we'll see it on public view again in our lifetime'. I hadn't expected to be allowed to take a photograph, so, like everyone else, I captured the moment.

I stood looking at the painting, but also at the people and took a few minutes to reflect on what I had witnessed before leaving the room. I wondered whose gaze the painting would reflect back after the sale and whether the buyer would choose to look upon this (imagined) image of Christ every day. Would it be put into a hidden, dark, protected place, out of sight? Earlier on in the week, I'd been looking at visual interpretations of Christ in the Victoria and Albert Museum. No price tags there. This image of Jesus was being associated with vast amounts of personal fortune. Located

in a nearby room the items for sale were ludicrously expensive handbags.

I asked myself, if Jesus had been on earth in our age of photography and media obsession with appearance, would the world have been more interested in what he looked like than in what he had to say?

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi* sold for \$450 million, the highest price ever paid for a work of art. It has been bought by Abu Dhabi's department of Culture and Tourism. It will be on view to the public in the newly opened Louvre in Abu Dhabi.

*Ann Bridges*

*Local artist and designer  
[www.ann-bridges.com](http://www.ann-bridges.com)*





## IN MEMORIAM



### **Muriel Eaton, 1923-2017**

Muriel was born in February 1923 in South Norwood, South London. Her sister Joyce was born 11 months later and the family were a close one.

Growing up in South Norwood, she had a large group of friends, amongst whom was Ken Eaton. They got married in March 1945 while Ken was still in the RAF. After his discharge, Ken returned to work for Sir Robert McAlpine and qualified as a Structural Engineer.

They moved with Ken's job to Hemel Hempstead, and eventually came to Tudor Drive in Otford in 1955 when Ken took charge of the building of the Aylesford paper mills. Ken's job later took him all over the world, but the family continued living in Otford where their two sons Paul and Kevin grew up. Muriel enjoyed a happy social life, with many friends.

The family moved to Shoreham Road in 1969 and Muriel remained living there until Ken's death in 2000. They had a happy retirement, travelling all over Britain and the Continent in their camper van, accompanied by their dog. They were proud grandparents to their 5 grandchildren who always enjoyed coming to see them in their lovely house and garden. Muriel and Ken also knew sadness with the death of their grandson, Marc, from Multiple Sclerosis at a very young age.

After Ken's death, Muriel moved to Well Road, and she became even more involved in village life, joining the WI, playing bridge every week and enjoying holidays with her friends. Sadly, in 2014, she had a stroke which meant that she

could no longer live alone and so she went to live in Emily Jackson House in Sevenoaks. She still enjoyed receiving visits from her two sons and their wives, her 5 grandchildren and her 6 great grandchildren. Muriel lived to the age of 94, and she looked back over her years in Otford with much happiness.

### **Olive Munro, 1937 - 2017**

Olive was born in February 1937. Although just a young child, she still had clear memories of wartime hardships. She recalled the bombing raids, and also the request of her mother asking her to collect pieces of coal that had fallen off the coal man's truck.

Olive was evacuated with her sister Neene. They were initially split up from their brother, Ted, but he left the family he was evacuated with and amazingly he managed to find his sisters and was reunited with them.

Olive trained as a hairdresser, and she also taught others the art of hairdressing. She spent several years cutting the hair of Multiple Sclerosis sufferers at the Freelands Grove Centre in Bromley. Here she made many good friends.

Olive got married to Derrick and they had three sons and one daughter. Sadly, one of their sons, Grahame, died five years ago.

Olive had an initial bout of cancer which she managed to overcome. She had a good sense of humour and the medical staff remembered her cheeky one-liners. Olive made others happy before thinking of herself, and she was one who would always go out of her way so that you didn't have to go out of yours.



## MISSION MATTERS ... FEBA

Programmes broadcast into an area of Central Asia provide listeners with the opportunity to hear Bible stories and teaching that speak to their life situations.

Our partner's 30 minute daily programmes include features based around daily living which aim to encourage discussion around spiritual matters and biblical values. For example, in a serial drama on marriage a 'wise' friend gives advice from the Bible to the husband and wife.

Recent programmes have looked at the family of Isaac - how a wife was chosen for him, their years of childlessness and then the warring twins, Esau and Jacob. In follow-up phone calls, the team were able to draw on the Bible story to help listeners apply lessons to their lives.

Here are some examples:

A listener spoke of her hopes that her sons find good wives. Our partner pointed out that it's

important to find women who worship God and want to teach their children about God. They told the listener the story of finding a wife for Isaac and encouraged her to pray that God would provide for her sons.

Another listener asked for prayer for a grandchild. Their son has been married for some years but they don't have a child. Our partner explained that Isaac had waited 19 years before God gave him two sons.

Our partner prayed with the listener. This region has restrictions on discussing the Christian faith, yet despite the security risks our partner is able to have conversations about faith that can lead to transformation in the lives of listeners.

*Helen Casiot*



## FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

### February: Going in the right direction!

**Pause for thought:** Take time to read the Bible story about Jonah and the whale on p.14. This is a well-known story or parable, which is often depicted in picture books, but has deeper elements.

God asks the prophet Jonah to tell the cruel people of Nineveh to turn away from their brutal behaviour and to change their ways. Jonah doesn't want to go and preach in this foreign nation! He suspects its people will obey and, knowing God's capacity to forgive, he is afraid that his enemies will not receive the punishment they deserve!



Jonah sets off on a ship bound for a far off place, probably in Spain. He goes in the wrong direction! But can he really run away from God . . . ?

As parents, we want our children to go in the *right* direction – for their own good. Since God wants the best for them, this means helping them to be aware of him and what he might be asking them to do. During February, let's seize the opportunity of the ordinary things we do as families to point out the extraordinary degree of God's love for us all!

**Jonah runs away!** Read the Bible story on p.14 together. Younger children might enjoy hearing it at bath time and making waves for a toy boat. (If you have any Paw Patrol toys, link them with the idea of God rescuing Jonah.) Chat about the story:

What's your favourite part of this story?

Why do you think Jonah wanted to run away from God?

I wonder how God feels about the people we don't like much?

What are the highest and lowest places you can think of? Do you think God is there?

**I don't want to!** How are those New Year Resolutions going? All of us put off doing things we don't enjoy! Sometimes the neglected task can become huge in our minds and we run away from it all the more.

Have a family chat about the things each person puts off doing and why. Try to think of ways to help each other, for example:

*(Sorting the kitchen)* How about tackling just one drawer or shelf every day?

*(Doing homework)* Make a start – it may not be as bad as you think!

*(Making up after a quarrel)* Try texting SORRY and see if you feel better?

*(Doing boring jobs like hanging up my clothes)* Try doing them quickly to get them done.

*(Reading the Bible seems too overwhelming)* Try reading just one Gospel.

### Teatime treats!

*Seabed supper:* Serve fish-shaped fish fingers (available from the supermarket) on a bed of noodles or long strands of green pasta (sea-weed!) If you have a spiralizer, add long pieces of cucumber and other fresh vegetables to resemble sea-life!

I'm sorry!

*Fishy finger food:* Slice one end off a long roll (cut in half length-wise). Cut out two triangles near the straight end to make the tail. Spread tuna mayonnaise over the roll. Starting from the tail, layer thin slices of cucumber and radish on top, overlapping to look like scales. Make an eye from half an olive and a mouth from a slice of red pepper.

*Pancakes:* This year, Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is on 13 February. Traditionally, this was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before the Lenten fast. The name Shrove Tuesday comes from the ritual of shricing - saying sorry for wrongs things done and receiving forgiveness. (When Jonah eventually did what God wanted, the people of Nineveh said sorry for their past behaviour and God forgave them.)



**Big Friendly Fish Craft:**

Fold a piece of A4 paper in half lengthwise and then again.

Unfold. Now place the top and bottom folds along the central line so that the paper appears to be only half the size.

Draw a whale shape (a circle with a tail attached) with a mouth along the central fold. Add an eye.

Open up the paper. Join up the mouth (adding long pointed teeth!) and the tail.

Decorate your big fish and add Jonah, about to be swallowed up!

*Young children* might like to paint the back of a paper plate blue. Cut out a big triangle for the mouth and glue it under the opposite side as a tail. Add a big eye!

**Hide and seek:** As adults, we sometimes forget how good it is to laugh and play! Have a family game of hide and seek in the house or

on a walk through the woods. Link this with the idea that Jonah tried to hide from God. Point out that wherever we go in the world, we are always within his sight, love and care.

If you are feeling creative, you could make a whale by draping a blue cloth or blanket over a low table or box. Stick on some paper teeth and eyes! This could be 'home' in other games, or simply an adult-free den!!

**Prayer:** Think about the sailors in the story throwing the heavy cargo into the sea. In this time of Lent, it's good to think about behaviour that weighs us down and stops us growing closer to God. Imagine throwing this overboard as you say sorry to God.



*Meditation:* As you curl up in bed, imagine being safe and dry inside the whale. Whatever your worries, you are held safely in God's hand.

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens you are there;

If I make my bed in the depths, you are there;

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

If I settle on the far side of the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me,

Your right hand will hold me fast.

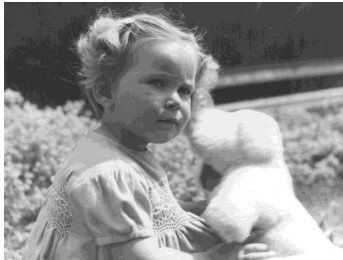
Psalm 139, vv.7-10

*Vicki Howie*

## IN CONVERSATION WITH ...JENNIFER ARNALL

### Longstanding church member

Jennifer, an only child, grew up in Gillingham where her parents owned a house with a superb view over the Medway and the Thames. She remembers being fascinated by the liners going to Tilbury and by all the other busy traffic on the water at a time when Chatham Dockyard was still building, repairing and maintaining vessels. The disadvantage to living in such a spectacular spot was the Arctic winds that would blow across the water every winter!



Born not long after the end of the Second World War, Jennifer went to a newly built primary

school (Featherby Road) in Gillingham before progressing to the Medway Technical High School for Girls, now known as Fort Pitt Grammar School. After passing her 'O' Levels she wanted to train as a nurse but her mother did not approve of this career choice so she stayed on in the sixth form to do a secretarial course. Jennifer's education was broadened by many trips to London with her 'wonderful' father to visit places such as the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Planetarium, the museums and the theatre.

When she became a widow, Jennifer's maternal grandmother moved in with the family but, unfortunately, both she and Jennifer's mother suffered badly from arthritis and leg ulcers which limited their mobility and meant that Jennifer spent many hours nursing them. Her

father, by contrast, was in good health. As a young man he had worked on the Union Castle Line where he trained as a butcher, later becoming a meat trader at Smithfield Market employed by the Cooperative Wholesale Society. Through his many contacts in London, he helped his daughter find her first job – with William Cory, a shipping company. Jennifer quickly learnt to stand up for herself in this male dominated business!

After just over two years, Jennifer grew tired of the 'sardine special' commuter trains and was beginning to look for employment in Gillingham when a woman she had worked with at Cory's persuaded her to apply for a job with Schweppes at Marble Arch. When the company then merged with Cadburys, Jennifer became secretary to the Finance Director. Her commute had improved and she had begun to establish a social life in London, as well as maintaining one at home. She stayed with Cadbury Schweppes for ten years. Later jobs included working for the Extel Group and, on a temporary basis, for Sevenoaks District Council in the Chief Executive's office.

From an early age Jennifer showed a talent for music. She started learning the violin aged eight and led the orchestra at senior school. She played in the Medway Youth Orchestra, eventually becoming its leader. Because of that, for two years running,



she was invited to attend the prestigious Kent Music Summer School residential course at Benenden School. On completing her formal education and starting work she helped form the Medway Towns Orchestra and then, in the 1980s, she enjoyed playing for two years with the Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra.

In 1976 Jennifer married David Arnall at St Augustine's Church in Gillingham. Both bride and groom were regular attenders at the church and had first met through church activities including as Sunday school teachers. They had also sometimes crossed paths commuting to London, where David worked for a shipping company - the beginning of a career which would see him become a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers as well as an Associate of the Institute for Arbitration. The Arnalls' first home together was in Swanley from where they began attending Eynsford Church, immediately becoming extremely active in church life. This remained their church when they moved to a brand new house in Warham Road, Otford in 1979. In 1987 their son, Thomas, was born and, once he was of Sunday school age, Jennifer began to attend St Bartholomew's as Eynsford Church did not offer this facility.

David had always been the fittest of men so it came as a huge shock when he was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 and died a year later at the age of fifty six. David's father had only just died aged ninety and, after many years of caring for elderly parents, the couple had been looking forward to some time for themselves. They had been married for twenty seven years.

Speaking of her Christian faith, Jennifer said, 'it means everything to me – it is part of who I am'. She enjoys attending services at St Bartholomew's (Sunday 10am and Wednesday morning) and contributes to church life in many ways - cleaning the altar brass, arranging flowers, helping out at the Summer Fair and Christmas Market, and being a sideswoman and reading the epistle at the Wednesday morning service. Beyond her church roles, Jennifer volunteers for the Otford Lunch Club, is an active member of the Sevenoaks Flower Club and takes pleasure in cooking, gardening, crosswords and attending exhibitions and events.

*Christeen Malan*



*Jennifer and David on their wedding day*

## ANCIENT WISDOM - MODERN LIVES

### Jonah runs away (based on Jonah 1 – 3: 3)

Jonah was enjoying a snooze when God spoke.

“Wake up, Jonah! I have an important job for you. Please take a message to the people of Nineveh!”

“Oh, no!” cried Jonah, “I’m not going to that city of baddies!”

“Tell them from me to change their wicked ways,” continued God, “or it will be curtains for Nineveh.”

“I bet it won’t!” muttered Jonah. “As soon as those Ninevites say they’re sorry, you’ll forgive them and then they won’t get the punishment they deserve.”

“Off you go, now,” sighed God, “there’s a good prophet!”

Jonah packed his bag and set off – in the *wrong* direction. When he reached Joppa-on-Sea, he boarded a cargo ship bound for Spain – far, far away (he thought) from God and his uncomfortable plans. Yippee! But what Jonah didn’t know as he went down below, was that God could see him – and he was *not too pleased*.

“I’ll show the rascal,” said God, and he created quite a storm!

“Listen to that wind!” yelled the sailors, “Look at those waves! Our boat will be dashed to pieces!”

“Quick! Let’s fetch cargo from below,” ordered the captain. “We’ll throw it overboard to make the ship easier to steer.”

Down in the hold, the captain was horrified to find Jonah snoring.

“Mister Jonah!” he said. “For heaven’s sake, shake a leg and start to pray!”

Meanwhile, the sailors obeyed their captain. Over the side went the heavy cargo. But still the boat was battered.

“Someone on board has made God angry,” they agreed. So they put all their names in a hat and pulled one out. It read – ‘Jonah!’

“It’s true!” said Jonah. “I disobeyed the God of earth and tide. You’d better throw me over the side.”

The kind-hearted crew tried to row the boat ashore. But it was no good, and . . . “one, two three” . . . they tossed him into the sea.

At once the storm abated. “Three cheers for Jonah’s God,” exclaimed the captain. “We are at your service!”

Poor Jonah sunk down, down to the seabed. There was water up his nose and seaweed round his toes, and scaly fish swam around his head. Who could help him now? Glug!

But God heard his call. And he sent a BIG fish to swallow Jonah – seaweed and all!

“Fancy God sending a whale to rescue me!” spluttered Jonah.

“And why not,” sung the great creature. “When God gives *me* an order, I obey! Think where you’d be if I’d swum the other way!”

Jonah did think about that, for three days and nights.

“What a wonderful God you are!” he prayed at last. “I’m sorry I tried to run away. From now on I’ll do as you say.”

So God asked the whale to swim to land where it spat Jonah out on the sand. Hic!

“Now then, Jonah,” said God, “Will you please . . .”

“Yes!” said Jonah, and he set off – in the right direction!

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk) [Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk) <http://michellelowe.yourcllr.com>

Now that Christmas is over and we have entered the new year, some of us want to keep new year's resolutions to focus on our overall wellbeing and try to shed those extra Christmas pounds we gained.

If exercise could be packaged and prescribed as a pill, doctors swear it would be magic medicine. Exercise is not only great for our mental wellbeing including preventing or at least delaying the onset of dementia; it makes us happier by releasing certain chemicals in our brains that dull pain, lighten mood and relieve stress, as well as bringing amazing physical benefits.

There are a number of opportunities here in Otford to walk with others for extra support and companionship. Meeting on Mondays at the Memorial Hall at 10.30am our Otford weekly walk is for people who want to do more exercise. The walks take about an hour and are between one and two miles long. You don't need to book, just come along 10 to 15 minutes before the walk begins to complete a basic registration form. The walk is free of charge and we recommend you dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

For people not ready to walk a mile or two, there is Every Step Counts that meets at the Otford Memorial Hall on Wednesdays at 10am. These are much gentler walks that last around 15 to 20 minutes and are led by three qualified volunteers who will support and encourage you all the way.

For women who are physically fitter but struggle with their mental wellbeing there is 'Up and Running' - gentle 10 week beginner courses that start at Hollybush in Sevenoaks. For more details visit [www.upandrunninginsevenoaks.org.uk](http://www.upandrunninginsevenoaks.org.uk)

We are also starting the West Kent Challenge: 'Couch to 5k' in just 12 weeks. There is no need to book, just turn up. Workshops last 2 hours, with one in Otford beginning on Thursday 1 February between 1.30pm and 3.30pm, venue still being confirmed.

Following on from the success of last year's 'Run, Walk or Push against Dementia', we are organising a second chance for people to have a go and raise money for dementia causes locally. There are 3, 5 and 10km routes at Knole Park on Sunday 13 May. Visit: <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/runwalkpush/> for more details.

For more information about any of our walks or runs please visit: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/health](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/health) or contact our Healthy Living Team on: 0300 0200636 or Email: [healthyliving@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:healthyliving@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Finally on Thursday 21 June at 7pm at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks District Council will be hosting the Big Community Sing. Choirs, quartets, rock and acapella groups and glee clubs are invited to showcase their musical talent. Application forms are available by visiting: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/bigsing](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/bigsing) emailing [communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or calling 01732 227000. Successful applicants will be notified by **Thursday 1 March 2018**. This special event will be music to the ears of singing groups giving them a chance to perform in front of hundreds of people while raising money for local mental health services.

With best wishes,

Michelle

## SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE



Shortly before Christmas I spent a couple of weeks cycling some 650 kilometres across parts of northern Tanzania and Rwanda. Most of the journey was on dirt roads through rural

communities, for some of whom seeing white people was a rare experience. I was part of a group raising money to support charities such as Education East Africa and MSAADA which are involved in educational projects in that region and also, nearer to home, to support the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust.

In a short article it is impossible to mention all the memorable experiences which made it easy to forget the saddle soreness brought on by hours of travelling on bumpy, often hilly tracks. Rwanda is also known as the *Land of a Thousand Hills* - in a week there it seemed as if we had climbed most of them! Although only a couple of degrees south of the Equator, much of Rwanda is amazingly fertile and lush, enabling many of its 12 million or so inhabitants to survive on subsistence farming, often on small plots of land. Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, and coffee and tea are important exports. Fellow travellers who had been to Nepal told me that the steep sided valleys reminded them of Nepal. A highlight of the expedition was a night at one of the largest tea estates, Sorwathe. After a difficult climb of several kilometres to the estate's guest house (passing one of the estate's delivery trucks stuck in mud

on the access track) we were rewarded with a spectacular view across the valley far below us to a number of extinct volcanoes, including the country's highest peak, Mount Karisimbi (14,787 feet). We toured the tea factory, and saw teabags being handstitched.

The welcoming smiles and the shouted greetings from the legions of children we passed almost everywhere we went, and the tranquil beauty of the country, made it hard to believe that less than twenty five years ago Rwanda was enveloped in a genocide in which nearly a million people are estimated to have lost their lives in about 100 days. We started a day in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, with a visit to the Genocide Memorial Museum. This was a profoundly moving experience, and included a section reminding us of other genocides around the world over the years. By way of contrast later that day we visited the newest, and perhaps the most spectacularly located, international cricket ground in the world opened in October. As with Afghanistan, cricket was discovered by refugees in camps in neighbouring (formerly British colonial) countries to which their families had escaped during the war. With the support of the





international cricket community a small enthusiastic band of players is seeking to use this wonderful new ground to develop the game. The ground the international team previously used was of inferior quality and haunted by having been the location of a massacre during the genocide.

Most families in East Africa have to pay for their children's education. Another highlight of our trip was a night as the guests of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth village which is spread over a large campus about 30 miles from Kigali. Modelled on Yemin Orde, an Israeli village established in 1953 to care for orphans from the holocaust, the village selects orphaned and vulnerable adolescents from across Rwanda and aims over a three year period to enable them in a caring environment (living in small house groups with a house mama) to develop their full potential. Some alumni gain scholarships at leading universities, particularly in the US (from where much of the financial support for this extraordinary project derives). A particularly memorable part of our guided tour of the campus was to hear some of the students singing in prayer at dusk behind the stage of the village's amphitheatre, a setting as beautiful as any equivalent of ancient Greece or

Rome. For the first time in more years than I care to remember I ate a school dinner served from huge pots at each table, sitting and chatting with the students sat on long benches in the large dining hall.

On a couple of occasions we were caught in heavy rainstorms. In Tanzania the family outside whose house about 15 of us took shelter invited us into their front room where we dripped plenty of water onto the mud floor. Their children, whose village school had not had a teacher present for a week, joined us and were pleased to share some of our refreshments. Despite the lack of a teacher the children had continued to attend the school during school hours.

I am very grateful to those friends and acquaintances who have already supported my fundraising effort in relation to this trip. If you feel motivated by this article, and are able to support these good causes, my fundraising page should still be open when this article is published-please visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DouglasHowie>. Thank you!

*Douglas Howie*



## OUT AND ABOUT



The **BROWNIES AND GUIDES** would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Post Service in December.

This was the 35<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of running the post and the fantastic sum of £404.50 was raised from the sale of stamps. The money this year has been divided between Dreamflight and Kent Wildlife Trust. Thanks must also go to Lorraine in the library and Sue in the Parish Office who sell the stamps for us and Gerry and Craig who print the stamps and posters every year.



**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** will meet on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> of February at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall when our speaker will be

Alison Ellman-Brown who will be asking us 'What you don't know about buttons'. Sounds intriguing!!

If you need any more information please contact 01959 524 831.



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

## FEBRUARY PUZZLE

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present him to God. Jesus' whole life was

a loving present to us from God. Through his death for us on the cross, and his resurrection, his love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

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## CHICKEN AND BACON PIE/VOL AU VENT

It's just as easy to cook two chickens as one, and the meat from the second can be used in so many ways. I usually make a pie, but vol au vents can make a change (they don't have to be just used for canapes!)

Use some of the bones and skin to make a stock. Add to water and boil for a minimum of about half an hour, leaving it longer reduces it more and produces a fuller flavoured stock.

Cook 1-2 onions in about 1 oz of butter and a little vegetable oil until softened and add about 6 rashers of smoked bacon (chopped small) or several slices of smoked ham. Stir in a tablespoon of flour, cook for a minute or two to make a roux and then stir in enough stock to make a thick sauce when it has cooked for a few minutes. Add in cooked chicken and some black pepper and mix thoroughly over the heat.

Line a pie dish with pastry, put in the filling, and top with more pastry. Prick with a fork and glaze with beaten egg. Cook for about 30 -40 minutes at 160°C.

If making vol au vents, use puff pastry, cut a large circle, and score about ¼ in inside to form the lid when cooked, glaze with beaten egg – cook the pastry for about 20 minutes and fill with the chicken and bacon mixture.

Sweetcorn or mushrooms can be added. You can use milk instead of stock for a creamier filling. I tend not to salt the mixture because the smoked bacon is salty, but this is personal taste. Herbs can be added – the bacon can be omitted and some tarragon included. You can mess about with this as much as you want!

*Hilary Fothergill*



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St Michael's School	30	<b>Timber Treatment</b>	
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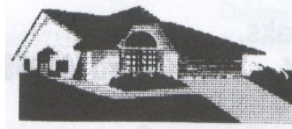
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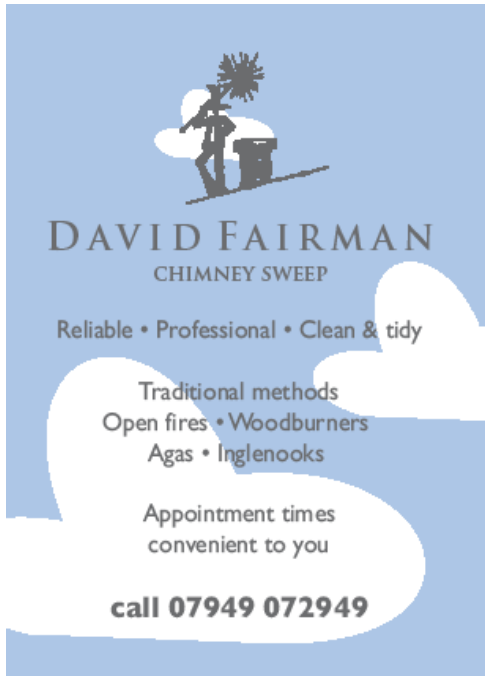
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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a reformer machine in a studio. The text is overlaid on the image, with the studio name at the top and contact information at the bottom.



  
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The advertisement features a tall, ornate antique clock on the left side. The text is arranged in a column on the right, detailing the business's specialties and contact information. A circular logo for the British Watch and Clockmakers Guild is located at the bottom left of the ad.

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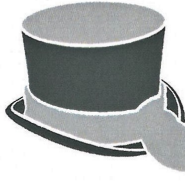
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## Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

<b>VICAR:</b>	Richard Worssam 01959 523185
<b>READERS:</b>	Dawn Hallam 01959 526865 Bill Lattimer 01959 522058 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Mags Southgate 01959 524720
<b>READER EMERITUS:</b>	Peter Downing 01959 522327
<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Susan Reid 01959 523234 Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Donna Worssam 01959 523185
<b>HONORARY MINISTER:</b>	Chris Reed 01959 523439
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Margaret Lidbetter 01959 524831 Russell Edwards 07933 352044
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:</b>	Kevin Grafton 01732 452117
<b>SACRISTAN:</b>	Tony Grogan 01959 523649

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### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

*Vice Chairman:* Margaret Lidbetter  
*Hon Treasurer:* Janet Hunt 01959 523820  
*Freewill Offering Sec:* Mervyn Harris 01959 522813  
Hon. Sec: Joan Beacom 01959 524304

### PARISH OFFICE

*Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm:*  
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  
Practice night: Friday 8.00-9.30pm New members  
always welcome

### YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

**'First Steps'** (for parents/carers with pre-school children)  
*Contact:* Najen Harris 01959 522813

### SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

**Infants** (3-7s)  
**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 Links:*  
Andrew Hill 01732 469538

### BELLRINGERS

*The Tower Captain:* Bobbie Fairclough 01959 522696  
*Secretary:* Janet Whitehead 01959 524088  
Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and the Churchwardens Margaret Lidbetter\* and Russell Edwards, Samantha Barnett, Joan Beacom, Cindy Davies, Colin Deane,, Phil Gardner, Dawn Hallam, Andrew Hill, Mark Holmes\*, Janet Hunt, Mike Jones, Nick Page, Derek Shilling#, Mags Southgate, Mark Tierney,

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