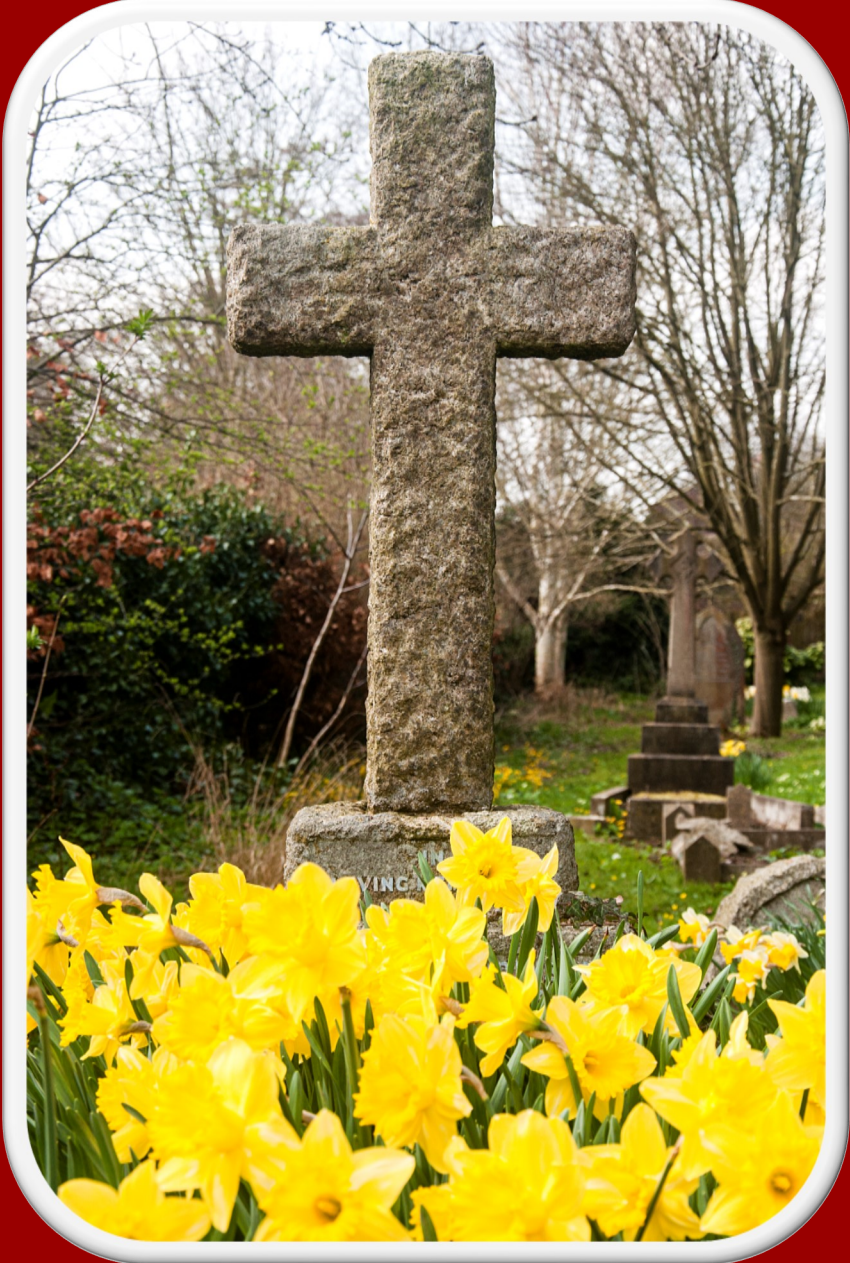


St Bartholomew's Church Otford Parish News



SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

	8am	10am	3pm	6.30pm
5 April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	Palm Sunday Procession 10.45 at Otford Methodist	-	Evensong
9 April Maundy Thursday	-	-	-	Holy Communion, 8pm Otford Methodist Church
10 April Good Friday	-	All Together Worship	Last Hour at the Cross—2pm	-
12 April Easter Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	-	Festal Evensong
19 April	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	-	Evensong
26th April	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 Centre.

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

Cover photo: Easter photo by Jane Mucklow
www.janemucklowphotography.co.uk

Magazine printed by Silver Pines Services, Magazine No. 04 Volume 90

EASTER REFLECTIONS

One of the privileges of presenting the BBC Radio Two programme, which is now called *Good Morning Sunday*, was that I got to celebrate Easter in several places around the world. We decided that, on this most significant date in history, instead of broadcasting from our usual studio in the bowels of Broadcasting House, it was important to take the programme out to where Christians were actually gathering to celebrate.

We realised that one of the largest number of Christians gathered together in one place that morning was in St Peter's Square in Rome, so I spent a couple of hours presenting my programme from a perch up on the *Braccio di Carlo Magno*, the impressive colonnade that surrounds that famous square. While interviewing guests about the significance of Easter to them, we watched as the 80,000 people flooded into the square for the celebration.

By contrast, we felt somewhere much simpler would be appropriate another year. We went to Kisumu in Kenya on the bank of Lake Victoria, just south of the Equator. This is where, many years later, Stella and Charles Shee's daughter Harriet and her husband are now working. We set up our microphones, etc, at the foot of a telegraph pole on a large open space outside the town. Being linked to London by a thin wire dangling from the pole seemed quite risky, but it worked. Easter Sunday morning was very hot there (although friends in Otford were snowed in!), and soon a couple of congregations appeared across the space for their celebrations. They were accompanied by their musical instruments, which included the percussive sound created by beating a metal car wheel. Culturally miles away from the scene in Rome, but it was

exciting to think that though the form may be different, the centre of their worship was the same - the Lord Jesus Christ, and his rising from the dead.



The venue that meant most to me was the year we broadcast from the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. There are different opinions about the site. General Gordon was convinced it was, indeed, the true location of Jesus' burial and resurrection but, if not, it is the most appropriate visual aid you can imagine. The large tomb cut into the rock; inside is a ledge on which Jesus' body would have lain for those three days. The tomb is set in a quiet garden, where hours after his resurrection Jesus met with Mary Magdalene. Where he entrusted to her (a woman, we men need to remember!) the first announcement that he had risen again. He told her, "Go ... to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

I found that Easter Sunday morning most moving. The simplicity of the place. Knowing that I was standing in, or near, the spot where the most important event in human history happened.

Wherever we are in the world this year, many Christians will join in the Paschal Greeting, a tradition which stretches back to the early years of the Church. When the leader says, "Christ is Risen" the congregation respond, "HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

Nick Page

Former Churchwarden

DIARY FOR APRIL 2020

- 1 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd. Chris Johnson: refreshments afterwards
8.00 pm Lent series 5: Thessalonians (Church Centre)
- 4 9.00 am Churchyard Working Party
- 5 **Palm Sunday**
8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Derek Carpenter)**
8.45 am **Prayer Breakfast**
10.45 am **Palm Sunday procession: meet at Otford Methodist Church**
11.00 am **Service on The Green**
6.30 pm **Evensong**
- 6 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Anne Bourne)
- 9 **Maundy Thursday**
8.00 pm **Holy Communion (Otford Methodist Church)**
- 10 **Good Friday**
10.00 am **All Together Worship (Church Centre)**
2.00 pm **The Last Hour at The Cross (Margaret Lidbetter)**
**Magazine material for the May edition by today, please, to the Church Office,
st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 11 6.00 pm EPIC (Church Centre)
- 12 **EASTER DAY**
8.00 am **Easter Communion (Revd. Andrew Procter)**
10.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Brian Stevenson)**
6.30 pm **Festal Evensong**
- 13 7.45 pm Bank Holiday: CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 15 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed) refreshments afterwards
- 18 1.30 pm Sevenoaks District Council Civic Service
- 19 **The Second Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am **Holy Communion (Revd. Chris Reed)**
8.45 am **Prayer Breakfast**
10.00 am **Morning Worship**
6.30 pm **Evensong**
- 20 7.45 pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 21 8.00 pm Fabric Committee (Church Centre)
- 22 9.30 am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Adie McCall)

26 The Third Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am** Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Reed)
10.00 am Holy Communion (Revd. Canon Alan Vousden)
11.45 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by Lunch

27 7.45 pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)

29 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Adie McCall) refreshments afterwards



Registers



BAPTISM (Our Welcome)

29th March

Abbie Marleen **Hallett**

FUNERAL (Our Sympathy)

14th February

Robert Geoffrey **Downes** (aged 93)

23rd February

Jean **Wylie** (aged 89)

St. Bartholomew's Vicarage

In preparation for the arrival of our new Vicar (person as yet unknown) work will commence shortly on the Vicarage. All external paintwork will be renewed. Rotten windows will be replaced in the empty garage.

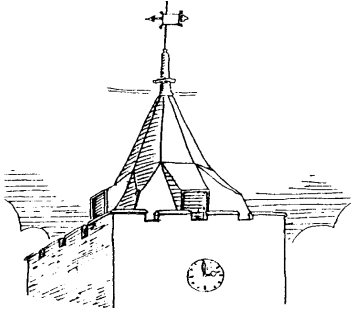
Internally a new boiler will be installed along with associated radiators, to bring the heating up to modern standards of efficiency. Several minor repairs will be undertaken. The Vicarage belongs to the Diocese and these works will all be paid for by them.

In May we are hoping to gather a team of volunteers to undertake tidying of the garden in preparation for the summer season, along with redecoration of some of the rooms in the Vicarage. Many hands make light work! Refreshments will be provided. More information will follow on the Parish website and in the weekly news sheets.

We hope that you will enjoy our new series about welcoming wildlife into our gardens. You will find the introductory one on page 17.

The Editors

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



CHURCH OFFICE AND CHURCH CAR PARK

During the clerical vacancy the church and church car park will only be open during church office hours - Monday to Friday 9am-12.30pm.

If you wish to visit the church at another time please contact the church office 01959 523185 or st.bartholomews@otford.net

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

Palm Sunday Procession, 5th April, 10.45 am.

There will be a united churches' procession, beginning at Otford Methodist Church at 10.45 am and ending with an act of worship on The Green, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre. Palm crosses will be available at all services on that day.

Maundy Thursday, 9th April. There will be a service of Holy Communion in Otford Methodist Church at 8.00 pm.

Good Friday, 10th April. There will be a service for all ages at 10.00 am in the Church Centre and The Last Hour at the Cross in Church at 2.00 pm

EASTER DAY, 12th April

There will be services of Holy Communion at 8.00 and 10.00 am. At 6.30 pm there will be a service of Festal Evensong. Do join us!

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM will be held after the morning service on Sunday, 26th April at 11.45 am in the Church. This will be followed by a parish lunch at 1.00 pm. At this meeting we will be presenting the Annual Report and Accounts and also electing new members of the PCC. We do hope you will join us as we look back with thanksgiving and forward with hope.

THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box. It communicates the real story of Easter to all generations. The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to the charity, Traidcraft Exchange, from sales giving at least 10p from the purchase of each 150g egg. Available from Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Waitrose supermarkets. For details see: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

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 4th April 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!

SOUP LUNCH

The next Soup Lunch will be held on **Monday, 11th May from 12-2.00 pm in the Church Centre.** More details will be given next month.

MONTHLY MEDITATION—APRIL

Easter

‘Love is come again like wheat that springs up green’

Easter is always a special time of the year – family gatherings, Easter eggs and other good things to eat and, in our church, services that celebrate the mystery of Christ’s resurrection and our own salvation.

One of my favourite Easter hymns is ‘Now the green blade riseth’ written by John Macleod Campbell Crum, a canon of Canterbury cathedral, and sung to a pretty French folk tune. You can hear a beautiful rendition of it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduVOustWw>

It tells the Easter story simply, comparing it to the growth of grain. Looking in the fields of local arable farms we can see that seemingly lifeless wheat and barley seeds sewn in the dark days of winter have started to germinate. By the time Easter is here they will be showing strong green blades pushing up through the earth with the promise of a rich harvest.

After his death on the cross Christ, like the wheat grain, was laid in the earth. Farmers know that this seed will come again, but the disciples and Jesus’ family did not have this certainty. He had told them that He would return but, when you have seen someone you love suffer so horribly and unjustly, to believe in their resurrection must have been impossible. But like the growing grain Christ did rise from dead, bringing hope and redemption to us all.

The last verse of the hymn tells of this promise, and it’s worth quoting here:

‘When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.’

We all have times when our hearts are sad, when we feel that all is lost and we are abandoned just as Jesus’ followers and family must have felt. But like the farmers who scatter their seeds in faith in the dark days of winter, we know that however dreadful our lives are we are not alone and that Christ’s love is with us.

Risen Lord, may the joy of Easter and the promise of your eternal love reach us and all who need to feel your grace. Amen

Susanne Beard



FAITH IN THE FAMILY...

April: The Animals at Easter

Can you find each animal's story in the Bible during Easter week?
(Peter was the fisherman who left his nets behind to follow Jesus.)

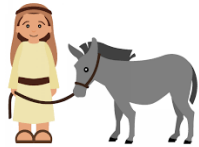
I was dreaming about giving someone famous a ride when the men came. Silly really - I'd never even been ridden!

They began to untie me, so I gave a loud HEE-HAW!

"Hey! Why are you untying my little donkey?" called the farmer.

"The Lord needs it," they replied, and off we went!

Along the road, the men helped someone onto my back. It felt strange but not a burden. My rider whispered in my ear, "Don't worry, little donkey! I'm Jesus, your gentle king! Please will you carry me into Jerusalem?"



As we went along, people spread cloaks and waved palm branches.
"Hosanna in the highest!" they sang in joyful voices.

But all I could think was that King Jesus had asked *me* for help!

I was in my master's dining-room when Jesus ate that Last Supper with his friends. There were no smelly feet – Jesus had washed them all!

"One of you is going to betray me," he said and I saw Judas slip away. Wasn't he loyal to *his* Master, like me?

Then Jesus took some bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces to share.

"Imagine this bread is my body, broken for you all," he said.

Next he took the cup of wine, thanked God, and offered it to them.

"Imagine this wine is my blood poured out for you," he said.

"Whenever you do this, please REMEMBER ME."

I began to whine . . .



That evening, I heard Jesus comforting his friends.

"My children, I must go away and leave you now. Please LOVE ONE ANOTHER, just as I have loved you."

But Peter said, "Let me follow you! I would die for you, you know!"

"Really?" answered Jesus. "Peter, before the cock crows at dawn, you will say you don't know me *three* times!"

"DON'T BE SAD!" he said. "You'll see me again and BE GLAD!"



Later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, I heard Jesus pray,
"Father, let your will be done!"

He seemed so sad - how could his friends sleep?
Weapons clashed! Judas was bringing soldiers and I took flight.

I was strutting along at the High Priest's house when Jesus was bundled in for questioning. The people *loved* him and the priests were jealous. There was bound to be trouble!

Peter arrived, still following his Master.

"Aren't you one of the disciples?" asked the servant girl.

"NO, I am not!" he replied.

He warmed himself by the fire.

"You're one of *his* lot, aren't you?" asked another.

Go on, Peter, stand up for Jesus!

"NO, I don't even know him!"



The sky glowed pink. Nearly time!
"You *must* do, you talk just like him!" said someone else.

I decided to show Peter how to speak up.

But as I opened my beak, he said,

"NO, I don't know what you're talking about!"

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

There was nothing Good about that Friday.

The pair of us were looking after our nest beside a cave.

So we saw the soldiers nail Jesus to the cross, between two criminals.

Peter was there, and his mother Mary, crying bitterly.

But he hasn't done anything wrong, we thought.

At mid-day, the sky turned black. Jesus sagged, as if HE CARRIED THE WRONGS OF THE WORLD on his back . . .

"It is finished," he sighed, and we buried our heads under our wings.



Later, two men laid his body in our cave.
They rolled a heavy stone to close it. Finished!

Early that Sunday morning, I *burst* from my cocoon as a beautiful butterfly.

My caterpillar friends hardly recognised me!

"Look, Peter!" said a lady. "The stone has been rolled aside!"

Peter went into the cave and saw that it was empty - like my cocoon!



The lady stayed by the cave, crying.
"They have taken my Jesus away," she sobbed.

Someone stood in the garden.

Was it the gardener?

"Mary!" he said.

She blinked. Then up flew her hands!

"Jesus!" she cried. "It's you, IT REALLY IS YOU!"

I floated towards heaven. Soon my caterpillar friends would be butterflies too!

(Soon Peter would tell everyone the Easter story - how Jesus had died for them and beaten death; how they could follow Jesus too, even to heaven. Peter would be a fisher of men - what a catch!)

EVENTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES FROM OTFORD'S PAST

Stan Miles' little 'Head Office' barbers shop in the High Street

For well over fifty years until June 2018 Stan Miles, operating from his 'Head Office' in the High Street opposite the Parish Council office was well-known as the main village barber. But how many readers know the history of this little shop, which continues to play a similar role in village life today? The summer 2018 edition of the 'Otford History and Heritage Newsletter' included a history of the shop written by Ed Thompson with photographs from Ed's collection. We reprint an edited version, the first of two parts, of the original article below.

The lock up shop, 44 High Street Otford, had not always been a barbers shop. In fact it started life as an extension from the cottage behind and must have been built in the early 20th century. It does not appear on the large scale Ordnance Survey map of 1897 but does appear on that of 1907. It would seem the cottage was owned by the Groves Family who had moved to the cottage in the late 1890s and established 'Groves the butchers' in 1900 going on to build the shop with internal access from the cottage. A slaughterhouse was sited at the rear of the shop. Their business was popular and successful, lasted for several decades and outgrew the original premises.



By the 1930s the business had been successfully established for some three decades and the photograph (left) features Thomas, who looks ready for action, on the right and his shop assistant and

delivery boy Percy to the left. So successful had the business become that larger premises were required. The land to the west of the little shop had not yet been built on and was clearly an ideal site for a new shop. A postcard (below) of the (virtually traffic-free) High Street and Pickmoss, that we know was taken in 1935 reveals, in the distance, scaffolding round the building that was to become the new butcher's



shop and which by the 1970s had been taken over by butcher John Church. It is now a private residence. Older village residents will remember when it was a shop with sawdust on the floor, carcasses of animals hanging up, the long counter on the right-hand side and little office in the corner where payments were taken.

What then happened to the original 'little shop' after the new one opened in the mid 1930s? The local street directory for 1937 to 1939 gives 'A Pocock Ironmonger' as the next occupant. No other information is known about the shop at this time, but it does appear in the background of a picture of children in the school playground taken in 1938 (below). You can just make out the wares being displayed outside the shop, and of course to the left the three-year-old butchers shop. Can any of our readers remember what happened to the ironmonger's

shop and when it closed? Certainly by the late 1940s it had become a gentleman's barber shop run by Mr Pryor.



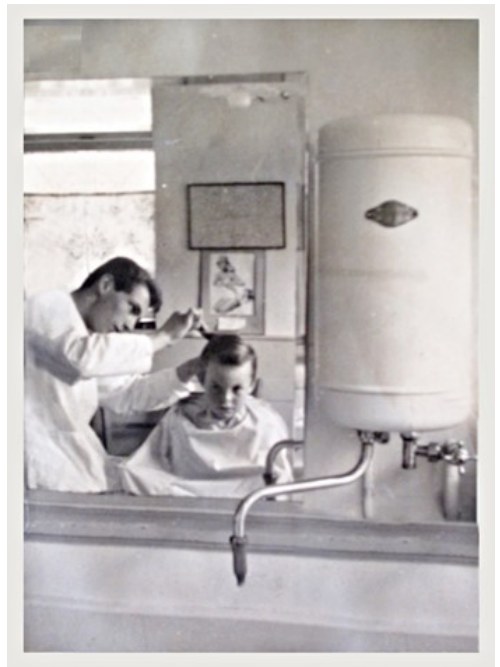
Mr Pryor took on Stan Miles as an apprentice barber. Village resident Gilbert Denton remembers Stan's arrival in the village in 1959. Gilbert moved into Knighton Road in November 1957 and writes, 'at that time Mr Pryor ran the man's (hairdressing) shop. He took on Stan as an apprentice, stayed a little while before going to 'manage' his wife's women's salon in the Post Office Parade'. Stan told Gilbert that he was only 18 when Mr Pryor offered him the business. At that time 21 was the age of legal responsibility and Stan's mother had to sign the legal papers while his sister lent him £500 for the lease. And so began Stan's 59 years of hair cutting in Otford. Ed Thompson remembers as a young boy sitting on a board across his chair having his hair cut. Though Stan retired in 2018 it is a service which continues today. Look out for the story of other hair dressing shops in a future magazine.

(Left: Stan Miles cuts a boy's hair on the first day of running his shop in the High Street)

Many village residents will have memories of local shops which have not had the same longevity as Stan's and have long since disappeared. If you have any memories or

photographs of shops, especially if they no longer exist, do let us know. We can be contacted by email at info@otfordhistoricalsociety.co.uk or you can leave your contact details (or written memories) in the Parish Council office. You can also use this email address to subscribe to the (free, by email only) 'History and Heritage Newsletter' which includes details of all meetings for the three history societies which meet regularly in the Village Memorial Hall, articles about local history as well as other history-related events in Otford.

Alan Williams, February 2020



APRIL WALK

A delightful 6 mile walk for a late April day when the birds are singing loudly in their quest to attract a mate and when bright new leaves are unfurling on the trees. The walk passes through several areas of woodland where the bluebells should be close to their peak.

This walk begins in the village car park.

Turn left out of the village car park and walk towards St Bartholomew's Church. Take the footpath through the graveyard to the right of the church. Continue straight on until you reach the station car park.

Turn left, passing the station on your right, and climb the steps to the road. Turn right and, immediately after crossing the railway, turn right onto the footpath running parallel to the tracks. Soon after you come to the Scout Hut, turn left into the Chalk Pit (ground level stone footpath sign). On reaching the open space at its centre, turn left and then ascend the steps leading up to Pilgrims Way East. Turn right then, opposite the North Downs Way (NDW) noticeboard, cross the road. For the next two thirds of a mile, follow the NDW uphill, initially between fences, then up a steep slope, before going through a wooded area and along the right hand edge of a field, to reach the triangle of land where Rowdow Lane meets Birchyn Cross Road.



Following the NDW, walk straight ahead along Birchyn Cross Road, to where the wooded area on your right becomes a field. Now turn right to follow the NDW/SR44 - the path bends to the left and continues straight to reach a gate. Cross two meadows to arrive at Shorehill Lane. Turn right, follow the road round to the left (Oak Hall), then turn right onto the NDW footpath just before the brick gateposts to Oak Hall.

The NDW skirts a field and then descends, through a wooded area (ignore path to right), to a wooden gate. Proceed out to the open space of Whiteleaf Down where, in April, primroses and violets grace the sunny, chalky slopes. Turn left and, with magnificent views over Seal/Kemsing to your right, continue on at high level next to the fence, passing through a metal gate and later ignoring the path forking right downhill towards Kemsing. Eventually you will come to a wooden gate, followed by a sunken path. Cross over the path, follow the NDW up the uneven steps, then through a metal gate, and on uphill to reach another area of downland with expansive views over the valley.



Continue along the top edge of the field, beneath the oak trees, then turn left in the corner of the field (following NDW) to go through a metal gate. On the opposite side of this field, go through three metal gates and turn right on the NDW into an area of woodland which is dense with bluebells at this time of year.

Exit the woodland into a field studded with daisies and dandelions and, keeping right, continue straight on, through another metal gate, to cross a second field and on into woodland again carpeted with bluebells and filled with birdsong.

At the end of the woodland turn left (***you are now leaving the NDW***) and walk straight ahead, through a wooden gate, then past some farm buildings on your right to reach Cotman's Ash Lane. Turn left, passing the former Rising Sun pub on your right, and after no more than 60 yards, opposite some farm buildings, turn left onto a narrow enclosed path signposted Footpath SR 78. Continue on, crossing three green fields, to enter the woods. Again you will find bluebells and wood anemones covering the ground and will be greeted by a chorus of birdsong.

Pass through the woods then, following the public footpath sign pointing left, exit via a metal gate into a large field (horses), and cross the grassy area at a diagonal. Pass through the line of

trees then, still at a diagonal, walk to the far corner of the field. With the access road to Otford Manor on your left, go through a metal gate and along the edge of another field, then through a gate to the access road. Turn right and continue to Shorehill Lane. Turn right and, after about 75 yards, on your left you will see a NDW signpost (also marked 'Otford 1 ½ miles'). This is the path you took earlier.

Follow the NDW back across the fields to the path that skirts the woodland. On the bend in the path, just before it turns right to join the road, go straight ahead into the woodland for a final chance to enjoy the raw, sweet scent of the bluebells that proliferate beneath the trees. The path dips down and up (twice) then curves left before reaching a junction of paths. Turn right towards the road, emerging at the triangle of land at the top of Rowdown. Cross the triangle into the field and follow the NDW (SR 45) back to Otford.

Christeen Malan



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Do you need planning permission?

With the arrival of spring and new beginnings, it is a great time to think about transforming your home or garden. Whatever your plans, there are some key things to know before you get started.

Planning law on small structures, such as single-storey extensions or garden sheds and non-permanent items, such as **mobile homes**, is not always clear. In rural planning, the issue of non-permanent structures comes up a lot, often because landowners feel placing something 'off the beaten track' will not bother anyone.

Permitted Development Not every new building or change of use needs planning permission from your District Council. In some cases, these are covered under "permitted development". Permitted Development rights enable homeowners to undertake certain types of work without the need to apply for planning permission. These rights may allow a householder to build a single-storey extension (generally up to half the width of the existing dwelling), make additions to the roof space (dormers and gable extensions), add porches and include certain outbuildings. Further information about permitted development can be found at: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_applications/11/request_pre-application_planning_advice.

Planning enforcement This is the process of investigating and resolving possible breaches of planning law, and where breaches occur the local authority will take action. A breach of planning law might include not obtaining planning permission for works to listed buildings, installing satellite dishes, advertisements, protected trees and change of use conditions.

Often reported breaches, usually by members of the public, are resolved without having to prosecute. Where enforcement action is taken, it is proportionate to the severity of the harm being caused. Breaches often occur when landowners are unaware planning permission is required, for example, for a fence or wall over 2 metres (one metre next a highway); again, in these cases this would be dealt with through a retrospective planning application.

Lawful Development There may be cases where it will be too late for the Local Authority to take any action. A breach of planning control becomes immune from enforcement action within certain time limits, either four years for building works or ten years for a change of use of land or buildings. It is then that a development or change of use would become "lawful" and immune from any planning enforcement. As proof that planning permission was not required you can apply for a Lawful Development Certificate.

As we all know, ignorance is no excuse for the law. The best advice is to always check first and get professional advice from the Planning Officers at your District Council, this will save time and money in the long term.

If you have any concerns about unlawful development or enforcement issues go to:

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069126/planning_enforcement/15/make_a_planning_enforcement_complaint.

To find out if you need planning permission go to: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_applications/282/apply_for_planning_permission.

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

OUT AND ABOUT



OTFORD EVENING W.I. We celebrate our birthday meeting on Thursday the 9th of April, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Main

Memorial Hall.

After a hot supper, Alan Haines will talk to us about Baby Boomers - fun and laughter to cheer us all up!

1940'S SOCIETY

We hold regular meetings on Friday evenings about the history of the 1940s in Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ. Parking in the adjacent car park is free after 18:00. Meetings begin at 20:00 and refreshments are available during the evening. Admission £3. All are welcome to the informative, entertaining and often thought-provoking evenings. You can find out more about the Society and see the programme on the web site: <http://www.1940.co.uk/>

SPECIAL EVENT! FRIDAY 8th May Bank Holiday. Organised by Otford Parish Council and the **1940s Society. VE-75 Commemorative Events. Afternoon and evening events. Watch out for further details.**



OTFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

Meetings are held in the Village Memorial Hall (with adjacent free parking after 18:00). Doors open at 19:30 when

refreshments will be available. Talks start at 20:00. Membership for the year costs £10 and visitors are very welcome at £3 per meeting (there is no charge for students). You are able to renew your membership (or join the Society) at any meeting during the year.

Future Meetings

15th April **The History of Fortifications in Kent.**
Sir Paul Britton

20th May **The History of Tuberculosis.** **Dr Charles Shee**



*Helen went to church three weeks running,
so she was co-opted to the P.C.C.*

THE BISHOP OF ST ALBAN'S CORONAVIRUS GOLDEN RULES

Not official advice: read and heed that at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>

– but this is food-for-thought about our attitudes.

Golden Rule One. Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

Golden Rule Two: Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

Golden Rule Three. Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

Golden Rule Four. Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

And, along with just over half the adults in the UK, don't forget to pray. Here's a suggestion from the Revd Louise Collins, a Team Vicar in Borehamwood, Herts:

*Dear God our Shield and our Defender,
guide and protect my neighbour in this time
of health emergency; deliver them from all
harm and may your love and care ever grow
in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,
Amen.*



WELCOME WILDLIFE INTO YOUR GARDEN'



Otford is fortunate! We can observe all the aspects of wildlife in the countryside surrounding us and in our gardens, appreciating the diversity of God's world.

We have seven open spaces for public enjoyment: the Rec, the Chalkpit, Oxenhill Meadow and Woods, Palace Field, Palace Park Wood, Telston Park and Hale Lane Rec. All have different aspects to enjoy and support different plants and wildlife. There are many footpaths that also display diversity. Then coming into our own gardens we have different soil types, from clay with flints on top of the Downs, to chalk on the slope, and clay in the valley. We have little streams and of course the River Darent.

Our Heritage Centre displays a relief map and a geological column. Depending on the location of our gardens, some of us can grow particular plants but not others; likewise those on the slope of the Downs may not see starlings or hedgehogs, while those on the western side of the village see many.

Over the last few years, we have been asked to leave a part of our gardens (small or large) for wild flowers and insects. Some insects are good for our gardens: wasps, centipedes, beetles, while ladybirds love eating greenfly! Many gardens also have a pond which provides a habitat for frogs, newts and toads, dragonflies and damselflies, water boatmen (which walk/row across the surface of the water) and a dancing place for mosquitoes. In an undisturbed corner of the garden, children could make a wildlife habitat from a few bricks, logs and leaves, or go to a National Trust property or garden centre to buy a 'bug hotel', or with the help of an adult, make their own.

They could easily find some short pieces of bamboo canes of various thickness, tie them together with twine and wedge into the branches of a tree.

We have experienced a very mild winter and much rain. April is known as the month of sunshine and showers. Blackbirds and thrushes like this because they line their nests with mud – they use their saliva if there is no rain! They have amongst the longest breeding seasons of any European birds.

Daffodils and primroses flowered in March; hopefully they will continue, to join bluebells, wood anemones, cowslips and the abundance of blossoms on fruit trees and garden shrubs.

April Tip

Why not use a little notebook or diary to write down or draw some flowers, birds, or insects that you see every day? Become a nature detective!



Otford Library has books that are well worth consulting to help with identification, or there are friends, neighbours and others who may be able to explain what you have seen. Have fun!

Elizabeth Ward

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?... COLIN TINDAL

I grew up in a family that didn't honour God. In fact we considered religious people to be weak! However, as a secondary school student, I was interested to realise that the nicest pupils in my class were the Christian ones. When I encountered a problem in life that I felt unable to share with family and with nowhere else to turn, I would pray. I noticed that God consistently answered. I began to believe that God was there, somewhere. So I began to go to Christian Union meetings at school.

A boy in the year above mine told a few of us that Christian speaker Luis Palau was doing nightly meetings at the QPR football stadium. He thought we should book a coach and take any students from school that were interested. Then he decided a single coach was insufficient and we prayed for the money for a second. The day came when the boy had to pay in advance for the coaches, and he almost had what he needed, he was just £8 short. He was convinced that God was in on the idea, so he set off to walk to the coach company office with what money he had. His mother called him back, unaware that there was a lack, and said she had intended to give towards the cost. She gave him £8. He was elated! In the coming days he decided that two coaches were not enough, and we booked a third.

We travelled to London, three coaches in convoy. There were songs, testimony and Luis Palau gave a talk and an invitation. I thought I was a Christian, but the realisation that God wanted close friendship and lordship was a revelation. I joined hundreds walking down onto the pitch

making my decision to respond. I felt enormous joy. My life was never the same.

I joined St Bartholomew's, where some of my school friends, Matthew Crisp, Jason Collins and Richard Saward worshipped. The church also arranged a coach to the Luis Palau meetings. I attended the Evensong service at St Barts each week and then the Young People's Fellowship that followed. Evensong was a challenge, trying to learn to sing the Psalms, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The YPF was full of youthful activity, with leaders Anne Fleetwood and Phil Johnson (PJ) that obviously loved God.

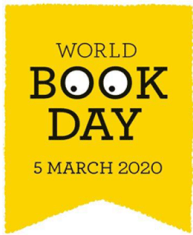
I left Kent to attend university at Bath and then Bristol and became a Secondary Mathematics teacher at schools near Bath. I later became Head of Mathematics for eight years in Torquay.

We worship at the Parish Church in our Devon town where we lead a weekly informal service aimed at those who are not used to Church. It's so good to see people growing in their faith. We are linked to a ministry in Kenya that helps young mothers.

Colin Tindal



NEWS FROM OTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



On Thursday 5th March we celebrated World Book Day at Otford Primary. Children dressed up as their favourite book character. The classes were filled with Harry

Potter characters, Matilda, the Gruffalo and Mr Men amongst many other imaginative creations, and even the teachers join in too.

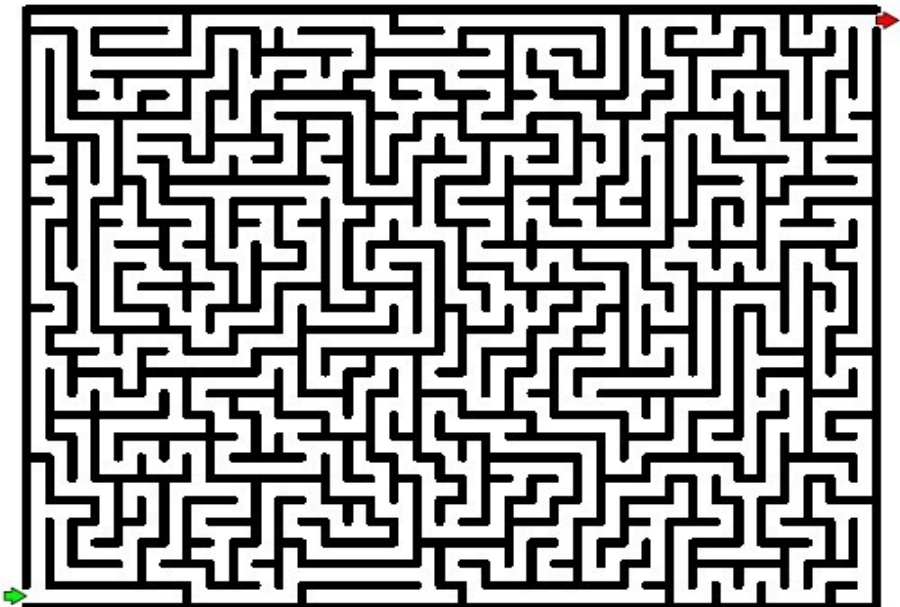
The day was based all around a book called 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' by Chris van Allsburg. This is a fascinating book of pictures and captions that were used to inspire the children to use their imaginations and create

their own stories. They spent the day doing workshops focussing on different creative elements including art, music, poetry, story writing and drama.

Lunch was even a book themed meal with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory cookies and other book based delights.

The day was brought together in a whole school World Book Day assembly where the children sung songs about the importance of reading and made up their own short stories which they shared with their neighbours. Nearly 500 stories were shared together at Otford Primary that day which have hopefully helped to inspire the children to continue to love reading books.

PUZZLE FOR APRIL



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Slow Roast Leg of Lamb with Beans

Leg of lamb is expensive, but there are usually very good offers prior to Easter and it's a good time to put one in the freezer. This is an adaptation of a common French peasant recipe, usually made with dried haricot or fresh flageolet beans but I used what was in the cupboard! This has more ingredients than usual, but the preparation is very easy.

350g dried haricot or cannellini beans

One onion and one garlic bulb – pierced but left intact

One large carrot, finely chopped.

3 sprigs of thyme.

1 bay leaf

Soak the beans overnight, then cover with water, add the other ingredients, bring to the boil and simmer for an hour. Strain, and remove the onion, garlic, thyme stalks and bay leaf.

1.8 kg leg of lamb

1 Rosemary sprig

2 tbs Dijon mustard

4 crushed garlic cloves

2 tbs olive oil

Fry the lamb on both sides to give some colour, then pierce it, mix the other ingredients into a paste, and rub into the lamb.

150 g chopped smoked bacon

2 sliced onions

150 ml dry white wine

150 ml chicken stock.

Salt and pepper

Cook the bacon and onions for a few minutes to soften, then put the cooked beans into a casserole dish with the bacon, onions, wine and stock and stir in some salt and pepper, and put the lamb on top. Cover with a couple of layers of tinfoil as well as the casserole lid.

Cook for four hours at 160°, check from time to time and add a little boiling water if it necessary.

Hilary Fothergill



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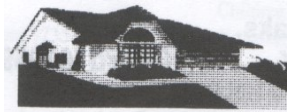
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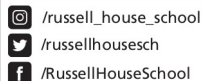
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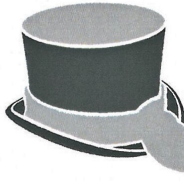
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