

'BARTHOLOMEW' CONCERT

This concert, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will take place in Church **next Saturday, 4th February at 7.30 pm.** They will be joined by "Four over Forte" who sing in close harmony (barbershop!). Tickets, which include refreshments, are £7 (children and senior citizens £6). Proceeds to Hospice in the Weald and Hospice of Hope, Otford, with a donation to Church Funds.

REQUEST FOR SUPPLIES FOR EASTER CRAFTS

Sylvia Grafton will be extremely grateful to receive the following items. Please leave them with the Church Office or in the porch of 34 Dartford Road:

1. Old Easter cards or Spring pictures to make into Children's Society Easter cards, as soon as possible, please.
2. Douwe Egberts Instant Coffee Jars and lids, large or small, preferably small, an ongoing collection. Thank you.

NEW CU@5 SERIES FOR THE SPRING TERM

This term we are looking at the theme of Christian Discipleship under the heading of "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction" based on a book by Eugene Peterson. The topics we are covering include worship, service, joy, perseverance, hope, humility, community and blessing. You are warmly invited to join us.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The Churchyard Working Party meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9.00 am. The first one of this year is on Saturday 11th February. If you would like to help please come along and bring any tools that you think would be useful. Thank you.

RETREAT ALMSHOUSES

There is a vacancy at the Retreat Almshouses, which are adjacent to the Methodist Church at The Drive in Sevenoaks. There are seven properties, each of which is a small bungalow comprising living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Each bungalow has a tiny garden; the rent is modest. For more details, please contact Michael Brignall, Secretary of the Trustees, 01732 452064.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 21 st Feb:	"Growing in faith" course (Church Centre)
8.00 pm	
Wednesday 22 nd Feb:	Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes
8.00 pm	

FLOWER ROTA 2012

If you can help to arrange the altar flowers during the coming year, please put your name in a space on the rota on the noticeboard at the back of church. Thank you.

MAGAZINES

Magazines for February are available at the back of church. Material for the **March magazine** should be sent to the Church Office by **Friday 10th February:** st.bartholomews@otford.net

LENT SERIES 2012

You are warmly to our Lent series on traditions of spirituality. The sessions are on Tuesday evenings during Lent at 8 p.m. in the Church Centre:

28 th Feb	Anglican Spirituality (George Herbert) The Vicar
6 th March	Methodist Spirituality Rev. John Curnow
13 th March	Franciscan Spirituality Brother Nicholas Alan SSF
20 th March	Ignatian Spirituality Rev. Susanne Carlsson
27 th March	Anglican Spirituality (Lancelot Andrewes) The Vicar

Rev. John Curnow is a retired Methodist minister and member of Otford Methodist Church; Brother Nicholas Alan is the Guardian of the Anglican Franciscan retreat house at Glasshampton, Worcestershire (and the Vicar's brother); Rev. Susanne Carlsson is the Diocesan Co-ordinator of Spirituality.

THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,



Vicar: Rev. Richard Worssam

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WELCOME TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 29th January 2012

Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

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

TODAY'S SERVICES

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
 Leader and Celebrant: The Vicar
 Preacher: Bill Lattimer
- 10.00 am Morning Worship**
 Leader and All-Age talk: The Vicar
 Preacher: Bill Lattimer
- Hymns (BBC): 143, Faithful vigil ended, 305, 304

There is a crèche available at this service

- 5.00 pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**
 Leader: Mags Southgate
- 6.30 pm Music and Readings for Candlemas**
 Leader: Margaret Lidbetter
 Preacher: The Vicar

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

PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

This week we pray for the residents of **Colets Orchard and for the work of Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust.**

OFFERTORY ARRANGEMENTS

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

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

My eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:30-32

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-5 (page 961 OT)

Malachi (whose name means, "My messenger") prophesied in the period 460-430 B.C. when the Israelites had returned to Palestine from their exile in Babylon. He warns them not to become complacent, but to be ready for the coming of the Lord. They are to do this by giving due attention to the worship they offer God and to issues of justice and righteousness in society. The key phrase, "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple" (3:1) was seen as being fulfilled when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple.

Hebrews 2:14-end (page 1202 NT)

A theme running throughout the letter to the Hebrews is the high priestly role of Jesus who makes a sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. In being brought to the Temple, this role of Jesus is anticipated. Simeon speaks of the path of suffering that Jesus will have to follow. Through the offering of his very self, access to God will be made available to all people.

Luke 2:22-40 (page 1028 NT)

Forty days after his birth, Jesus is brought to the Temple, according to the law of the Lord. The Holy Family are met by Simeon and Anna. They represent the faithful remnant of Israel who through the long ages had kept faith and hope alive as they waited for the fulfillment of God's promises. Although Jesus is still a baby, Simeon, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, recognises him to be the light of the world. Since early centuries the Church has celebrated this occasion with a liturgy including the proclamation of Simeon's words and the lighting of candles - hence the name "Candlemas". This event also looks ahead to Passion Week and Easter, with Simeon and Anna's words about suffering and redemption.

DAILY READINGS

Day	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	57	Genesis 18:1-15	Hosea ch.9
Tues	93	Genesis 18:16-end	Matthew 27:27-44
Weds	95:1-7	Genesis 19:1-3, 12-29	Matthew 27:45-56
Thurs	48	Exodus 13:1-16	Romans 12:1-5
Fri	119	Genesis 22:1-19	Matthew 28:1-15
Sat	23	Genesis ch.23	Matthew 28:16-end

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

- Monday 30th January**
Vicar's off-duty day
 7.45 pm Focus on Words (17 Leonard Avenue)
- Tuesday 31st January**
 9.00 am Morning Prayer
 5.30 pm Teaching new bellringers
- Wednesday 1st February**
 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- Thursday 2nd February**
 9.30 am Morning Prayer
 7.45 pm Bellringing practice
- Friday 3rd February**
 9.00 am Prayer group (The Cranmer Room)
 8.00 pm Choir practice
- Saturday 4th February**
 7.30 pm 'Bartholomew' Wind Band concert (in Church)

NEXT SUNDAY - 5th February The Third Sunday before Lent Septuagesima

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**
 Leader and Celebrant: The Vicar
 Preacher: Margaret Lidbetter
- 10.00 am Church Family Worship and the Baptism of Angus Brown**
 Leader: The Vicar
 Preacher: Dawn Hallam
- 5.00 pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**
 Leader: The Vicar
- 6.30 pm Evensong**
 Leader: The Vicar
 Preacher: Margaret Lidbetter