

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship & HC with children - Choir -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Holy Communion - Choir -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Said	CU@5 - Church Centre -	-

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP every Sunday after Evening Service **Sundays**
in Church Hall

FROGS 11-14 years, first Sunday of month 6 p.m. in Church Hall

OTT 8-11 years, 9.30 a.m. in Church Centre
except on first and second Sunday when in Church

SUNDAY CLUB 3-7+yrs, 9.30 a.m. in Church Centre
except on first Sunday when in Church

HOLY COMMUNION Weekdays

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. (BCP)

Saints Days and Holy Days as announced

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

SIDESMEN and WOMEN

Messrs Bailey, Beasley, Brackett, Dunning, Finley, Fleetwood, Grogan, Howie, Johnson, Lattimer, Lea, Matthews, Sherwood, Vigis, Wickham, Wood, Worssam, Wragg, Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Beasley, Mrs Dunning, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Kelsey, Mrs Marchant, Mrs J. Matthews, Mrs Mills, Mrs Richardson, and Mrs Wood.

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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FEBRUARY 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2 – 7.30pm 'Bartholomew' Wind Band Concert (in Church)
- 3 – **The Sunday next before Lent: Quinquagesima (BCP)**
 - 8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. Dennis Mihill)**
 - 9.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion and children (CW)**
(Rev. Canon Dr. Jane Hedges, Westminster Abbey)
 - 5.00pm CU@5 (Mags Southgate: Church Centre)**
 - 6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**
 - 6.30pm Evensong (Bill Lattimer)**
- 4 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

- 5 – **Shrove Tuesday**
7.15 for 7.30pm Wine & Wisdom Quiz Evening (Church Hall)
Morning Prayer will be said in church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am
- 6 – **Ash Wednesday**
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Miles)
8.00pm Holy Communion (CW) (Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge)
- 10 – **The First Sunday of Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Joe Whiting)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW) (Dawn Hallam)
5.00pm CU@5 (Revd. David Casiot: Church Centre)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Judy Thurlow, Rector of Kingsdown with Mappiscombe)
- 11 – 7.45pm Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 12 – 8.00pm Lent meeting (1): The Bank Vault: Dr. David Reid
- 13 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
- Material for the March magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, ‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2TQ. matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 16 – 10-3.00pm Marriage Preparation (Church Centre)
- 17 – **The Second Sunday of Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Casiot and Colin Smith, CMS)
8.45-9.30am Breakfast with Colin Smith (Church Centre)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW) (Colin Smith, CMS)
5.00pm CU@5 (Dawn Hallam: Church Centre)
6.30pm Evensong (Peter Downing)
8.00pm Ministry Team meeting (Church Centre)
- 18 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 19 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 8.00pm Lent meeting (2): The Prison Cell: Mrs Bobbie Fairclough
- 20 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Dennis Mihill)
- 24 – **The Third Sunday of Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) tba
9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Canon Paul Cox
5.00pm CU@5 (Andrew Bratby: Church Centre)
- 25 – 8.00pm Fair Committee (‘Lorien’)
- 26 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 8.00pm Lent meeting (3): The Hospital Ward: Mrs Stella Shee
- 8.00pm Ecumenical Committee (‘Burway’, Sevenoaks Road)
- 27 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)

Some early March dates

- 2 – **The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Casiot)
9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW) (Dawn Hallam)
5.00pm CU@5 (Revd. David Casiot/Brian Raynor: Church Centre)
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong (Robin Long)
- 4 – **Morning Prayer will be said in church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
8.00pm Lent meeting (4): The Police Station: Mr Andrew Hill
- 5 – 8.00pm P.C.C. meeting (Church Centre)

Appointment of Vicar for Otford

The Churchwardens are pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd. Richard Mark Worssam to be the next Vicar of Otford

Richard is currently the Rector of Fawkham and Hartley within our own diocese, the parish being semi-rural and consisting of two historic Norman Churches and a modern Church Centre. The churches follow the central tradition of the Church of England.

Richard studied at St. John's College, Durham, undertaking a degree in Psychology and Sociology. He later studied at Selwyn College, Cambridge, taking a further degree in Theology and Religious Studies before undertaking theological training at Ridley Hall. More recently he completed an MA at Heythrop College, London University, and is currently working on a Doctorate in Ministry and Theology on a part-time basis at King's College, London. Prior to Cambridge, Richard spent six years as a mission partner for CMS in Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

Richard was ordained in Rochester in 1993 and spent his first four years of ministry as a Curate in Green Street Green. He moved to Fawkham and Hartley in 1997, where he completed ten years last month.

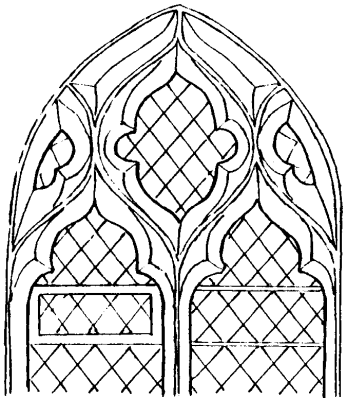
Richard feels that the experience that he has gained in parish ministry over the previous 14 years, together with the gifts and skills he has developed, will allow him to serve effectively alongside church members in shared ministry and mission to the parish of Otford and beyond. The nature of his current parishes has required extensive use of lay members of the Church family in order to run both the services and activities undertaken within the Parishes.

Richard's wife, Donna, is a trained teacher, currently works part-time in the Library at Dartford Grammar School and is a Parish Pastoral Assistant. They have two sons Christopher and Matthew, who are 14 and 11 respectively.

Richard will be inducted on April 28th by the Bishop of Rochester, when we look forward to welcoming him and his family to the Parish. More information about this ticket-only service will be announced later.

Note. Four candidates were short-listed and they and their spouses visited the Parish in November. Formal interviews were held on the 29th November at Westminster Abbey, by a panel consisting of Canon Jane Hedges (Archdeacon of Westminster), Canon Robert Wright (Sub Dean of Westminster Abbey), and Clive Mansell (Archdeacon of Tonbridge), together with parish representatives, Janet Hunt and Derek Shilling. The panel were all agreed that Westminster Abbey, as presenting patron, should offer Richard Worssam the benefice of Otford, which the Bishop of Rochester has been pleased to confirm.

6th January 2008



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Churchyard Working Parties 2008. Could you be persuaded to earmark the second Saturday morning each month for a session with the churchyard working party? Enjoy healthy exercise in the fresh air, tidying hedges, borders and assorted corners of our churchyard while the plaudits of passers-by come your way. You would be most welcome to join us from 9.30am on all or any of 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September and 4th October.

Concert by 'Bartholomew'

The wind band, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will perform in Church on Saturday 2nd February at 7.30pm, together with their guests, the Plumstead Recorder Consort. Refreshments will be available. Tickets cost £5.00 and are available from Jean Kelsey (01732 462409), any band member and at the door. Proceeds will be divided between 'Hospice in the Weald' and Church funds.

The annual '**Wine and Wisdom**' evening will be held once more on Shrove Tuesday 5th February at 7.15 for 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Tickets will cost £7.50 for adults and £5.00 for children/students, to include a light supper, and will be available from Janet Hunt, 523820. Please bring your own glasses, drinks and nibbles. Any profits from the evening will go to Church funds.

Lent 2008



Lent at St Bart's begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th February, with services of Holy Communion in the Church at 10.00am (BCP) and 8.00pm (CW).

'Uncomfortable Places, Uncomfortable Questions'

During Lent 2008, we will hold a series of five Lent meetings, on Tuesdays February 12th, 19th and 26th and March 4th and 11th, in the Church Centre. Each evening will start with refreshments and then run from 8.00pm to 9.15pm approx. with prayers, readings, a talk and discussion, ending with Compline.

Four members of the congregation, Bobbie Fairclough, Andrew Hill, David Reid and Stella Shee, together with Maureen Hill, Director of the Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, will talk in response to the title about issues raised by their faith and their work: prison visiting, the police, banking, medicine and counselling respectively.

Colin Smith is our CMS link, working in Kenya. His first visit to us is on Sunday February 17th. He plans to be with us at our 8.00am and 9.30am services when the time allowed for him to address us is very limited. So a continental breakfast will follow immediately after the 8.00am service and will end before the 9.30am service. Please come! Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to indicate you are coming.

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service for 2008

This is to be held on Friday 7th March, 2.00pm, at St Bartholomew's Church. EVERY-ONE is welcome at this ecumenical event.

Advertisers. A number of new advertisers have joined the magazine this month. Please read through the information they provide and consider whether you can support them. Please mention this magazine when you contact them.

Know your Bible

At the next conference in Sevenoaks for Know Your Bible, Jennifer Rees-Larcombe will be the speaker. Jennifer will draw her studies from the Minor Prophets and calls her talks 'Stir up my Spirit'. Do try to come. We will meet at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, on Monday 3rd March from 9.45am to 2.30pm. The cost is £10, payable on the day, and that includes coffee and lunch. Contact Joyce Ambrose, 01959 523782, if you would like to know more about the day.

Ruth Barclay asks for continued prayer for **John Hargreaves**, our FEBA link, whose usual programme of world-wide visiting of FEBA workers has been interrupted by months of illness.

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Trek Challenge in Nepal – The Annapurna Experience 3rd to 13th October 2008

Tony Grogan writes:

In October 2008 I shall be putting my hiking boots on again and taking part in one of the most spectacular and varied treks on the world, The Annapurna Experience, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Annapurna Experience is new to the Macmillan Challenge portfolio and will take us on an eleven-day trek into the heart of this remote land. The route will take us past temples and along trekking trails to the awe-inspiring sight of the Annapurna Range. This is a series of peaks in the Himalayas, whose highest point, Annapurna 1, stands at 8,091 metres, making it the 10th-highest summit in the world.

The Annapurna Experience will be the climax of many years of trekking: in the Canadian Rockies, Costa Rica, Peru and on Kilimanjaro. It will be a personal challenge but cancer is a disease that will affect all of us at some point in our lives and knowing I can make a difference and help people living with cancer makes all my efforts worthwhile.

Money raised by your support will be used to fund specialist Macmillan nurses and doctors who deliver the best in cancer care, build vitally-needed cancer care-centres and give financial help to those who need it most.

I have already paid towards my fare and have to raise a minimum of £3,200 to take part in the event. I hope to raise much more than this and ask if you will consider sponsorship for my challenge.

If you are able to support me please make the cheque payable to Macmillan Cancer Support and send it to me at my home address, 93 Willow Park, Otford, Kent, TN14 5NF. Tel: 01959 523649. Email tony.grogan@homecall.co.uk or <http://www.justgiving.com/tony-grogan>. This is a challenging trek and may be my last for Macmillan.

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NEWS FROM NAIROBI

Colin and Anita Smith, CMS Mission Partners, with Sheila and Sandie, live and work in Kibera slum, Nairobi Diocese, Kenya. What follows are necessarily brief extracts from emails sent by Colin during the disturbances following recent elections.

02 January 2008 7.38am

Since the election there has been massive unrest across the country as people have protested against what is believed to be a rigged election. Sadly this has descended into violence and bloodshed with tens of thousands being displaced and about 200 people losing their lives. The worst incident involved people being burned to death whilst

sheltering in a church – something that has deeply shocked the nation. The worst hit areas are on the western side of Kenya but there has also been widespread violence and looting in Nairobi, particularly focussed on the slums. Kibera was in flames on Sunday. The Centre was attacked and the door broken down as it was originally Kikuyu owned. John, the husband of Rose our caretaker, was hit but not injured and he and neighbours have persuaded youths not to burn it down although it is known that a Kikuyu staff family and students live there (John and three youths from the church are staying there at the moment but everyone else has left).

Do please continue to pray for Kenya at this time. We would also value your prayers for us in the coming days. With our love, Colin, Anita and the girls.

03 January 2008 8.09pm

Many thanks to everyone who has been in touch with us over the past few days and again apologies for not replying individually.

In Kibera those unable to get past the police cordon have wreaked further havoc. The AIC, Lutheran and Presbyterian Church have all been destroyed by fire along with many businesses. Youths again broke into the Centre and this time removed or destroyed all the property belonging to Mama Joy, one of our staff, on the basis that she is a Kikuyu. The rest of the Centre was not touched. Some of her things were hidden elsewhere in the Centre but she and her family, as with virtually all the Kikuyus in Kibera, have effectively lost their home and property.

Do please pray particularly for the leaders to come together to jointly speak out to end the violence and to agree on a path to address the irregularities and uncertainties of the presidential election. Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers. Colin, Anita and the girls.

09 January 2008 8.46pm

This afternoon Colin was at a service of prayer and reconciliation in Korogocho – a slum on the other side of the city. Unlike Sunday's service at the Cathedral this was held in the open air drawing in a community that had been at the heart of some of the violence. 18 people died in Korogocho including the brother of one of the Pastors we work with through the Centre. There were a large number of churches represented, mainly Pentecostal and African independent, with the Roman Catholic Church being the driving force behind the event. It was great to be part of something which really engaged with communities that have been most affected and which gave voice to their hopes and experience. We hope to have something similar in Kibera when there is a more secure climate for this kind of gathering. Many thanks again for your continued concern, support and prayers. Colin and Anita.



OTFORD OAST W.I. meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9.30-11.30am at Otford Village Memorial Hall. On 7th February we welcome back George Puddefoot to talk on 'Gardening Tips': more gardening advice for our baskets and borders. Please come along to any meetings that are of interest. There is a free crèche. The first visit is free, second visit £3.00 and annual membership £27.00. Patsy Groom

OTFORD EVENING W.I. It was good to see over forty members at our January meeting and we welcomed two 'first timers'. After a brief period for business we sat back to enjoy an excellent speaker, Peter Jones, ex Fingerprint Branch at New Scotland Yard, who gave us a splendid insight into the development of fingerprinting, from the methods used by Sir Edward Henry, the founder of the Fingerprint Branch, to the present

day. The slow, painstaking work carried out to catch the Black Panther in the 1970s was graphically described by Peter Jones and he later answered many members' questions.

After coffee, a member of the Eco-group proudly showed us a handbag knitted in bright orange from – yes – a well known local supermarket's plastic carrier bag – how's that for recycling?

At our February meeting we shall welcome Brian Doe to talk on 'Beyond the Wire, gardening in prisons'. There will also be a Used Book Stall, so if any of our institute members in the village who did not make the January meeting would like the opportunity to bring along unwanted books or jigsaw puzzles marked up at either 50p, £1 or £1.50, here is your chance (and also pay your annual subscription of £27, £11.75 for a dual member). Visitors are always very welcome; come along at 7.30pm on 14th February to the Otford Village Memorial Hall to enjoy the evening with us. Brenda Young

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The next meeting of the Society will be on Wednesday 20th February, at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Chris Baker will speak on an unusual subject – 'Are you being served? – the History of Shopping in Dartford'. Visitors are welcome at £1.

GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST BOX. Thank you to all those who supported the 2007 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This year, the 25th year of Guide and Brownie collection and delivery, has been a record with over 1,200 cards delivered in Otford village, 150 up from last year. This has raised in total £385 which will be divided between the girls' chosen charities – **Hospice in the Weald** and **Valence School Children's Wish List**.

'UNDER MILK WOOD' by Dylan Thomas will be performed by All Saints Church, Orpington, on Friday and Saturday 23rd and 24th May 2008. Contact David Matthews (01732 462485) for tickets or information about the production.

OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. For our first meeting of this year we learned about the benefits of Tai Chi and had the opportunity to practice some elementary exercises.

We also welcomed two new members. Our next meeting is on Tuesday February 12th in the Village Hall at 2.00pm, when our speaker is Peter Jones from the National Trust, and we shall also hear about other activities that are planned for the forthcoming year. If you are interested in learning more about our W.I. please call 522736 or just come along as a visitor. (JCA)

The Sevenoaks branch of **THE EMBROIDERS' GUILD** hold their meetings on the last Saturday of every month in the Village Memorial Hall (for March and June in the Parish Church Hall). Meetings start at 10.00am for members to work on their own projects or on the ongoing Branch project, followed by an afternoon session at 2.00pm, usually with a speaker. Various workshops take place, sometimes all day and sometimes am/pm. The 23rd February meeting has Carol Naylor: 'From Hats to Hangings', and 29th March has an all-day workshop with Alison Hird: 'Fabulous Flowers'. Tea and homemade cake is provided (free!) in the afternoon. For further information contact Jane Barratt (01732 833588) or Sylvia Grafton (01732 452117).

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

Parish Clerk: Mrs B. Darby. Tel: Otford 524808

*'I think that I shall never see
A signboard lovely as a tree.
Indeed unless the signboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all'*

Recently posts were erected round the pond for advertising signs (you will now see them on many roundabouts near here). The parish council found KCC was responsible and told them it was not a roundabout, they did not own it, please remove them!

This reflects some of the environmental sensitivity in Highway works, a point covered by a recent draft report. Rarely does one come across a completely fresh perspective on Kent villages and their environment, and the North Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Streetscape Design Handbook' (a document, available on their website) was, therefore, a surprise.

Although infuriating to those who have struggled for years to maintain and improve the appearance of Otford, it confirms this council's views on the number, condition and appearance of many of our street signs, and the great difficulty we have in fitting so many modern necessities – such as recycling – into the space once adequate for a village with little personal transport and footways adequate for the few houses.

It reveals how things like this are handled in some other European countries, and how much better and more effective they can be when designed as a whole with respect for the environment – all factors that surely should be included for communities in our 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'.

But other points, such as joining the pond area to The Green, which, however charming it would be, would cause major problems for drivers on our A-road and is, therefore, out of the question at the present time.

The draft has factual errors that suggest the writers did not spend long at any location, but overall it is a fresh look at what 'we' have created with slow, piecemeal development over a long time, always with less money than needed to meet the increases in traffic and without any overall policy or vision for communities in beautiful areas such as our part of the North Downs.

I was reminded of this again on hearing there was a list of 286 minor Highway works thought necessary in the county, estimated cost £20m, but slightly less than half of this was available without cutting back on other projects.

But solving such matters is beyond the remit of parish councils, who are usually well aware of deficiencies but unable to do more than draw them to the attention of the Highways Authority. Thus, it was no surprise to find the verse at the beginning was written by the Chairman of Stanford Parish Council – with apologies to Ogden Nash.

In January, a new 'Young Achievers Award' was presented by the parish council for the first time. It is for the young person in Otford who had developed most notably during the past year. The award is the idea of our Police Community Support Officer, Dave Birchall, and is to be an annual event for which you can suggest recipients.

JGA

IN MEMORY

We offer our condolences to the family of **Emmie Louise Farmer**, who died on 30th November, aged 93 years.

Emmie was born in the Wandsworth area of London, lived her married life until the death of her husband, Charles, in 1997, in Dulwich Village and then moved to Mount Ephraim Nursing Home. She leaves two sisters, two daughters, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She loved coming to Otford, where her older daughter and granddaughter lived. She also enjoyed reading and knitting and she loved cats. She is fondly remembered by her family and friends as 'A good provider as a mum and a loving lady'.

We offer our condolences to the family of well-known Otford resident **Reg Lythaby** who died aged 84 on December 12th at the Kent and Sussex Hospital after a short illness.

Mr Lythaby, of Greenhill Road, was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather. He was born in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, on May 10th 1923. In 1961 he qualified as a solicitor and began his legal career in Watford before moving to London and then Bromley.

In 1970 he formed a partnership known as Pumfrey and Lythaby based in Orpington and became a senior partner of the firm.

In 1985 he opened a branch office in Otford and continued to work there until he finally retired around 1997.

Mr Lythaby lived in Otford for about 50 years with his wife, Joan, and served on the village fete committee during the 1960s.

He was chairman of the Otford Parish Council from 1974 to 1982 and was involved in negotiating the protection of the village and the Darenth Valley from the M25.

He also served as a governor to Otford Primary School and became chairman there.

A thanksgiving service was held at St Bartholomew's Church.

Our condolences are offered to the family and friends of **Ivy Pamela Joy Ferriman**, who died at the Princess Royal Hospital on 17th December 2007, aged 81, following a short illness.

Pam was born in Dorchester in 1926, where she was brought up and educated and where she met and married Geoffrey Ferriman. Married life began at Telford, Essex, where daughters Geraldine and Pauline were born. Then came a move to Tudor Crescent, Otford, where they lived from 1952. In 2006 they celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

Pam was a person who liked routine, valued family life and enjoyed her garden. She and Geoffrey also took great pleasure in dancing and also enjoyed travelling abroad and in the U.K.

Pam was also involved in the life of St Bartholomew's, particularly in helping to keep the church looking good.

Pam is sadly missed by her husband and daughters and also by her grandsons, Alex and Graham, and by her great-grandson, Ben.

Pamela's funeral took place in St Bartholomew's Church, followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 4th January 2008.



Registers



	Baptism (Our Welcome)
6th January	Tiffany Marie Diane Gawley
	Funerals (Our Sympathy)
14th December	Emmie Louise Farmer (aged 93) – Cremation
19th December	John Heywood Cunningham (aged 64) – Burial at Otford Cemetery
3rd January	Reginald Lythaby (aged 84) – Cremation
4th January	Ivy Pamela Joy Ferriman (aged 81) – Cremation

Church Offerings in December

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£1,790.05
Freewill Offerings	£5,327.00