

Women's Institute where they could always rely on her baking skills and enthusiasm. She and Arthur also joined the Otford Players, appearing in many productions.

When her children had grown up, Maureen began to assist part-time at Jane Bay hairdressers in Sevenoaks. Through this, a friend introduced Maureen to the world of fashion dressing. This involved travelling both in the UK and internationally, working with top designers and models, and meeting royalty, pop stars and other celebrities.

Maureen was a good cook and she was happiest when the house was full of family and friends she could feed. She also loved gardening, music and dancing. In later life, Maureen took up line dancing with her friends from Otford and the surrounding areas. She had enjoyed her weekly country dancing class shortly before she passed away without warning. Maureen will be sorely missed by friends and family alike. She lived a wonderful life, rich with warmth and happiness.



Registers



Wedding (Our Congratulations)

19th December Stephen James **Cole** and Katie Ann **James**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

24th November Maureen **Turner** (aged 79)

Church Offerings in November 2009

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses£ 1714.46

Freewill Offerings£ 5041.00

Christmas 2009 with Live Entertainment

For you, your family, friends and work colleagues

Afternoon Tea & live piano, live Harpist,
Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley Evenings,
Murder Mystery, Mamma Mia Sing-Along
film & buffet night, and much more...



*You will find a blend of tradition, inspired menu,
great wine list plus genuine warmth of service!*

See our website for lots more details www.thebullhotel.com

The Bull Hotel – Bull Lane – Wrotham Village – 01732 789 800

CHURCH AND EARTH

As this edition of the parish magazine goes to press, the climate change conference in Copenhagen will be underway.

In November of this year, when global faith leaders and the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, met in Windsor to discuss commitments on climate change, the Church of England launched its own 'environmental strategy for the next seven years'. This strategy, entitled 'Church and Earth', outlines policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation which will involve its 43 dioceses, 16,200 churches and 4,700 schools across the UK.

The commitments include reducing the Church's carbon footprint by 42% by 2020, annual carbon and energy reports for all parishes and dioceses by 2016, all church buildings to have their carbon footprints calculated by 2012 and advice for all parishes on choosing green energy tariffs by 2010. Furthermore tree planting is to be encouraged on church land, there is to be 'eco-twinning' between the UK and developing world parishes which face the early effects of climate change, a new Climate Justice Fund is to be set up to offer aid to churches in the developing world and all dioceses are to target Fair Trade status by 2016.

'Church and Earth' was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the World Wildlife Fund and the Church Commissioners. It was developed by the Church's 'Shrinking the Footprint' Task Group (set up in 2006) which is chaired by The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres.

Dr Chartres said, 'The challenge facing the human race in the 21st century is in our relation with the earth and in particular how we are going to help one another to adapt to the reality of rapid climate change. The Christian community is being recalled by this crisis to a more genuinely Biblical view of creation and our place within it.'

Christeen Malan

IN MEMORIAM - MAUREEN TURNER

Maureen Turner was born on the 5th April 1930 on the Isle of Dogs. She was evacuated at the start of the Second World War to Haverhill in Suffolk. On her return, the family were re-located to Woodford, due to the extensive bombing of London's Docklands. Sadly her father was killed towards the end of the war shielding her brother, mother and herself from a bomb.

Maureen met her future husband, Arthur, at a dance shortly after the war. Arthur played professional football for Charlton and Colchester and had recently been demobbed from the RAF 547 squadron. They got married in 1950 and started a family which grew to include three sons and two daughters and, in due course, ten grandchildren. The family moved to Otford in 1959.

Maureen was first and foremost a traditional mother, very caring and dependable, always putting her children before herself. She loved Otford village life and was very active in the

A WORD OF THANKS TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FROM GHANA

In 2007, Ghana achieved something quite remarkable for Africa; it was celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its independence. The way that they decided to celebrate, was even more remarkable. A small group of Ghanaian Christians suggested that a free copy of the Bible should be given to every secondary school child in the whole country. For many years the Good News Bible had been popular there because of its 'standard, everyday, natural English'. So the Bible Society in Ghana was approached and a million copies of a special Jubilee Edition of the Good News Bible were requested. By the end of 2009, the half way mark had been achieved; the total distributed was approaching 600,000. When Janet and Brian Raynor celebrated their Golden Wedding last August in St Bartholomew's, there was a retiring collection for this project. Heather Clements from the Bible Society visited Brian and Janet recently and reported that £404 had been raised from that collection. Heather had just returned from Ghana and was very excited about how the project was progressing. She said please pass on our thanks to St Bartholomew's Church.

Brian Raynor

A NOTE FOR YOUR 2010 DIARY?

It is easy to let prayer become mechanical and dull or to feel that it is too difficult. One fresh approach is to use an attractive diary or journal to pray in 2010. There is no wrong way to go about it and it might result in fresh insight.

Try writing down your concerns about a relative or friend. This is prayer! Expressing the worry in words may help you to focus on their specific needs. Listen to what you might do to help (you can be sure that God will do the rest) and mark a date for appropriate action.

Your prayer might simply be a stream of thoughts about the past week. Let God remind you of all the good things that have happened in a week you labelled 'bad'. Celebrate with a written word of thanks!

In your diary, ask sincere questions about the things in life that puzzle you. Be patient and alert to possible answers which you can note as the weeks and months pass. Write about the activities you enjoy, thinking about the talents God has given you. Be alive to the ways these might be used for good and write down what you need (rather than want!) to fulfil your hopes and dreams.

Why not make a new year resolution to keep your prayer journal or diary going all year? You may be rewarded with a new awareness of God at work in your daily life.

Vicki Howie

Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

VICAR:	Revd Richard Worssam, M.A. The Vicarage, The Green, Otford 523185
READERS:	Mr Andrew Bratby, 39 Tudor Drive, Otford 525060 Mr Peter Downing, 3 Becketts Place, Otford 522327 Miss Dawn Hallam, 10 Flowerfield, Otford 526865 Mr Bill Lattimer, "Holmesdale", The Green, Otford 522058 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831 Mr Brian Raynor, M.A., 5 Colets Orchard, Otford 523327 Mrs Betty Reed, 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:	Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway", Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831 Mrs Donna Worssam, The Vicarage, Otford 523185
HONORARY MINISTERS:	Revd. David Casiot, M.A., 52 High Street, Otford 522588 Revd Chris Reed, M.A., 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr Derek Shilling, "Ivybank", Shoreham Road, Otford 522059 Mrs Janet Hunt, 14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

Organist and Choirmaster: Mr Kevin Grafton, M.A., F.C.A., 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks 452117
Sacristan: Mr Tony Grogan, 93 Willow Park Otford 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Mr Derek Shilling
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway",
Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234
Hon. Treasurer: Mr Colin Fleetwood,
"Lorien", St Michael's Drive, Otford 523582
Freewill Offering Fund: Mr Brian Beacom,
39 Well Road, Otford 524304

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 10.30-12.30: Mrs Susan Reid,
Mr Clive Southgate, Otford 523185
Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Mr Robert Hunt,
14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

MAGAZINE

Editorial team: Vicki Howie, Christine Malan,
Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam
523185
Hon. Treasurer: Mr John Miller, 7 Warham Road
Otford 523943
Advertisements: Mrs Hilary Fothergill,
7 Darnets Field, Otford 524120

BELLRINGERS: For all enquiries contact
The Tower Captain: Mrs Bobbie Fairclough,
"Vailima", St Michael's Drive, Otford 522696
or *Secretary:* Janet Whitehead, Otford 524088
Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

'First Steps' (for parents and pre-schoolchildren)
Contact: Najen Harris, Otford 522813

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

Infant (3-7s): Donna Worssam, Ot. 553185
Junior (8-11s) Mags Southgate Ot. 524720
Senior (12-14) Liz Cole Ot. 525404

FROGS (School years 7, 8 and 9)

Contact: Margie Torry, 524463
Richard Worssam 523185

Young People's Fellowship

Contact: Dawn Hallam, 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Committee:
Mr David Matthews, 01732 462485
CMS Correspondent: Revd. David Casiot,
522588
FEBA Correspondent: Miss Ruth Barclay,
522882
Children's Society:
Hon.Sec.: Mrs Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117
Otford Benevolent Society:
Almoner: Mrs Christine Brauns, 524474

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and Churchwardens, Mrs Sam Barnett, Mrs Joan Beacom, Mr Chris Bishop, Miss Liz Cole, Mr David Crawley, Mr Colin Fleetwood, Miss Dawn Hallam, Mr Mark Holmes, Mrs Vicki Howie, Mr Bill Lattimer, Mr David Matthews, Mr Clive Southgate, Mrs Margie Torry, Mr Steve Vigis, Ex-Officio (Deanery Synod): Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, Mrs Pat Mills, Mrs Susan Reid.

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the	8am	10.00am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Church Family Worship		Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	cu@5	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
FIFTH	CW HC	Morning Worship	cu@5	Hymns & readings for Candlemas

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

Sunday Mornings

SUNDAY CLUB (for ages 3-14) with three groups:

Infant (3-7); Junior (8-11); Senior (12-14) all meet in the Church Centre during the 10.00 a.m. service, except on first Sunday when in Church.

CRËCHE: 0-2 years (every Sunday)

Sunday Evenings

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Centre at 6.30 p.m. (except the second Sunday)

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

Weekdays

HOLY COMMUNION

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 Church Office.

VICAR'S REST DAY: Monday

January 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3 The Second Sunday of Christmas**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evensong

Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

At the start of a new decade Otford is promised some highways work that should assist many people.

Cycle lanes along the A225 as far as Eynsford will help those who wish to leave their cars at home. They may also benefit those who walk along the Shoreham Road by providing a little more protection. Although by no means ideal, this perhaps represents some slight assistance from the Highways Department; a department that can rarely afford to carry out more than half the projects that have been carefully assessed as necessary to decrease congestion, injuries and deaths.

We may also see a more satisfactory crossing from the station to the north side of Station Road. As those who use it regularly in rush hour will know, their safety depends partly on the speed and courtesy of motorists and any improvement to this crossing must have associated features that induce drivers to pay more attention to pedestrians.

There is also hope that some road signs in the Conservation Area may be improved. A new draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan is being prepared which echoes the views about signs Otford Parish Council has held for many years - that some signs should be altered, improved or repaired. These points have been put to the Highways Department countless times but have never received priority over the main aims of reducing road congestion, injuries and deaths. Particularly notorious is the "roundabout" sign in the entrance to the car park, that is both wrong (it is a gyratory system and, if an unsuspecting driver treated it as a roundabout, it could lead to crashes) and also intrudes on the attractive appearance of the centre of Otford.

The action group working for completion of the slip roads at junction 5 on the M25 (at Chipstead) has a representative from Otford parish council and has been supported in its effort to obtain information about traffic flows and the effects of completion. Our MP, Mr Fallon, responded to a letter from the council saying he agrees that any discussion of the case for new slip roads needs to be well-informed and must take into account the current and likely traffic flows along the entire stretch of the A25 that may be affected. He added that the matter needs to be looked at as something affecting the whole of the A25, not just one or another village. He will take this up again to see what research into traffic flows and air quality is available or can be commissioned.

We can be sure that road problems will not go away in the foreseeable future.

JGA




Otford WI. There are three flourishing WI's in Otford, all of which offer very varied and comprehensive programmes. We have entertaining and informative speakers, music, sport, home economics, art, handicrafts, darts, discussion groups etc. and outings to many interesting places. All the groups hold their meeting in Otford Village Memorial Hall.

The first meetings of the year take place on the following dates:

Otford Afternoon WI	12th January 2010 at 2.00pm (2nd Tues of each month)
Otford Evening WI	14th January 2010 at 7.30pm (2nd Thurs of each month)
Otford Oast	21st January 2010 at 9.30am (3rd Thurs of each month)

Sevenoaks Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild



Our next meeting will take place on Saturday January 30th in the Village Hall. The morning session begins at 10.00 a.m. (UFOs and WIPs), and the afternoon session at 2.00 p.m., with a talk by Libby Smith entitled Beaded Tassels and Beyond, followed by tea and cake. Further information may be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

'Rehearsing Arthur Miller or Into the Crucible' is the title of a WEA Day School, when we will read and rehearse extracts from 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller and refer to his other writing, putting them into the context of the Salem witch trials, the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s and today's world. Tutored by David Matthews, it will take place on Saturday 6th March 2010 from 10.30 am – 3.30 pm at the Otford Methodist Church Hall. For early enrolment, please contact David Matthews on 01732 362485 or go to www.weaeastkent.org/sevenoaks_adv_booking.pdf for a pre-enrolment form or write to the Branch Secretary, Susan Gidman, 'Willows', Windmill Road, Weald, Kent. TN14 6PH.

'Murder in the Cathedral' by T.S.Eliot will be produced by All Saints' Church, Orpington on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th May 2010 at the Church on Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD at 7.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from 01689 823857 or from the director, David Matthews at 01732 362485.

- 4 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

10 The First Sunday after Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 11.30 p.m. Fabric Committee (Church Centre)
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
- 6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)

Material for the February magazine by today, please, to the Church Office, St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford, Kent. TN14 5PD. st.bartholomews@otford.net

- 11 7.45 p.m. Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00 p.m. PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 16 1.30 p.m. Wedding of Andrew Warren & Felicia Nwachukwu

17 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
- 11.30 p.m. Annual Churchyard Working Party meeting (Church Centre)
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
- 6.30 p.m. Evensong

- 18 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 19 8.00 p.m. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service (St. Bartholomew's)
- 20 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) Coffee afterwards
- 21 9.00 p.m. Otford Guild of Bellringers' AGM (Church Centre)

24 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)

- 25 7.45 p.m. Coffee & Chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 27 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

31 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (Septuagesima : BCP)

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
- 6.30 p.m. Hymns and readings for Candlemas

Vicar's Viewpoint



In December the advertising media consistently make suggestions for what should be on our Christmas wish list, invariably in terms of material goods such as DVD recorders, i-phones, fine wine, expensive perfume and the like. January, however, presents us with the opportunity to come up with an altogether different kind of wish list. Particularly in 2010, as we stand not just at the beginning of a new year, but at the beginning of a new decade, it is worth asking, "What do we really hope for in this second decade of the third millennium?"

I wonder if you remember the Millennium Resolution that was promoted ten years ago as 1999 rolled into 2000? It ran like this:

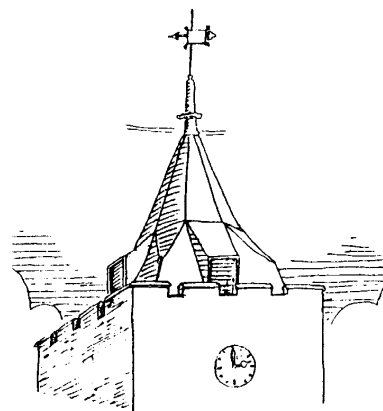
Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start.

Ten years on, we may ask, how far have we come in achieving these hopes? The answer is a mixed bag. For example, there is greater ecological awareness, as we have all become more familiar with such concepts as our "carbon footprint", and yet there is an ambivalence about taking decisive action, as discussion at the recent Copenhagen Conference of world leaders has shown. There are moves to greater co-operation among nations, for example in the adoption of the European Constitution; and yet this last decade has been indelibly scarred by the events of 9/11 and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we enter into this second decade, what is our attitude going to be - one of passive resignation that there is not much that we can do, or one of dogged determination to make a difference?

In reading the Gospels there is a clear message of idealism with realism. Jesus set before his listeners the vision of the Kingdom of God, and as his followers we still pray for the fulfilment of this vision: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" - a vision of justice, peace, and righteousness. Yet Jesus was also well aware of our human limitations. He saw clearly the pride, greed and selfishness that can drive our actions; but he could also discern the image of God in each of us, the willingness to over-rule the selfish gene and to let our lives be characterised by love, hope and forgiveness.

The disciples were not very promising by worldly standards, and yet Jesus showed them a new way to live, a new way to realise their full potential, a new way to live in relationship with God and with others, and in the process new avenues for their gifts and skills that had a world transforming effect. May their example be an inspiration for us as we begin this New Year with our Decade Wish List. As George Carey said in his Millennium address: "It is through the quiet acts of kindness and mercy conducted by often unknown people that the course of history is changed."

Your friend and Vicar, Richard



FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

'First Steps' This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and our own church and includes the opportunity for chat, refreshment, and also a short Bible story, with singing and activities for the children, including games and craft. It meets at the Methodist Church Hall and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 27th January from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity The traditional service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place at St. Bartholomew's Church, Otford, on Tuesday 19th January at 8.00 p.m.

Otford Guild of Bellringers We thank our Ringers for the committed work they put in over the year. Their AGM will be held on Thursday 21st January at 9.00 p.m. in the Church Centre, following ringing practice.

'Bartholomew' Concert by The Bartholomew Wind Band, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will take place in Church on Saturday, 6th February at 7.30 p.m. This year Bartholomew are joined by 'Vocal Explosion'. They are a vocal group from Brighton singing four-part harmony who are led by Juliet Russell. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will cost £7 and proceeds will be divided between Hospice in the Weald and Church funds.

Homegroups at St Bart's. These meet regularly through the year. These provide opportunity for Bible study, discussion and prayer. If you are interested in joining one of our homegroups please contact the group contact, listed below, or the church office.

Monday (8.00pm)	Margaret Lidbetter	01959 524831
Tuesday (8.00pm)	Bill Lattimer	01959 522058
Thursday (2.30pm)	Brian Raynor	01959 523327
Thursday (8.00pm)	Mags Southgate	01959 524720