

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	11am	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Morning Worship with children		Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship	Mattins	CW HC
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship		Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Morning Worship with HC		Evening Praise
FIFTH	CW HC	Morning Worship		Contemplative Service

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 Hall

except on first and second Sunday when in Church

SUNDAY CLUB 3-7+yrs, 9.30 a.m. in Village Hall

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 Rev. Pat Hopkins.

Saturday morning is usually a good time for routine enquiries at the Vicarage.

Please don't hesitate to let the Vicar know of anyone who would appreciate a home visit.

Vicar's rest day: Thursday.

SIDESMEN and WOMEN

Messrs Bailey, Beasley, Brackett, Cheswick, Dilley, Dipple, Dunning, Finley, Fleetwood, Grogan, Howie, Ingram, Johnson, Lattimer, Lea, Matthews, Sherwood, Vigis, Wickham, Wood, Worssam, Wragg, Young, Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Beasley, Miss Bromley, Mrs Dunning, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Kelsey, Mrs Marchant, Mrs J. Matthews, Mrs Mills, Ms Nicholls, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Speer, Miss Waites, and Mrs Wood.

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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JUNE 2004

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - **Morning Prayer is held in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
- 2 - 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 3 - 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 5 - 8.00pm 'The Olive Tree' dramatic production in church

- 6 – **Trinity Sunday**
 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am Family Praise and baptism of Maisie Blythe Kathleen Ward.
 Speaker: Revd. Roly Bain
 6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
 6.30pm Evensong
- 7 – 8.00pm Ecumenical meeting (18 The Old Walk)
- 9 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Hall)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 12.30-2pm Visiting Team meeting ('Burway', Sevenoaks Road)
- 12 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Bernard Worssam)
 3.00pm Wedding of Mark Benedict Harrison and Deborah Louise Ford
- 13 – **The First Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am Morning Worship (CW) and baptism of Thomas Luke Thorne
 11.00am Mattins
 6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
 Material for the July magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam,
 19 Warham Road
- 14 – 11.00am and 8.00pm Parish Prayer meeting (39 Tudor Drive)
- 16 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm Church Extension Steering Committee
- 19 – **2.00pm St Bartholomew's Church Fair at Castle House**
- 20 – **The Second Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
 11.00am Sidesmen's and Welcomers' meeting in Church
 6.30pm Evensong
- 23 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.45am Coffee Club (Ellenor's)
 12 noon 'First Steps' Children's Service in St Bartholomew's Church then picnic
 in Vicarage garden (if dry). If wet in the Methodist Hall
- 27 – **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
 6.30pm Evening Praise (CW)
- 30 – 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)

Some early July dates:

- 1 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 3 – 10.30am 'Walk 1400': meet at Church car park
 2.00pm Wedding of Anthony Mark Wickens and Joanna Elizabeth Solly
- 4 – **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am Morning Worship with children and Sunday Club and OTT
 Prizegiving
 6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
 6.30pm Evensong
- 5 – **Morning Prayer is held in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at**
 8.15am
- 7 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm Deanery Synod, Stacklands Retreat House
- 10 – 9.30-10.30am Churches in Otford Prayer Group (Holy Trinity Roman Catholic
 Church)
 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Sue Stephenson)
 1.30pm Wedding of Jonathan Farina and Gemma Rose Bishop

EDITORIAL

I wonder if you have read either of the books 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus' or 'Why Men Don't Listen and Why Women Can't Read Maps'? As the titles suggest, these books seek to highlight the differences between male and female; differences in character and personality.

I need to tread a bit carefully here, but one characteristic more prevalent in men than in women is linear processing. If you will allow me to tread slightly less carefully, this particular characteristic could be called logic.

That is why I have always enjoyed working with numbers. Numbers 'behave themselves'; rules are set and they obey them.

It is because of this that I have been unnerved when it comes to Christian giving. It was my wife, Ellen, who first persuaded me to adopt the biblical principle of giving a tenth of our income. My giving until then had been a bit like Cain's offering – more of an after-thought than a considered sacrifice. It was scary because I knew we couldn't afford it. I had sat down and gone through all our outgoings and knew that they outweighed our income. It was a simple calculation and one which worried me considerably.

That was the theory. I closed my eyes, gritted my teeth and stepped out of my comfort zone, more than half-expecting major problems on a not very distant horizon. I still continue to be amazed by what happened, and continues to happen, in practice. We didn't begin a decline into debt that just got worse every month. We didn't end up with bailiffs knocking at the door or having to make trips to a pawnbroker. God took care of us.

But the experience went much further than one of mere survival. Not in financial terms, but suddenly we were experiencing joy in our giving. We are instructed in the bible to do our giving secretly, but this doesn't mean that we can't take pleasure in seeing what we have given having a positive impact.

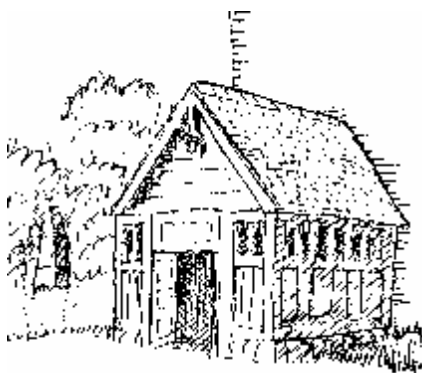
I have not lost faith in numbers. I have just learnt that, where God is involved, they don't always stick to the rules. Have you heard that line from the 'Father of the Bride's speech at a wedding, 'I have not lost a daughter, rather I have gained a bathroom'? I have not lost faith in numbers, but my faith in God has grown. God's wisdom, which chose the cross as the way of salvation, allows not only others to gain out of our giving, but us as well.

Not convinced? Nor was I until I did it.

Andrew Bratby

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FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 28th April in the Church Hall. Tony Grogan, Jacky Hubbard and Susan Reid stood down as PCC members and David Crawley and Hilary Fothergill were elected as new members. Susan Reid remains as PCC Secretary. Churchwardens Sally Woestmann and Derek Shilling were reappointed. Reports on the church electoral roll, finances, church and church hall fabric were received together with reports on our work with children and young people, worship and from the

Deanery Synod. It was noted that the post-TRIO stewardship campaign had increased church giving, and the question of the new collection box was discussed. The Vicar's report had been circulated and was summarised. The Vicar believed that the word God wanted us to have for now was 'power': shown in the Resurrection, in the life of the early church, and to be shown in the ways in which God would continue to answer prayer for the Church Extension project. The 'audience' in such a 'production' was the Communion of Saints and the whole company of heaven. It was to be hoped that there would not be an audience on earth but full involvement by everyone in the project as our faith and trust grew. A short report on the Extension was presented, and it was noted that now that the Diocese and English Heritage were content, planning permission from Sevenoaks District Council would be sought in the next few weeks.

Change in the Time of the mid-Morning Service

From the beginning of May, the time of the service at the Parish Church has changed from 10am to 9.30am. This is likely to be experimental but we hope that the experiment will be permanent, paving the way for the arrival of the Church Extension. The service at 9.30am will have a similar structure every week but, as now, the service will have a slightly different emphasis on the first and fourth Sundays: **the first Sunday of the month will continue to be a Family Service, with children in mind. The service on the fourth Sunday in the month will include Holy Communion.** The service will be based on the Common Worship material and the worship will sometimes be led by our Organist and Choir and sometimes by our informal Music Group. In addition, **on the second Sunday in the month, there will be a monthly service of Mattins, as now, based on the Book of Common Prayer, at 11am.**

We hope that the 9.30am service will increasingly be seen as the main service of the day and serve to unite the congregations. Its format is designed to welcome both present church members and those who may be visiting our church. Please note that the 8am and 6.30pm services remain unchanged.

We hope that you will enjoy and support the new pattern and pray with us that God will guide us as we seek to move forward.

The Church of England Men's Lunch on Thursday 24th June at the Otford Evangelical Free Church has Mr Selvan Ankatell as speaker. Selvan grew up in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the son of a Tamil father and English mother. Many of his cousins attended the school where Barbara Williams, our CMS Mission Partner, now teaches. Selvan studied Maths at Cambridge where he came to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. He works for BP refining supply and trading. At present he has been granted a sabbatical by BP to serve as Director of Japan Christian Link. For further details contact Revd. David Casiot on 01959 522588.

A Special Weekend

There are two special events occurring on the weekend of Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June. The first is the Christian drama production 'The Olive Tree' which is being staged in local churches and comes to Otford on Saturday 5th June at 8pm: there will be a retiring collection for the church. 'The Olive Tree' is the musical follow-up to 'Jerusalem', which was first performed in England in September 1998. Written by the same Tonbridge Christian Arts Group team, 'The Olive Tree' reaches back into history and looks forward to the return of the Messiah.

The second special event is on Sunday 6th June, Trinity Sunday, at the 9.30am Family Service when we shall be welcoming Maisie Ward in baptism, the daughter of Gary and Lindsey Ward who founded The Enchanted Florist in the village. A special visitor who will be involved in our service on that day is Revd. Roly Bain, a full-time free-lance professional clown as well as being an Anglican priest. He performs in churches, cathedrals, prisons, schools, at conferences, as well as in hospitals, theatres, circuses and open air events. He was 1994 Clown of the Year, won the Clowns International Slapstick Award in 1999, and in 2001 in the USA was given the Impact Clown Award. Roly is based in Bristol, covers around 35,000 miles a year, has written three books and produced two videos of his work. He relies on donations as his main source of income. We hope you will come along and enjoy Roly's ministry and join us if you can for refreshments after the service.

St Bartholomew's Walk 1400. The next walk in the series will be held on Saturday 12th June, meeting at 10.30am in the church car park and returning to the Church Hall by 12.30pm for a picnic lunch provided by walkers. The last one arranged for the summer is on Saturday 3rd July, arrangements as above. Do come along and bring your friends.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR

SATURDAY 19th JUNE

at 2.00pm

in the grounds of
CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD

By kind permission of the owners, St Bartholomew's Summer Fair is once more being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House. Programmes will be on sale early in June, with all proceeds going to Church funds.

There will be a **Children's Art Competition** on the theme of Castles & Cathedrals, with two age groups, under 7 years and 7 to 11 years inclusive. Please bring a rose as your entry for the **Single Rose** competition.

We still need some items for the stalls. They can be left at the back of the church or delivered to the following:

Bottles – Linda Dunning (524182); Tapes, CDs and videos – David Matthews (01732 462485); Toys for children of all ages – Margy Torry (524463); Craft items – Sylvia Grafton (01732 452117); Books – Colin Fleetwood (523582); Plants – Bill Lattimer (522058); serviceable Tools and gardening equipment – Eric Dilley (522197); and new little toys, sweets or children's stationery (suitable for prizes) – Christeen Malan (522654). Ornamental and useful Bric-a-Brac for the White Elephant stall (but please no

electrical or large items) may be delivered to Anne Southgate (522447) or Anne Wickenden (524242) well before the date or on the morning of the 19th to the grounds of Castle House.

Items for the popular **Food Hall** (cakes, puddings, pies, home grown produce etc.) and small cakes for refreshments can be delivered on the morning of the fair. Brenda Young (523676), Susan Reid (523324) and Hilary Fothergill (524120) will again be selling cakes, and if convenient to you they have space in their freezers for your kind donations. They will collect on the day before the fair if necessary.

If you can help during the fair and Margy Torry has not already badgered you, please contact her.

And finally, help with loading and unloading furniture at the Church Hall and Castle House from 6pm on Friday 18th June, and from about 4.30pm on Saturday after the fair, would be much appreciated.

Keen on walking? Christians on the Move, to celebrate the 1400th anniversary of Rochester Diocese, offers a choice of three walks through Shoreham Deanery on Saturday 26th June. Route 1, 11 miles, starts at Eynsford; Route 2, 9.4 miles, at Plaxtol; and Route 3, 14 miles, at Kemsing. All begin with breakfast at 8am, then with stops for coffee, lunch and tea make their way along cross-country paths and lanes to finish with a barbecue at 5pm at St Edmund's Church, West Kingsdown. Any walk can be entered or left at any time, while non-walkers are welcome to participate at refreshment points. Registration forms at the back of church give full details, and for more information please phone Pat Mills on 01959 524667.



OTFORD OVER SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. The speaker from the Eleanor Foundation will now be coming to our 9th June meeting instead of 12th May. This year in place of the normal Club Birthday Party in the Hall we are going out to lunch at The Forge Restaurant on the 26th May.

We are still seeking new members interested in a pleasant afternoon and outings with friends. All enquiries to Jill or Ed Yates on 01959 524682.

COUNTRY GARDEN FAIR. Brasted Bell Restoration Project has a garden open day in Chevening Gardens on Sunday 6th June 2004, 2-5.30pm (by kind permission of the Board of Trustees of the Chevening Estate). The most unusual attraction will be The Bell Meadow Belfry – a mini ring of church bells in its own little tower. Anyone, including quite small children, will be able to have a try at ringing them. There will also be many varied stalls including plants and crafts, a portrait artist, a demonstration by dogs from HM Prison at Belmarsh, a bouncy castle, a raffle (win a mountain bike), a slide, teas, etc, etc. The impressive gardens, lake and maze are well worth a visit in their own right too.

THE SHOREHAM GARDEN SAFARI, in aid of the Shoreham Church Project, will take place in Shoreham village on Saturday June 12th and Sunday June 13th from 11am until 5pm. Plants and refreshments will be available in various gardens all day, for £4 for adults or £3 for senior citizens. Accompanied children under 15 are free. A ticket and a programme can be purchased at any of the twenty-one gardens that will be open.

OTFORD OAST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 17th June, when we welcome Tom Hart Dyke whose love of orchids has led him to search in many remote areas of the world. His experiences will be re-told and we will also have the opportunity to purchase his book.

We meet once a month in the Village Memorial Hall, at 9.30am.

THE OTFORD SOCIETY'S AGM on the 6th May was attended by about 60 members. Membership figures (around 1,000) are very good, but more would be better. New residents would be particularly welcome. The Society voted overwhelmingly against the draft order to close the footpath crossing the railway at Otford Station, and endorsed a proposal for a public petition.

The annual members' Garden Party will take place on Saturday 19th June from 6pm to 8pm at Colet's Well, by kind permission of Sir Michael and Lady Bett. For tickets, ring Jean Gunderson (522709). All members and their friends are welcome. If wet, the party will be in the Village Hall. The Society apologises for a date clash with St Bartholomew's Fair, unavoidable owing to the problem of getting a Village Hall booking for rain cover, but hopes that parishioners can find the strength to come to both events!

THE GARDEN AT LITTLE OAST, owned by Pam Hadrill, will be open for the Red Cross on Sunday 20th June, from 2 to 5pm, admission £2.50. There are lots of paved areas with pots, a pond and three summer houses. TEAS will be served. Little Oast is at the end of the private drive alongside the river just past the Horns PH.

SPOTLIGHT

ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Proposed closure of footpath 49 over the railway. This is the path running from the junction of Well Road with Evelyn Road, across the railway to Tudor Drive. It is the most convenient link with the centre of Otford for the residents east of the railway, and also many from Kemsing. Applications for *closure* of this crossing (on grounds of safety) and *creation* of a new footpath via Station Road have now been made. You may comment on both applications, and letters must be received by the 3rd June. The details and address will be in the local paper, the Parish Newsletter, or may be obtained from the parish office.

This council discussed the proposal and decided that although many residents are adversely affected by the loud horns of trains (which have undoubtedly increased in volume over recent years) and would benefit from somewhat fewer blasts, the benefits to residents and others using this footpath of its continued existence outweighs this. The diversion is much longer, involves flights of steps and possibly traffic in the car park, as well as on footpath 48 on the east side of the railway. For many, closure would make it seem easier to use and cross Station Road – which is at least as hazardous.

Closure would also be a precedent for other footpaths, and we wish to preserve this network, which pre-dates the railway and provides healthy exercise for many. Others will also resist closure for these reasons and a public inquiry seems certain in what may be a test case.

If you are affected, or have views on what should be done with our footpaths, *please ensure they are sent before the 3rd June* – and the parish council would very much appreciate a copy of your response.

(The solution of a bridge over the track has been broached more than once in the past and said to be far too expensive, and difficult because of the land available.)

Traffic Calming – Epilogue? A recent report from the District Council gave information on 20mph schemes – popularly known as ‘Traffic Calming’ areas. Many requests for these are made to SDC, but selection is on the basis of the area’s crash record over the previous three years and certain ‘qualitative’ factors (and they cannot be on ‘A’ roads). At the time when Otford was selected as fulfilling the criteria, one other village was being investigated. However, it did not meet the criteria, and, as Otford residents know, this village rejected the proposal when the requirements for the self-enforcing 20mph scheme became known. Hence, there are currently no 20mph schemes in the Sevenoaks District and no other areas that now meet the requirements for one. At the time we were offered Traffic Calming, funding was from a separate source, but now it has to be part of the bid for Local Transport works and therefore perhaps more difficult to find.

Fortunately, Otford has since seen road improvements through resurfacing, traffic islands, mobile speed cameras and additional 30mph signs; a speed indicator sign is due to be installed soon. Nevertheless, those of us who have seen cars overtaking on the wrong side of traffic islands know only too well that great care is still required on our roads.

JGA

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs Hilary Casiot** who died on 22nd April. A meeting to mark the occasion was held on 29th April at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, and here follow extracts from this meeting:

‘Welcome to St Nicholas, especially those from St Edmund’s, St Michael’s, St Bartholomew’s and Otford Evangelical Free Church with whom Hilary so often met.

Hilary hoped her life and death would express her gratitude to Christ for his death for her sins, and her gratitude for the forgiveness of her sins which she asked for and received. Her greatest desire for each of us was that we would believe in Jesus Christ and live our lives for him. So this meeting has been arranged to help us to believe in Jesus and serve him more faithfully.’

‘Joy is a fruit that will not grow in nature’s barren soil; all we can boast, till Christ we know, is vanity and toil. But where the Lord has planted grace, and made his glories known, there fruits of heavenly joy and peace are found, and there alone. A bleeding Saviour seen by faith, a sense of pard’ning love; a hope that triumphs over death, give joys like those above.’ (*Olney Hymns p.54, vs.1-3*)

‘This rest in heaven will be absolutely perfect. We shall then have joy without sorrow and rest without weariness. There is no mixture of corruption with our graces, nor of suffering with our comfort. There are none of those waves in that harbour, which now so toss us up and down. Death was the wages of my sin, but this eternal life is the gift of God, through Jesus Christ my Lord!’ (*Baxter, Saints’ Rest, p.51, 2 and 45*)

‘They shall awake as Jacob did, and say as Jacob said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and this is no other but the house of God, and the gate of heaven. And into that gate shall they enter, and in that house they shall dwell, where there shall be no Cloud or Sun, no darkness or dazzling, but one equal light, no noise or silence, but one equal music, no fears or hopes, but one equal possession, no foes nor friends, but one equal communion and Identity, no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity. Keep us, Lord, so awake in the duties of our callings, that we may thus sleep in thy peace, and wake in thy glory.’ (*John Donne, Poet and Preacher, On the death of the righteous*)

Heavenly Father, fill us with all joy and peace as we lead the life of faith until by the power of the Holy Spirit we overflow with hope, finding that your grace is all we need, your power is most fully seen in weakness. Give us rest as we come to you when we are weary and our load is heavy. Lord Jesus, you are gentle and humble hearted; may we learn from you, taking your easy yoke upon us and finding rest for our souls every day, for your Name’s sake. Amen. (*Based on the Revised English Bible version of Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Matthew 11:28-30*)

The Right use of Time

Have you considered saying a short prayer on waking each day?
Maybe the following could be useful.

Lord, help me to remember that all time belongs to you,
and that I am responsible to you for my use of it.
Help me neither to waste time
nor to be so obsessed with saving it that I become a slave of time
and lose my sense of proportion and values.
Lord, teach me to use my time to your glory, creatively.
Lord, help me to live each day
so that at the end of it
there is nothing I cannot share with you,
nothing for which I cannot thank you. Amen. *Margaret Dewey*

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long. *Ps 25:5*



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

25th April	Olivia Mary Louise Rennie
2nd May	Amy Grace Harris
2nd May	Alec William Harris
2nd May	Sophie Rachel Packer
2nd May	Mitchell William Day

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

7th May	Richard Owen Leadbeater and Cheryl Louise Paye
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Church Offerings in April

Open Collections, for Church expenses and charities.....	£484.56
Freewill Offerings	£8,946.00

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