

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

Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Austin, Mr Beacom, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Cole, Mrs Corson, Mrs Davison, Mr Dipple, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Garner, Mrs Greener, Mrs Groom, Mrs Hayes, Mr Housden, Mrs Hubbard, Mr Hunt, Miss James, Mrs Jeremiah, Mrs Lattimer, Mrs Lawrey, Mrs Malan, Mrs Marchant, Mrs Martin, Mrs Mills, Mrs Parker, Mrs Raynor, Mrs Redding, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Roffey, Mrs Scantlebury, Mrs Sidley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Wills, Mrs Worssam, Mrs Wragg, Mrs Yates.

JULY 2004

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
11.30am Baptism of Chloe Elizabeth Rosseter
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 5 – Morning Prayer is held in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
 2.30pm Feba Radio Meeting (41 Park Hill Road)
- 7 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Methodist Hall)**
 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
- 11 – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Sea Sunday)**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Family Praise
11.00am Mattins
12.30pm Baptism of Emily Isobel Thompson, Digby Thomas Clive Haslock and Thomas Wright
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 12 – 8-9.00pm Parish Prayer Meeting (39 Tudor Drive)**
- 13 – Magazine material for the August magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worsam, 19 Warham Road**
 8.00pm Ministry Team Meeting (39 Tudor Drive)
- 14 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 17 – Rochester Diocesan Celebrations in Rochester**
- 18 – The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 21 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**
 10.45am Coffee Club (Ellenor’s)
- 25 – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Evening Praise (CW)
- 28 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

Some early August dates:

- 1 – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Family Praise
11.30am Baptism of Adam Monroe Andrews Shanahan O’Neill
6.30pm Evensong

Morning Prayer will not be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays in August

- 2 – 8.00pm Finance Committee (‘Lorien’, St Michael’s Drive)**
4 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
5 – 2.30pm Ladies’ Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)

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EDITORIAL

This month the schools will be breaking up for the summer holidays, and all of us will no doubt be beginning to think about some kind of relaxation through the summer months. We hope you have a very happy holiday, wherever you are spending it!

Holidays are a good time for reflection: we have time to think. They are a good time to reassess our priorities in the light of how weary we are feeling in the first days of our holiday! Elisabeth Lindsay gave me the following, written by a Mr Ted Peters, now 94. It gives wise words, and has been slightly adapted for this Editorial.

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar ... and the lemonade.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar, which he shook lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes'.

The professor then produced two cans of lemonade from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. 'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things: your faith, your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favourite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else: the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with God. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and sort out the drains. Take care of the golf balls first: the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students put up her hand and asked what the lemonade represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of lemonades.'

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



1400th Anniversary of Rochester Diocese.

There are many events planned in connection with this special anniversary. Information packs priced at £3 are available from the Parish Church Office at The Vicarage. Saturday 17th July has been designated 'The Day' of celebration. This will begin with a service in Rochester Cathedral at 10am followed by lectures and seminars in the King's School Hall, various Cathedral events, Dickens events at Eastgate House, an act of worship at 5.15pm followed by an evening Concert in the Castle grounds, with Cleo Laine, John Dankworth and friends: this concludes by 9.45pm. Events in the Castle grounds will

include activities for children, Band concerts and exhibitions, an 80-foot Noah's Ark bouncy castle in the Moat, free visits to Rochester attractions and brass-rubbing for youngsters in the Cathedral Crypt.

Church Extension. Our final plans for the Church Extension are now on display in the Parish Church and in the Heritage Centre, following our application for planning permission to Sevenoaks District Council. We shall be launching an appeal in the autumn but welcome gifts at any time! If you have any questions or comments with which we could help, please don't hesitate to ring the Vicar on 01959 523185. The Vicar will be preaching through a sermon series in July at the 9.30am service on the subject of 'What is the Church?' and Bill Lattimer will be preaching in September at the same service on the subject of 'Faith in Action: Joshua' to encourage us and to strengthen our faith as we enter this exciting and demanding chapter as a church.

Christian Drama Group

A new Christian drama group meets regularly at St Bartholomew's Church, usually on a Monday evening. Members will be performing within Sunday services from time to time. If you are aged fifteen or above and would like to become involved in the group, please contact the Producer, the Vicar, on 01959 523185.

Walk 1400. The last walk in the series will be held on Saturday 3rd July, 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. Do come along and bring your friends. Many thanks to Sue Stephenson and Nancy Jonsson for organising the varied routes and to Ellen Bratby for organising the delicious lunch following the first walk.

Calling all Christians in Otford!

Please come along to the new united churches' prayer meeting for Otford, to be held on Saturday 10th July from 9.30 to 10.30am at Holy Trinity Church, Pilgrims Way West, Otford (towards the end of the High Street opposite Broughton Manor, with ample parking facilities). If it's a fine day, please feel free to bring your children as there is a garden in which they can play.

The regular Parish Church prayer meeting is held on the second Monday in each month from 11am to 12 midday and 8 to 9pm at the home of the Bratby family: the next one is on Monday 12th July. We are always glad to see new folk there.

Prayer Book Society

The Society has asked us to publicise its existence. Its aim is 'to promote the Book of Common Prayer as a vibrant source of worship, evangelism and the basis of doctrine within the Church, rather than preserve it as a museum piece.' Its English branches are based in each diocese of the Church of England, and there is a Rochester branch. Members receive three editions a year of the 'Journal' and an annual copy of 'Faith and Worship'. Branches issue their own newsletters and organise a wide variety of meetings both social and spiritual. It also runs an annual national competition, The Cranmer Awards, for young people between the ages of 11 and 14 and 15 and 18, to speak passages from the Prayer Book. In the Rochester Diocese, the regional heats are held at the Bromley and Beckenham Festivals. At the 2004 final, both categories were won by entrants from the Rochester Diocese. If you would like to know more about the Prayer Book Society or about the Cranmer Awards, contact Mr and Mrs George Comer, 102 Marlborough Crescent, Sevenoaks, TN13 2HR.

Emergency Prayer. If you have an urgent prayer request, please don't hesitate to ring our Prayer Chain which then puts into effect united and confidential prayer by around a dozen Christians. Ring Mrs Anne Fleetwood on 01959 523582 or the Vicarage on 01959 523185.

Men's Lunches. The next Men's Lunch will be at 12.30pm on Thursday July 29th, at the Evangelical Free Church, 81 Pilgrims Way West. The speaker is to be Mr Colin Clarkson, who worked at Fort Halstead and elsewhere for the MOD, and had a four-year stint with the Foreign Office at the British Embassy in Washington. He is a Reader at Southborough and has helped train our Readers at St Bartholomew's.

Then looking forward to August 26th, the speaker will be the Revd David Stuart-Smith. For further details contact the Revd David Casiot on 01959 522588.



OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. On Wednesday July 7th we are having a representative from the Kent Air Ambulance Service to speak to us. Non-members are welcome at £1, with tea provided. On Wednesday the 21st July we have a Strawberry Tea and a quiz. Then on Wednesday the 28th is our outing to Eastbourne – at the time of writing there are still a few seats available on the coach. We then have a break during August, to resume in September. For any enquiries contact Jill or Ed on 525775 – leave a message if necessary.

THE OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY will be holding its Rose and Summer Show on Saturday 10th July in the Otford Memorial Hall between 2.15 and 4.30pm. Admission is 50p, under-16s free. The show will feature early fruit and vegetables, summer flowers, flower arrangements, photographic, cookery and junior classes.

All flower arrangers are invited to take part in the new **Open Class**. The title of the class is 'A Summer's Day' – to fit an alcove size of 20 inches overall. The entry fee for non-members will be 20p (members usual fee). For further details and an application form please contact Sheila Dickerson on 01959 524183.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Walls, Pots and Patios was the title of Kathryn Field's talk to members of Otford Evening WI at their June meeting and they certainly picked up some good ideas. Walls can create both vistas and boundaries as well as picking up the shades of planting. We were shown how green and silver plants growing at the base of an old wall could harmonise with moss-covered bricks of the same colours. Mrs Field reminded us to make sure that paths leading away from the house were kept level as we would be carrying things out to where we might be eating on the patio. One of her slides showed how an ugly manhole cover could be hidden by placing a terracotta pot containing a lovely *Euonymus* on top of it.

Diana Jeremiah gave us a good report after attending the National Federation's AGM held in Sheffield at the beginning of June and our Treasurer was pleased to announce a good profit for Institute funds from April's Boot Sale and our cake and plant stall at the recent Village Fete.

With our District Craft evening in July, our District Social evening in August, a visit to the Watts Gallery in Guildford in September and an Autumn Supper in October (to mention just a few of our forthcoming events) we have a lot to look forward to. If you are interested in finding out more about the friendship, companionship and learning together which goes with being a member of WI please give me a ring.

Brenda Young (Publicity Officer) Otford 523676

CANCER RESEARCH UK. On Sunday July 25th, the beautiful gardens of Chevening House, near Sundridge, will play host to a spectacular Summer Fair organised by the Sevenoaks & District Committee of Cancer Research UK. The Fair will be opened at 2.00pm by the Rt Hon. Michael Fallon, MP for Sevenoaks.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the music of the Wadhurst Brass Band, stroll around the beautiful gardens and try the famous Chevening Maze. They can try their hand and luck at one of the many sideshows, buy plants and home-made produce, browse around a good variety of craft stalls as well as the Committee's well stocked book & jigsaw stall. We are also pleased to offer a Garden & Wildlife Question & Answer session by Brian Doe and fellow experts.

Children can squeal at the delight of Punch and Judy, enjoy a ride on a donkey whilst the younger ones can have a ride in a giant teacup roundabout, have their face painted and enjoy the clowning skills of Mr Topple who will be entertaining the children throughout the afternoon. For the older children we have a mammoth inflatable slide!

There is ample free car parking and admission is £2.50 adults, £1 for children between 5-12 years and children under 5 are free. Entrance will be by programme available on the day.

Pam Burridge

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S Summer Outing is on Wednesday 7th July, with a full-day visit to Wimpole Hall and Estate, near Royston, Cambridgeshire. There will be a guided tour around the magnificent eighteenth-century house. The garden has colourful parterres, while the extensive wooded park, with a Gothic folly and serpentine lakes, was landscaped by Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton. The adjoining Home Farm was designed in 1794 by Sir John Soane, a versatile architect who was responsible also for the Dulwich Art Gallery. The farm now houses a fascinating range of rare breeds of sheep, goats, cattle, pigs and horses. Refreshments are available in a licensed restaurant and in a kiosk in the stable block (or bring your own sandwiches).

The coach leaves Otford Pond at 8.30am. The total cost per head is full £30.75, National Trust members £21.75. For more details and bookings please contact 01959 522384.

OTFORD OAST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 15th July** when we welcome Pat McCann as Panhagerty Pat with her cookery demonstration and a chance for us to try some of her recipes. Make a date in your diary now.

Another date for your diary is **Saturday 6th November** when we will be holding an Indoor Boot Sale in the Village Memorial Hall – more details to follow later – but if you are interested in booking a table at a cost of £8.00, you can reserve one by calling Ann Roberts on 01959 522521. Space will be limited so if you are interested, do give her a call.

We meet once a month in the Village Memorial Hall – and don't forget we have a free crèche for the under 5s too so there is no excuse for not coming along if you have young children. Our meetings start at 9.30am so you can come straight after the school run. We are a very friendly group and have a number of activities planned for the coming few months, in addition to our monthly meetings – there is sure to be something to interest you. Give us a try – your first visit is free.



GREENHILL QUIET GARDEN. There will be a Quiet Garden Day – a time for reflection, appreciation of beauty and time for yourself – on Tuesday 13th July at 10am to 4pm and (looking far ahead) another on Tuesday 12th October, at 10am to 2pm. Come for as long or as short a time as you wish. The cost is £3.50 if you have lunch. I do have a structure for the day, but there is no pressure to do anything except sit somewhere to relax in the garden, or in the house if the weather is bad.

Please contact me if you need further information – Mrs Margaret Matthews, 41 Greenhill Road, Otford, 01959 522046. I am affiliated to the Quiet Garden Trust.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. A new outdoor production based on Kenneth Grahame's classic novel will be performed by Chalkfoot, the touring and outreach arm of the Channel Theatre Company, on Friday 16th July at 7pm in the grounds of Otford Primary School. This production is suitable for all the family. The Otford Primary School will be serving refreshments on the night to raise funds. Tickets are priced at Adults £5, Concessions £4, Children £3, with under 3s free, and are available from The School House on weekday mornings. Do come along and enjoy the performance.

SPOTLIGHT
ON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Chairman: Mr John Allen
Parish Clerk: Mrs B. Darby. Tel: Otford 524808

Footpath 49 – May I thank all those who wrote to DEFRA about closure of footpath 49, and also those who sent a copy to the parish council.

The transit of planet Venus – is rarely seen in England but, thanks to David Thomas and his wife, it was visible through a telescope near the centre of Otford's model of the solar system on our Recreation Ground. The mechanism of the event was very clearly explained by his structures in the model, and several classes of school children and many adults viewed and comprehended this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Air Pollution – The District Council report indicated that there had been no general increase in pollution in the District, and Otford was not mentioned as having any increase in levels. Measurements and analysis of all pollutants is a complicated and continuing process, performed to watch for exceedences in pollutants for which there are government guidelines. The measuring system is close to Otford, at Greatness, and anyone may check on current and past levels of all pollutants in our area via the District Council's website.

Dumping of waste – and usually garden waste – still occurs on many parts of open ground owned or maintained by the parish council. The cost of removing it falls on the residents of this village, so if you see it being done, please inform the council office. The maximum fine is very large (£20,000 in some circumstances) and as in many cases it seems to be simply tipped over a fence and identifiable from its position and what is grown in the garden, this would seem to be a foolish thing to do. The District Council can and does prosecute fly tipping. Otford parish office sells green sacks for such garden rubbish.

If we wish to keep Otford as a pleasant village, it must be seen to be cared for.

JGA

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs June Healy** who died on 13th May aged 73. A Service of Thanksgiving for June's life was held at the Parish Church on 28th May, preceded by a private cremation service on 21st May.

June was born and brought up in Stokesley in the North Riding. On leaving school she joined the Civil Service as a clerk, later working for the Colonial Service in Nigeria as a secretary, going on to work with the Governor General's office. June met her husband, Tim, in Lagos, and they were married in 1958. June had a great love for Nigeria and its people. She thoroughly enjoyed married and family life, being blessed with three children: Rosamund, Julian and Mark. She was a very friendly person and prospered those friendships by committed letter-writing throughout her life. The family left Nigeria in 1967 and settled in Otford where June involved herself in village life, supporting many village organisations and events. She went on to work at the Cheshire Homes Charity Shop in Sevenoaks for many years and supported Tim's work with the British Legion.

June sadly suffered from ill-health at the end of her life but she refused to be defeated by it. She showed tremendous courage, was never self-pitying, and was always concerned for others above herself. June had an immense generosity of spirit and a genuine interest in people. To her family, of whom she was immensely proud, she was a real carer, one to listen without judgment, one to empower through acceptance. She has been described as a remarkable lady, always gentle and gracious, with a lovely smile and a real serenity. She was supported throughout forty-six years of an immensely happy married life by her much-loved husband, Tim, and by the steady faith which they both shared. We remember June with affection and thanksgiving.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Geoffrey William Adams** who died on 31st May aged 82. His funeral was held at the Parish Church on 9th June followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells.

Geoff, as he was known, was born in Rustall. He was called up in his teens into the 55th heavy Royal Artillery and was to fight over the Thames Estuary in the Battle of Britain, exhibiting great bravery. Geoff joined a field regiment and served in North Africa and Greece. In Greece he sadly contracted polio and lost a leg. He spent time in hospital where he met a lovely nurse, Olive, known as Minnie. Though they fell in love he didn't want to tie her down to nursing him. She returned to St Austell in Cornwall where she married and raised three children. Later her husband died – unknown to Geoff. They were to spend 22 years alone but there was a happy ending. They met up again and Minnie came to live in Otford where she nursed Geoff. Sadly after marrying Geoff, Minnie died after only a few months.

Geoff was a very courageous man, never complaining, and never defeated. Although he eventually lost both legs, he refused to be limited by his disabilities. He had been told he would never walk again but he was determined to remain mobile. He later became Finance Officer at Fort Halstead.

He has been described as a Kentish man, loving the rural scene. He loved sketching not least in Kent and Cornwall and loved wild flowers and wildlife. He loved gardening and grew a wonderful herb garden. Geoff also loved poetry, and also enjoyed conversation. He was meticulous in all that he did, not least in the care of his home. He was kind enough to leave a very generous legacy to his Parish Church.



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

30th May	Luke Clark Gardner
30th May	Rebecca Lucie Allgood (adult)
6th June	Maisie Blythe Kathleen Ward
13th June	Thomas Luke Thorne

Weddings (Our Congratulations)

29th May	Alistair Robertson-Watts and Gillian Siaron Hughes
12th June	Mark Benedict Harrison and Deborah Louise Ford

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

21st May	June Healy (aged 73) – Cremation
9th June	Geoffrey William Adams (aged 82)- Cremation

Church Offerings in April

Open Collections, for Church expenses and charities.....	£960.32
Freewill Offerings.....	£5,256.00

Disability Care

St Bartholomew's Church Otford is committed to providing the opportunity of Christian Worship and Fellowship to everyone. We will try to provide the necessary facilities to make everyone feel equally cared for in all aspects of church life.