

# 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.

# AUGUST 2004

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**1 – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**

**9.30am Family Praise (CW) and baptism of Emma Catherine and Hannah Elizabeth Stevenson and Poppy Violet Selby Wilkins**

**11.30am Baptism of Adam Monroe Andrews Shanahan O'Neill**

**6.30pm Evensong**

- 2 – **Morning Prayer will not be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays in August**  
8.00pm Finance Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 4 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 5 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 7 – 2.00pm Wedding of Andrew Muir and Andrea Newlands
- 8 – **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)  
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
11.00am Mattins  
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 11 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 13 – **Magazine material for the September magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worsam, 19 Warham Road**
- 14 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Jenny Matthews)
- 15 – **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)  
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
6.30pm Evensong
- 18 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 21 – 2.00pm Wedding of Julian Bunclark and Amanda Bearfoot
- 22 – **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity: St Bartholomew**  
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)  
6.30pm Evening Praise (CW)
- 25 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.45am Coffee Club (Ellenor's)
- 28 – 2.00pm Wedding of Adrian de Warrenne Boulton and Rebecca Allgood  
7.30pm Concert by the Orpheus Singers (in Church)
- 29 – **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)  
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
11.30am Baptism of Felicity Anne Woolard  
6.30pm Contemplative Service
- 30 – **Bank Holiday**  
11.00am onwards Super Summer Sale (Church Hall)

**Some early September dates:**

- 1 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 2 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 5 – **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)  
9.30am Family Praise and Baptism  
11.30am Baptism of Jessica Ann Moncur, Robert Stanley Andrews and Ellis Alfred Thomas Andrews  
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)  
6.30pm Evensong
- 6 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**  
2.30pm Feba Radio Meeting (41 Park Hill Road)

# EDITORIAL

The Vicar writes: One of the joys in being part of any church is that of seeing the ways in which God draws many different individuals into his family and enables their natural gifts to blossom and to be used in the extension of his kingdom, to benefit the other members of his family. We are particularly grateful at the present time, for example, to those who are using their organisational, design and planning skills to help us to take forward the Church Extension project. Others have discovered new skills in learning to ring bells, and yet others continue to enhance our music ministry by their special gifts. Others enrich our worship by reading in church and leading our intercessions. We are most grateful to Kate Lacey who has become a valued member of our Choir and who has recently taken on the oversight of the informal Music Group, bringing thoughtfulness and sensitivity in her ministry. Recently Kate led the prayers in church on a subject which I felt was helpful to many and I asked her to write her thoughts for this Editorial. Here they are:

'It is a particular hobby horse of mine but, as a teacher, I understand only too well, the huge importance of a healthy self-esteem. At the root of so many problems facing children is a lack of self belief.

The most profoundly troubled child I ever had to deal with was principally in the mess he was in, because his mother neither loved nor wanted him. However much I tried to compensate for that, his self loathing was so deeply entrenched, that he mistrusted my love and every effort to praise and encourage him.

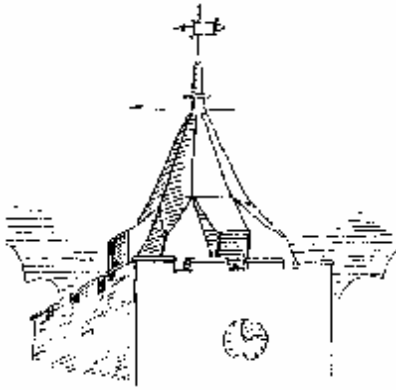
Some people will have had similar experiences of childhood and carried negative repercussions with them into adulthood. Others will be going through a bad patch due to sin, rejection or failure. You are responsible for that sin, though rejection or failure may not have been due to fault on your part. If you are penitent, God has already dealt with your sin and as for the rejection or failure, you can put it down to lack of support, insight or experience, at the time when you most needed it. If God has forgiven you, will you waste the future by denying yourself the opportunity of a new beginning?

We are made in the image of God. We should be valuing, nourishing and developing that aspect of our nature. When you look into the mirror every morning, try to say to yourself, "I love the God that I see in you". Maybe, in time, you will grow to love yourself more, even the "warts and all" version. For surely, only by loving yourself can you pass on love to others and be a positive, successful, effective and efficient power for good.

Perhaps, like me, you're old enough to remember the American television detective Kojak and his catch phrase "Who loves ya Baby?" Well, the Christian has the answer to that. God does. And if God finds us worthy of love, who are we mere mortals to argue with His divine judgment?

*Kate Lacey*

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## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

### **Special Concert: 'A Very British Summer'**

We hope you will join us for a special concert in August. It is to be held on Saturday 28th August at 7.30pm in church and will be given by the Orpheus Singers, a group of ex-Oxbridge students, including Christopher Ward, grandson of the late Revd Christopher Bunch. The concert will include works by Britten, Tippett, MacMillan, Taverner and Dove and music by the Renaissance English Madrigalists. The concert is given in aid of Care and Comfort Romania with which Christopher's mother, Ros, works. Tickets are £8 and £6 concessions, to include a glass of wine or fruit juice in the interval. Children will be admitted free of charge.

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**Patronal Festival.** We celebrate the Feast Day of St Bartholomew on Sunday 22nd August. Do join us for our services then. Celebratory refreshments will be served after the 9.30am service on that day and a quarter peal rung on our bells in the afternoon.

### **Contemplative Service**

The first of these monthly services occurs on Sunday 29th August at 6.30pm. If you're feeling in need of peace and tranquillity, do join us!

**Stacklands Retreat House.** This Retreat House, situated at West Kingsdown, is easy to reach and open to all. It runs retreats and Quiet Days for individuals and groups, organised by the Society of Retreat Conductors. Further details may be obtained from the Warden, Revd Jim Bateman, on 01474 852247. Their website is [www.stacklands.org.uk](http://www.stacklands.org.uk).

### **Age Concern Facilities**

Age Concern in Sevenoaks tell us that they have been through some worrying times financially and to turn this around, they have closed the Day Centre at Cobden Road and enlarged the Day Centre at Hollybush Court. They have not lost any spaces and can now cope with the same number of clients on the one site. The Day Centre has many things on offer: such things as chiropody, beautician, hairdressing, aromatherapy, holidays, entertainment, and an internet café. These services are also available to those who are not clients of Age Concern as long as they are over 55 years of age. The charge for day care at the Day Centre is currently £4.75 per day which includes transport to and from the Centre, teas and coffees, and a fresh cooked two course lunch. Further details are available from Liz Bew on 01732 454108.

## SUPER SUMMER SALE

Our Super Summer Sale takes place on BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, August 30th, in the Church Hall, from 11am to 2.30pm. There will be stalls for Books, Plants, Cakes, Jams, Bric-a-Brac and Craft Medley.

Please contact Sally Woestmann on 01959 523392, or sign the list at the back of the church, if you can help on the day.

WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR HELP

**Feba Radio Meeting.** This will take place on Tuesday September 6th at 2.30pm at 41 Park Hill Road. Ruth Barclay (01959 522882) will have details.

### ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR 2004

When David Gilbert died so suddenly and unexpectedly last February he left some enormous gaps, and in the life of the Church by far the biggest was on the Fair Committee. For years St Bartholomew's Fair without David Gilbert has been unimaginable. As the day approached he was everywhere – he organised everything, he knew everything, he even carried practically everything. 'David, how many trestles do we need from the Memorial Hall?' 'David, have we got an extension lead for the freezer?' 'Where on earth is the Wheel of Fortune?' Well we managed it, but it took the combined efforts of a great many people to fill the gap. Peter Venables bravely forsook his automatic BMW to drive the OBM lorry, twice intrepidly reversing up Park Lane to the back door of the Memorial Hall; Dennis Moore, one of David's former employees, generously giving of his time in his memory, produced the extension lead; Matthew Beacom located the Wheel of Fortune. Andrew McDowall oversaw the erection of the marquee, Vanessa Nicholls drew up the Stall Plan and Andrew Bratby and Clive Southgate ensured that all the stalls and sideshows were in place.

And, miraculously, not only were we ready on time but the sun shone, albeit intermittently. As the queue formed and the Church bells rang out, the stallholders made their final adjustments and then the floodgates opened. The takings on the programmes, gate and car park suggested that numbers were slightly down on last year, but it did not seem like it. As always the Cakes, nowadays supplemented by preserves and other home-made delicacies, had soon sold out. By mid afternoon every tea table was occupied – income from teas was nearly 40% higher than ever before. The plants raised nearly £600 and there were major contributions from the Books, Bottles, Craft, and White Elephant stalls, as well as from the Raffle. As the day wore on the Bartholomew Wind Band continued to entertain us, and the efforts and expertise of the Face-painting ladies became more and more evident. It is impossible to mention every stallholder, but all contributed fully to a thoroughly enjoyable and profitable afternoon.

Thanks are due to so many people, but first of all to Mark Roy and Irene Weber for again allowing us the use of their beautiful grounds, and quite a lot of the house as well. It is difficult to imagine a more attractive setting. As well as the stallholders and their helpers, our gratitude goes to those who sold programmes, manned the gate and car park, ran the sideshows, served and cleared up the teas and counted the cash – more than £6,200 was taken. Perhaps above all we should thank the team of workers who cleared the site and disposed of all the tables, chairs, equipment and rubbish; it was long past 7.00pm before they finished.

In Christeen Malan, Margie Torry, Vanessa Nicholls, Margaret and Jim Lidbetter and Peter Venables we have a first class committee, all of whom play a full part both in the preparations for the Fair and on the day itself. It is probably too much to ask for a straight replacement for David Gilbert, but one more practical man would be immensely valuable. Any volunteers?

*Colin Fleetwood*



## THOUGHTS FROM TANZANIA

Caleb Loan, St Bartholomew's 'Crosslink' student, studies at Msalato Bible College in Tanzania. The Principal of his college is the Revd Dickson Chilongani, and the following is an abridged version of an article by the Revd Chilongani on the subject of Partners in Mission:

"The Western Church has been involved over the last few centuries in preaching the Gospel in Africa. It has continued to open its doors in sharing resources. There are many mission partners working in Africa as teachers, Bible translators, doctors, etc. Most African Church leaders and theologians have been trained in the West. The Western Church has continuously supported the poor with food, clothing, etc. Praise God for this generosity.

But, is there any way in which the Western Church can learn and benefit from the African Church?

The answer is YES! Among other things is our experience of God in the context of suffering. As my diocesan bishop puts it: "The Church in Tanzania is the Church of the poor that is always under pressure ... [However] poverty for them is neutral, neither good nor bad for believing in God. People, rich or poor, can believe in God, not because of what they get from God, but because without God their life will not obtain full humanity and meaning. African people love and enjoy God as they are. They do not wait until their problems are solved to enjoy God. They enjoy God with or without their sufferings or other difficulties."

Let me add that "suffering reminds us that in reality we are not created human beings, but human beings": our perfection is in heaven where there is no more suffering ...

Because we do not have other resources, we have relied heavily on prayer, the Holy Spirit and the experience of ordinary Christians for evangelism. In fact, the Church in Africa grows not because it has wonderful clergy, for it probably has the most unlearned clergy, but because its Christians are open enough to share their experiences of the risen Christ with their neighbours ... The role of the clergy is more to do with maintenance than growth. Church growth is always in the hands of ordinary Christians.

In Galatians 3.26-29, Paul tells us that although we are different in terms of race and culture, in Christ we have become one ... Let us work in partnership for the sake of God's Kingdom.'

*Dickson Chilongani*



**OTFORD AFTERNOON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.** At our July meeting members enjoyed an illustrated talk by Anita Jones on her visit to Peru which included a trek into the Amazon rainforest. For our August meeting (on the 10th) the Committee take time out and let the members take over for the afternoon and who will also provide a nice tea. We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 2.00pm. If you wish to find out more about our WI, please call 522915. (JCA)

**OTFORD BROWNIES** are urgently looking for new leaders. Are there any people who would like to have fun and lead or help for a few hours a week with girls aged 7 to 10? This could be two or more friends or possibly someone with previous connections with Girlguiding. Full support and friendship from local Guiders will be given. If you are able to help, please contact Caroline Scales on 01959 523200.

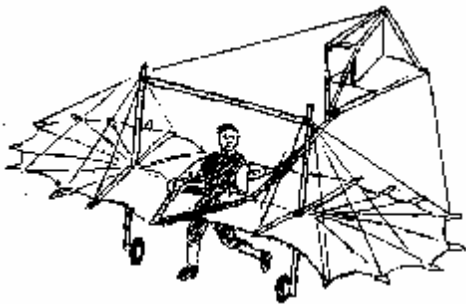
**THE SEVENOAKS ART CLUB** Annual Exhibition, after a number of years at the Plaza Suite of the Stag Theatre, is this year relocated to the **CORNWALL HALL** of The Drive Methodist Church, a short distance from where Sevenoaks High Street is joined by Seal Hollow Road. The Exhibition is to be open from 9am to 5pm, on Saturday August 7th and then from Monday 9th to Saturday August 14th. Oil paintings, watercolours, and paintings in other media, by local artists including a number from Otford, will be on display and for sale. Admission is free.

**THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY's** third outing of the summer is on the afternoon of Wednesday September 8th, to Hall Place, Bexley. This fine black-and-white mansion has recently been restored by the local authority. It is in a landscaped estate on the River Cray, that has been in existence since at least Norman times. It has interesting gardens, including a fine rockery. We are to have a guided tour of the mansion; and a cream tea is included. A coach will leave Otford Pond at 1.15pm. Total cost per head, £15.75. To book, please phone 01959 522384.

**EARLY FLIGHT NEAR OTFORD.** Percy Sinclair Pilcher was the first man in England to fly a heavier-than-air aircraft. A splendid scale model of his 'Hawk', with a 4-ft wingspan, is now to be seen in the Heritage Centre. It has been built by Rod Shelton, who also built the widely acclaimed model of Otford Palace which is in the Heritage Centre. Rod's Hawk model has an accompanying display which gives the full story of Percy Pilcher's achievement, illustrated by contemporary photographs. The following account is based on the display.

Percy Pilcher was born in Bath in 1867. After a period in the Royal Navy he became an assistant lecturer in marine engineering at Glasgow University. In 1896 he moved to Eynsford to work for another early aviation pioneer, Hiram Maxim (whose company developed the infamous Maxim machine gun) at Upper Austin Lodge Farm. Pilcher's Hawk, with a wingspan of 24ft 8in and weighing just 50lb, was constructed mainly of bamboo, with lightweight sailcloth covering. His aim was to develop motorised flight, but he needed wealthy sponsors. In a demonstration in September 1899 he found that damp air had made the fabric heavier than usual. Then, in the third flight of the day at a height of 60ft there was a sharp snap as a tailplane spar broke, and his craft somersaulted to the ground. Percy suffered severe concussion and a broken femur and never came round; he died at 3am the following morning.

Just four years later the Wright brothers in Carolina achieved motorised flight.



Percy Pilcher flying his Hawk

# SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

**A view from a parish council perspective** – Each level of local government has its areas of responsibility and powers, and, given the resources available to each, the balance can work well. Otford PC passes on the problems that are not in its remit but sometimes nothing happens for a seemingly long time. Thus we have mentioned the road signs becoming concealed by foliage or dirt, overgrown hedges obscuring drivers' vision, abandoned car(s) being further damaged and increasingly dangerous to children, the vandalised telephone box and the stolen post box, the dangerous speeds of vehicles on roads without footways – to mention only some of the outstanding items – to the relevant authorities. Often more than once. For some of these problems we are aware of the budget and staff problems causing inevitable delays; in others we feel the same frustrations as other residents.

However, we also see another unreported, and largely invisible, side of public life. The tremendous help given by voluntary groups to those with major problems or needs, groups to which we sometimes contribute; and the work of many in all levels of government who help to protect the qualities we presently enjoy. The local press rarely mentions this work; reporters at public meetings are very rare, even more so are the public unless there is a decision with immediate effect on a community.

**Parish Wardens and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)** – are both seemingly part of a government initiative to make 'policing', in the general sense, visible on our streets. They are full-time posts, the former charged to the county councils, the latter to parishes, and both may cover more than one parish. Earlier this year Shoreham and Otford requested a shared Warden but will not hear until later whether we will be granted one in March 2005. We are now informed, however, that this is unlikely, and unexpectedly have been offered a PCSO on a two-year contract basis. Otford council has agreed to accept a PCSO if one can be employed on a shared basis, but at present no other parish council near us is willing to share the cost.

**Otford's public trees** – We are fortunate in the trees in and around the village. In recent years we have won prizes or been commended for the variety of trees grown and the care given to them. Now one of our tree wardens has written a leaflet on the 'mini arboretum' existing in part of the Conservation Area in the centre of the village. The leaflet (available from the office) has been admirably designed by a village resident and shows the positions of more than forty trees that can be seen in a short walk from the parish office. It is always useful to know them, especially when one has visitors and a tree is in bloom or colouring in the autumn. At the time of writing the Tulip Tree on The Green is in full bloom. The flowers are tulip-shaped and the leaves also have a tulip-like silhouette. We have the bonus that as it is not very old there are plenty of flowers low down where one can easily see them.

JGA

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**God can help us to Forgive and Forget**

Dear God, I find it so hard to forgive those who are unkind to me, or who blame me for the things which are not my fault. I go on bearing a grudge against them and even when they try to make it up, I feel bitter and hard.

I know this is wrong. When Peter asked Jesus how many times he ought to forgive someone who had wronged him, Jesus said he must go on and on forgiving. Jesus even prayed for forgiveness for those who crucified him. Please help me to be more like him and be willing to forgive. Amen.  
*Nancy Martin*

Jesus said, 'When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.' *Mark 11:25*



*Registers*



**Baptisms (Our Welcome)**

- 4th July Chloe Elizabeth **Rosseter**
- 4th July Zach Kenny **Nolan**
- 11th July Emily Isobel **Thompson**
- 11th July Thomas Jack Lawrance **Wright**
- 11th July Digby Thomas Clive **Haslock**

**Weddings (Our Congratulations)**

- 3rd July Anthony Mark **Wickens** and Joanna Elizabeth **Solly**
- 10th July Jonathan **Farina** and Gemma Rose **Bishop**

**Funeral (Our Sympathy)**

- 15th June Lester William Harry **Balding** (aged 74) – Cremation

**Church Offerings in May**

Open Collections, for Church expenses and charities.....	£368.73
Freewill Offerings.....	£5,843.00

**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.