

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.

SEPTEMBER 2004

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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 of Thomas Nathanael Lewis and Daniel David Wall
11.30am Baptism of Jessica Ann Moncur, Robert Thomas 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)
7.30pm Drama Group (in Church)
- 8 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Methodist Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd David Casiot)
- 11 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Robin Taylor)
10am-6pm Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride
- 12 – **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd David Casiot)
9.30am Morning Worship
11.00am Mattins
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 13 – 8.00pm Mission Committee (82 St John’s Hill, Sevenoaks)
Magazine material for the October magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road
- 14 – 8.00pm Reordering Committee (39 Tudor Drive)
- 15 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd David Casiot)
- 19 – **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong
- 21 – 8.00pm Ministry Team (39 Tudor Drive)
- 22 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Methodist Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45am Coffee Club (Ellenor’s)
- 26 – **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity: Poverty and Hope Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Preacher: The Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge
6.30pm Evening Praise
- 28 – 8.00pm Worship Committee (Vicarage)
- 29 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Some early October dates

- 1 – 9.00am Russell House School Harvest Festival
9.30pm onwards Prayer (in Church)
- 2 – 9.00am onwards Decoration of the Church for Harvest
2-4.00pm Prayer (in church)
- 3 – **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival**

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EDITORIAL

What a glorious summer it has been! Otford and the surrounding countryside really has looked its best, and the flowers, fruit and vegetables have blessed us with their abundance. Our youngsters and their teachers have enjoyed a well-earned break and we all look forward to a new autumn term.

The summer is a time of celebration, not least for weddings and baptisms, and we have been privileged to share in the joy of many families. At the beginning of August, for me, one Saturday had seemed much like another: time to visit the children who would be baptised the next day and even to practise with them at the kitchen sink! The afternoon had been relaxed, spent in a lovely garden and in the company of the Dickinson family together with our ringers and their families and other friends.

Into such peace and harmony came the sudden chaos of illness, and the word which would describe it: 'labyrinthitis'. A word which would mean for me the most painful night I have ever had as the bedroom whirled round me and some strange force seemed determined to turn my stomach inside out. Food poisoning? The Beginning of The End? I had no way of knowing. With morning light came the realisation that baptisms would be out of the question for me on this day, and slowly, painfully, began the journey back to health. I have since discovered that many of you had already encountered this vicious virus which lays low its victims for several weeks.

Suddenly life changed. I was unable to do much except rest. Such enforced 'leisure' gave me time to think, and for those who have had to battle with different kinds of illness, the words below may strike a familiar chord.

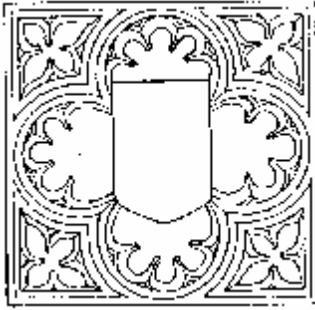
Such an experience has taught me to take nothing for granted, nothing as a right. Each moment, each day, is a gift from God. When we have recovered from illness, it is natural to give thanks afresh for good health and for God's goodness in daily sustaining us. But how much do we foster a daily spirit of thanksgiving?

Through this time I came to appreciate anew the blessing of good friends and the strong team within the church family. I have been so grateful for kind messages and prayers, and grateful too for the ways in which many people have willingly and cheerfully taken on new tasks. Jenny Bromley responded cheerfully and instantly to my desperate call for help at dawn and cared unstintingly not just for me but also for my frail elderly mother. Gordon and Barbara Darby and the Hall family at Dunton Green cheerfully took my dogs into their homes. I am so grateful to Revd. David Casiot who quickly stepped into service early on that August morning and has continued to help us, as he has since he retired to Otford several years ago. I am grateful to Revd. John Goulding from Kemsing and to Dawn Hallam for sharing in the taking of a wedding a week later. The whole Ministry Team has been magnificent. Clive Southgate and Susan Reid in our Church Office once more leapt into efficient action and ensured with our Churchwardens Sally and Derek good organisation and communication. I thank God for the support of good friends.

Last, but by no means least, I have been reminded to listen to God. He enabled me to be still and open to his voice, and I know that my faith, spiritual understanding and appreciation of the suffering of others have grown as a result of this experience. Thank God that he wants to speak to us, not least through times of suffering.

As I write this in mid-August, still somewhat dizzy, I am grateful to God for a different kind of August. I have learnt new things about myself, about us, and about God. Such reflection gives cause for thanksgiving. We hope you will join us for the Harvest Thanksgiving services at the beginning of October, and not least for the united churches' Songs of Praise on Sunday 3rd October at 6.30pm in the Parish Church.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Harvest. Our Harvest services will be held on Sunday 3rd October. The 8.00am service will be based on the Common Worship service of Holy Communion. The 9.30am Family service will include the traditional harvest offerings from our children. Also at the 9.30am service will be a 'Thanksgiving Tree' on which individual 'thanksgivings' may be placed. We hope you will also join us in the evening at 6.30pm on that day for the annual united Churches' Songs of Praise service.

These services are, above all, services for everyone, especially for those of us who live here, where we have seen the harvests of the fields, hedgerows and gardens all around us through this wonderful summer. There will be familiar harvest hymns and readings and the evening service will feature candlelight and some beautiful music. The church will look lovely decked with fruits, vegetables, corn and a harvest loaf. It will smell lovely too – the scents of harvest ripeness. We would love to see the church bursting with people as with fruitful abundance: please come!

In addition to our Harvest services we are organising a Harvest Supper and Barn Dance on Saturday 2nd October at 6.00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets will be available from the Parish Church Office and during September services: those of all ages are welcome.

Alpha. We shall be running an Alpha course, beginning this month. This is a lively, informal course which explores the basics of the Christian faith. The evening includes a meal, the showing of a video, and the opportunity for open discussion. If you would like to join this course, which lasts until late November, please contact the Parish Church Office on 01959 523185.

Special Sermon Series at 9.30am in September

We look forward to progressing the Church Extension Project and as one means of encouragement, we have organised a sermon series on the life of Joshua and on the ways in which God guided and encouraged him: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' The sermon series will be preached by Bill Lattimer who celebrates the anniversary of his Licensing as Reader this autumn. On Sunday 26th September we look forward to welcoming our Archdeacon, the Ven. Clive Mansell, as our Preacher: this Sunday is also Poverty and Hope Sunday when we have the opportunity to give to projects in the third world. We hope you will join us for the whole sermon series so that we may go forward in unity and strength.

Parish Weekend: Date for your Diary. The Parish Weekend will be held from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th October 2005 at Ashburnham Place near Battle, Sussex. Our speaker will be our Archdeacon, the Ven. Clive Mansell, and from his experience in parish ministry he will enable us to look afresh at the subject of church in community. The weekend is an opportunity for the whole church family to go away and relax together and we hope you will note the date now. Details will be available shortly.

Drama Group. A new Christian drama group, entitled 'Reflections', has been formed at St Bartholomew's, designed to enhance our worship through the dramatic word. It is not too late to join the group which meets usually on a Monday evening from 7.30-9.00pm: please contact the Parish Office 523185, if you would like further details.

Church Extension

The plans for the Church Extension have been with Sevenoaks District Council for some time and by the time you read this we hope that planning permission will have been granted. It is vital that we continue to pray about this project and to this end we have organised a Prayer Weekend for Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd October. There will be a half night of prayer on Friday 1st October and the opportunity for concentrated prayer on Saturday 2nd October between 2 and 4pm. The Sunday services on the theme of Harvest Thanksgiving will also include prayer for the new project, and the church will be open all day for prayer. The fund-raising appeal to the church will be launched on Sunday 3rd October, followed by publicity within the village from 9th October.

There are various fund-raising activities going on at this time. If you have not done so already, we hope you will sponsor Tony Grogan as he takes on the Great South Run in Portsmouth on Sunday 10th October: contact him on 01959 523649.

Joan and Colin Blackburn in Norfolk write: ‘We wish to thank Revd. Pat Hopkins and everyone in Otford who sent us best wishes and/or prayed for us over the period of Colin’s heart surgery in July. With local support being surprisingly high too, bearing in mind we have been here for only 2½ years, he went into the operation with hopes high and in good spirits. After four weeks he appears to be improving each day. It will perhaps mean that we can visit Otford and our families in Sevenoaks in a few weeks’ time and can stop cancelling holidays at a rate of knots – especially the Rhine cruise booked for when Colin had his operation.

Whilst we are pleased about our situation thus far we remain sad at the recent loss of several of our long-standing friends in Otford and in our turn we will be thinking of their relatives in our prayers.’

Feba Radio News

Together with many other churches that help to support the work of Feba, St Bartholomew’s Church members are planning a special Sunday next month. We look forward to greeting a missionary speaker at both **9.30** and **11am** on **Sunday 10th October**. An informal lunch-time meeting in the Church Hall will give everyone a chance to ask questions, see a video, and understand more about the work of our friends: Inter-denominational Director, Jon Hargreaves; Alex Stout, engineer; and their colleagues of many nationalities.

Book the date now! Details will be given in the weekly notices.

Ruth Barclay

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.

Remembrance Sunday, 14th November. Please note that the Remembrance Sunday service will be held at **10.00am**, as last year, in order to allow for the traditional Act of Remembrance at 11.00am. This service replaces the 9.30 and 11.00am services on that day.

The Friends of Kent Churches' annual Sponsored Cycle Ride is to be held on Saturday 11th September. The money raised from sponsors goes to the Trust, which then distributes half to needy churches in the diocese and half is returned to us. This year, Simon, Ben and Jonathan Wragg and Sue Stephenson are cycling (and part walking) for us. Details from Simon on 01732 462953.



OTFORD OAST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th September when we will be given a talk and demonstration by George Puddefoot of Riverside Nurseries (where the national collection of fuchsias is held). He will be showing us how to plant up hanging baskets and pots for colour throughout the winter months. You may also have a chance to win one as we will be holding a raffle too. George is very entertaining and if you can come along, please do. There is no charge for your first visit!

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.

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY has an outing to Hall Place, Bexley, on the afternoon of Wednesday September 8th. This fine black-and-white mansion, recently restored by the local authority, is in landscaped grounds bordering the River Cray, and the gardens include 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.

FLORUM 2004. An annual Exhibition of Botanical Art, Flowers, Gardens and Landscapes at The Jeffrey Harrison Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, from Saturday 11th September to Sunday 19th September 10am to 4pm (Sunday 19th 10am to 1pm). Some 300 paintings will be on view and for sale, representing the work of 50 artists, including members of The Society of Botanical Artists and holders of medals awarded by The Royal Horticultural Society for botanical art. Admission is free; a percentage of the proceeds from sales will go to the Jeffrey Harrison Reserve.

PIPSQUEAKS pre-school singing and music classes take place in the Church Hall on Tuesday mornings from 9.45 to 10.30 and from 10.45 to 11.30am. Their aim is to introduce children from 6 months to three-and-a-half years to music, rhythm, movement and musical instruments. Parents and children are encouraged to learn together at 40- to 45-minute classes. For details phone 01732 741335.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME. Pam Hadrill's garden at **Little Oast** will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 5th September from 2 till 5pm. Admission £2, children free. There will be home-made teas, and plants for sale. Little Oast is at the end of a short pedestrian way that runs beside the River Darent mill stream, from the bridge at the west end of Otford High Street.

SEVENOAKS AND DISTRICT BRANCH, WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION. Twenty-week, ten-week and some five-week courses have been arranged to start in the week beginning 27th September.

A twenty-week course in Literature entitled 'Clash of Cultures' and tutored by Christine Bett, MA, will be held in Otford Village Hall on Mondays, 10am to 12 noon. There will also be a music Day School in our Village Hall on Saturday January 29th 2005, from 2.00 to 6.00pm. 'Women of Note' will be tutored by Diana Ambache, LRAM, ARCM.

Details of these courses are in our Advance Booking leaflet which covers just the Sevenoaks area, or in the full brochure which is available from your Library. WEA members will be sent their copy automatically. Our 'Try Before You Buy' policy allows you to attend the first session before committing yourself to enrolling for the full course. You may also ring Joyce Allen, Branch Secretary, on 01959 522915, or Dorothy Palmer on 01959 522936.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. At our August meeting President Brenda Ash informed us of the death at the end of July of Doreen Aldred, a long-standing and loyal member whose knowledge and love of gardening helped create the WI border in the centre of the village some years ago.

Our Institute gained Third place in the District's recent Goodchild Cup competition with a lovely, colourful but simple, display depicting the Olympics by Barbara Darby.

Our speaker was Dorothy Gray, making her third visit to our Institute and her gentle, tongue-in-cheek verses amused and entertained us as much as ever. Amongst many of the delights we heard was the Tale of Frederick Clute ('whose wife was in the Institute') very much in the mode of Cyril Fletcher, and listened to a (supposed) letter from a daughter recently gone to university whose opening sentence was 'Sit down mother before you read any more' – paving the way to hair-raising disclosures of the worst possible kind! A poignant verse about an old woman and a poem entitled 'The Sabine Lament' brought her presentation to a close. Dorothy 'discovered' her talent for composing verse and presenting it at a course at Denman College some years ago and was encouraged by the tutor to develop and widen her range. She is now a very popular speaker throughout the Federation.

Pat Goddard gave details of a walk she is arranging. If you are new to the village and feel this sort of activity would be of interest, why not come along and join us – give Pat a ring on 522578 for details of future plans. We usually meet in the Otford car park at 10.45am or thereabouts.

At our September meeting we shall be hearing about 'Health and Beauty' – we meet in the Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm. Please come and join us, you will be warmly welcomed.

Brenda Young 523676

THE OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY'S next lecture will be in the Otford Memorial Hall on Tuesday 7th September at 8pm, when Brian Doe will be talking on 'Beyond the Wire, a judge's view of the Prison Gardens of Great Britain'. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members.

Then on Saturday 11th September is the Autumn Flower and Craft Show, featuring fruit and vegetable classes as well as Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and other summer flowers. Also flower arrangements, cookery, handicraft, photographic and junior classes.

‘Interpretations’. Councils’ decisions have to be based on the best available information, and there are vast amounts available. My attention was caught recently by two startling newspaper headlines. One implied that Sevenoaks had worse air pollution than London, the other that ‘Speed cameras don’t save lives’. Neither stood up to critical analysis.

The comparison was made between London boroughs’ and Sevenoaks’ air pollution, because those figures were released together. But towns and rural areas have different pollutants, all injurious in different ways. The Sevenoaks district, like all out-of-town areas, has more ozone than London, but less than countryside elsewhere, and less of other pollutants found in cities.

The article on speed cameras included figures taken from national data and from black-spots with cameras in Kent. However, if one examined the figures for the periods given, they showed that, nationally, there was a fall in the number of deaths and serious injuries of 54% from 2002 to 2003, and a fall of 31% in the number of deaths at Kent black-spots. Not a statisticians’ analysis and not as good a result as one might hope, but clearly there was some benefit from the 124 camera sites. One could deduce that three or four people’s lives have been saved through the cameras, and more were saved from serious injury.

The government’s figure for the national fall in deaths and serious injuries due to speed cameras is 40%.

Police Community Support Officer. The parish council has agreed to pay half of the required cost of a PCSO; Dunton Green and Shoreham parish councils will share the remainder of the charge to local councils. Central government matches these funds. These mobile offices are under police direction, but for the greater part of their time will be available to meet the needs of the parishes (it will be **one** individual working in Otford and the other two parishes). Several PCSOs will start work in Sevenoaks parishes in October, but one is already working in the Sevenoaks Town Council area and has been of considerable help.

Otford’s trees. The note about the Tree Trail leaflet in last month’s Spotlight brought me a letter about a valued tree (outside the Conservation Area) that had died. As general points: trees were under stress from the drought last year and the effects have continued into this year; I know several have died and others are obviously stressed. This year has brought further stress to some trees, and there is nothing the council can do to overcome this except plan to plant replacements.

But, if trees are seriously damaged by grass cutting contractors, then the parish council may be able to obtain recompense and in time plant another tree. Please inform the parish office if you notice such damage.

JGA

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs Rosemary Putman** who died on 20th July aged 69. Her funeral was held at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 30th July followed by interment with her late husband in the Parish Church Memorial Garden.

Margaret, as she was known, grew up in Sevenoaks, one of two sisters. She met her future husband George, and they were married in Otford in 1959. They celebrated the

birth of three children: Rosemary, John and Simon, and the family lived for many years at The Charne.

Margaret enjoyed trips out to visit family and friends. She enjoyed baking and would begin the Christmas cake bake in September to ensure friends and family were catered for adequately. She also enjoyed knitting and card games.

Margaret was saddened by the death of her sister, mother and husband in a few years of each other but she rejoiced in the arrival of her grand-children: Nick, Christopher and Martin, and later Danny, Becky and Jamie. She was generous to them and enjoyed hearing their news. She appreciated several friendships in later life.

Asking for Forgiveness

Lord I feel guilty and unclean. It seems as if my constant wrongdoings have made me ashamed to speak to you. I am truly sorry for my sins. Please forgive me, accept me as your child, and renew me, even though I don't deserve it.

Thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus which means that I can be made clean. I ask you to forgive me for his sake. Amen.

O God, our judge and saviour, set before us the vision of thy purity and let us see our sins in the light of thy holiness. Pierce our self-contentment with the shafts of thy burning love, and let love consume in us all that hinders us from perfect service of thy cause. Amen *William Temple*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9*



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

1st August Hannah Elizabeth **Stevenson**
1st August Emma Catherine **Stevenson**
1st August Poppy Violet Selby **Wilkins**
1st August Adam Monroe Andrew Shanahan **O'Neill**

Weddings (Our Congratulations)

7th August Andrew David **Muir** and Andrea Rae **Newlands**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

30th July Rosemary Margaret **Putman** (aged 69) – Cremation

Church Offerings in July

Open Collections, for Church expenses and charities..... £543.58
Freewill Offerings.....£5,441.00