

# 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.

# MARCH 2005

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**  
8.00pm Ministry Team meeting (39 Tudor Drive)
- 2 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00pm Lent Course (in Church)

- 3 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 4 – 2.00pm **Women's World Day of Prayer (St Bartholomew's Church)**
- 5 – 7.15pm **Auction of Promises** (Otford Primary School)
- 6 – **The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**  
  - 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30am **Morning Worship with children**
  - 6.00pm **FROGS (Church Hall)**
  - 6.30pm **Evensong**
- 7 – 2.00pm Feba Radio Meeting (41 Park Hill Road)  
 2.30pm Otford Benevolent Society meeting (10 Bubblestone Road)
- 8 – 8.00pm Lent Course (in Church)
- 9 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Hall)  
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 12 – 9-1.00pm Gift Day for Church Extension Project
- 13 – **The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday**  
  - 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
  - 11.00am **Mattins**
  - 6.30pm **Holy Communion (CW)****Material for the April magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam,  
 19 Warham Road**
- 15 – 8.00pm Reordering Committee
- 16 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Hall)  
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 8.00pm Lent Course (in Church)
- 19 – 9.00am Spring cleaning of the Church for Easter
- 20 – **Palm Sunday**  
  - 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 10.30am **Palm Sunday Procession: Meet at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic  
 Church, Otford**
  - 6.30pm **Evensong**
- HOLY WEEK**
- 23 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.45am Coffee Club (Ellenor's)
- 24 – **Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00pm **Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's**
- 25 – **GOOD FRIDAY: 9.30am Informal Service for All Ages**  
 12-3.00pm **Three Hours at The Cross**
- 26 – 9.00am **Decoration of the Church for Easter**  
**BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS: PUT CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR**
- 27 – **EASTER DAY: 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**  
 9.30am **Morning Worship with Holy Communion (CW)**  
 6.30pm **Festal Evensong**
- 28 – **Bank Holiday: There will be No Morning Prayer**  
 12 noon **Service in Church for Kent County Association of Change Ringers  
 prior to their AGM**
- 29 – 8.15am Morning Prayer (in Church)
- 30 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

# EDITORIAL

## Merry Easter?

The American writer, Frederica Mathews-Green, from the Orthodox tradition, writes these words, somewhat 'tongue-in-cheek':

'It's that time of year again, when schoolchildren are colouring pictures of Jesus hanging from a cross and in the shopping malls everyone's humming along with seasonal hits on the sound system like 'O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded' (did you hear the Chipmunks' version?). Car dealers are promoting Great Big Empty-Tomb Size discount on Toyotas. Somehow we just don't make the same boisterous fun of Holy Week that we do of Christmas. No one plans to have a holly jolly Easter.'

She has a point. Easter isn't celebrated in anything like the same way as Christmas. For children, the highspot of the year is Christmas. Although they may look forward to large quantities of Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies, the Easter season doesn't have the same attractiveness as the Christmas one.

Frederica's Jewish friend, Mitch, shares the same mystification. He writes: 'Looking at the Christmas thing as a man raised in a Jewish home, the big celebration in Christianity should be Easter. No Easter, no Christianity. So, all the focus on Christmas, at least to me, seems misdirected. Why Christians don't whoop it up more at Easter is a mystery to me. How inspirational! How joyful! That is the time to toast each other, lay on gifts, attend worship services, pack in the rich food. Something really substantial and holy to remember.'

Many people bemoan the fact that Christmas is so commercialized. Easter still belongs to the Christian church: indeed Easter gives the church its whole meaning. Millions of people today have cause to celebrate the reality of Jesus alive in their own lives, bringing them strength and courage and the certainty of life beyond death.

The Orthodox church sing at Easter (or Pascha as it is known) over and over, dozens of times:

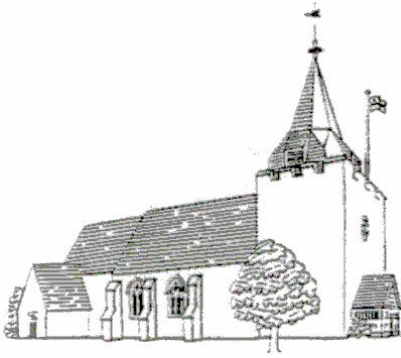
*'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.'*

What will *you* be doing to show the world, your community, the children you know, that the Easter faith is something to be celebrated in the biggest and most special way possible, in the knowledge that were there no Easter, there would be no Christianity? What in your life at Easter 2005 will be 'something really substantial and holy to remember'?

## Happy Easter!

*(Revd.) Pat Hopkins*

**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



**'Prayer Points'**. This new ecumenical initiative in Otford is now in operation, with Prayer Point boxes at the Surgery, Ellenors, the Post Office, Telston Stores and in the Methodist Church Hall and Catholic Church porch, along with prayer request cards. If you would like the churches in Otford to pray for someone in special need, simply fill out a card, pop it in the box, and the cards will be collected weekly and passed on to the minister of the church which is on the rota for that particular

month. The prayer needs, often anonymous, are then included in the prayers within the Sunday services. Do publicise this initiative among those you know so that it may be helpful to as many people as possible. Anything can be included: the needs of those who are sick, bereaved, anxious, lonely or depressed as well as requests for thanksgiving for such things as births, weddings and anniversaries. The person or need being prayed for doesn't have to live in this area: indeed it may be a family member in Australia or America!

**Women's World Day of Prayer.** This service is to be held on Friday 4th March at 2pm in the Parish Church. The theme is 'Let the Light Shine' and the speaker Veronica Williams. Although the service has been prepared by women from Poland it isn't intended just for women. EVERYONE is welcome at this ecumenical event.

**Mothering Sunday** falls on Sunday 6th March, and there will be a special Family Service at 9.30am on that day to mark the occasion. Posies will be distributed to ladies present. A short prayer meeting for the needs of the parish will follow this morning's service, held in the Lady Chapel from 10.45am.

**Church Springclean.** This annual event begins at 9am on Saturday 19th March so that the church can look clean and sparkling for the Easter festival services and for all our special services this year, including the fourteen weddings. We would love to welcome new and many hands to make light work!

**Palm Sunday**

The traditional Palm Sunday procession through the High Street will be held on Sunday 20th March, meeting at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church at 10.30am and moving with 'Jesus' and the friendly donkey to The Green by around 11am. Palm crosses will be distributed during the procession, and will also be available at all church services. The order of service will this year be prepared by our Methodist friends.

**Maundy Thursday** falls on Thursday 24th March and there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8pm at the Parish Church to which everyone is most welcome.

**Good Friday**

There are two services on offer at the Parish Church on this day: a Family Service at 9.30am led by Dawn Hallam and the traditional Three Hours at the Cross, from 12 noon to 3pm, led by members of the Ministry Team. The theme for the latter is 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' and the service will begin with the reading of the Passion story from St John's Gospel and end with the Passion story from St Luke. As usual the service will include music, words for meditation, and silence.

### **Easter Day**

We hope you will join us for our festal services on Sunday 27th March: an 8am service of Holy Communion, a 9.30am informal service of Family Communion and a 6.30pm Festal Evensong. If you would like to help to decorate the church for Easter Day, please contact Mrs Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

**Parcels of Love.** Thank you for a wonderful response again this year. You filled 94 BOXES including twelve especially for children. The Oak Hall team were particularly appreciative as they had been short of goods to fill their 40-tonne truck. By the time you read this the lorry will have arrived at its destination, having passed through several European countries, and in many refugee camps there will be lots of smiling faces. Thank you all.

### **The Otford Guild of Bellringers**

As the Otford Guild of Bellringers has now been in existence for five years, we thought it was time we made an appearance in the Parish Magazine!

Thanks to Ken Dickinson, who financed four new bells in memory of his wife Joan, in 2000 St Bartholomew's Church, Otford, became the proud host to six bells, and a band of 17 ringers. Thanks also to Catherine Lewis and her dedicated group of helpers, our almost completely novice band have become reasonably proficient ringers, and some have even progressed to being really good! We practice on Thursday evenings at 7.30, and ring for both the 9.30 and the 6.30 services on a Sunday.

We will let you know about our activities such as Quarter Peals, which we attempt once a month on a Sunday evening. These take about 40 minutes of continuous ringing, and require skill and concentration, not to mention stamina and determination! Then, of course, there are Peals, which we hardly ever do, because they take about three hours of even more skill, concentration and stamina – and true dedication!! And you mustn't make a mistake!! Peals and Quarter Peals usually commemorate a birthday, an event, a marriage – in fact almost anything you would like to mark, so if you have any requests, do let us know, by contacting Bobbie Fairclough, our Tower Captain, on 522696.

### **St Bart's Otford, *Building On***

Forty children from the Sunday Club and OTT enjoyed the '**We have lift-off!**' **Launch Party** in January. While Lucy Moore from the Bible Reading Fellowship entertained the children with some exciting drama games on a 'building' theme, members of the Steering Committee explained the project to Mums and Dads over a cup of tea.

**Building Work.** The death of architect, Jim Lidbetter, has been a great loss to the project. Jim had been working hard on the various scale drawings necessary to obtain a Faculty (the final go-ahead from the Diocese) and to go out to tender. In order that Jim's excellent design can come to fruition as quickly as possible, the Steering Committee is now investigating the employment of a new architect. The first activity we are likely to see on site will be the trial borings and soil investigation work. There will inevitably be some delay, but we are still very hopeful of starting the main building work this year.

**Fundraising Progress.** Brian Beacom, the Treasurer of the Church Building Fund, reports:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Pledges and cash received              | 418,083         |
| Estimated Gift Aid relief on the above | 97,188          |
| Allocation from church funds           | 100,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>£615,271</b> |

of which £25,099 has been earmarked by donors as away-giving (to two building projects in needy communities). We are also extremely grateful for the offer of loans totalling £125,000. This is a wonderful start, but we are only two-thirds of the way towards our target of £900,000!

**Village Launch.** Towards the end of February, the fundraising campaign was extended to the village and beyond. The 'Building On' brochure was delivered to every household in the village asking those who wished to support the project to bring their pledges or donation to a Gift Day in church on Saturday 12th March. Press releases were sent to various papers.

**Looking forward.** Please support our first major Fundraising event – the **Auction of Promises** to be held at Otford County Primary School (opposite the village car park in Otford High Street) on Saturday 5th March at 7.15pm. Tickets £5, to include a catalogue and supper. Sam Barnett and her team have been busy organising an amazing variety of lots to suit all budgets. The **Secret Gardens** weekend is planned for the 4th and 5th June, when it will be possible to buy a programme to visit a variety of private gardens in the village with a treasure hunt for children.

For a fuller progress report about the project, please see the February 2005 Update, available in church or visit the website: [www.otford.info/st.bartholomews](http://www.otford.info/st.bartholomews). If you would like to be kept informed by email, please let the Parish Church office have your email address.



**OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES' SOCIAL CLUB.** There are to be three meetings in March – on the 2nd, a Lighthearted Talk on Health; then on the 16th a musical quiz with Douglas and an Easter Egg Raffle; and on March 30th, slides 'Around Otford over the past 50 Years' with Gilbert Denton. Details from Jill or Ed on 525775.

**GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST.** Thank you to everyone who supported the Guide Christmas Post again in December. We raised £150 from the village and another £110 from enthusiastic Scout and Guide Stamp Collectors, which we were able to share between the local charity, Pembury Portage and TECCWE, the Trust for the Education and Care of Child Workers in Ecuador. Katherine Lawrey, the Guider's daughter and a former Otford Guide herself, will be running the London Marathon this year in aid of TECCWE. If you would like to make a donation to support underprivileged children in South America please contact Katherine via the following email address: [teccwe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:teccwe@yahoo.co.uk)

**OTFORD AFTERNOON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.** Our meeting last month was well attended and members were able to hear more about all the various activities planned for coming months including a craft day and a River Trip later in the year followed by our speaker giving an illustrated talk on how to improve and enrich our gardens. This month is our birthday meeting on Tuesday 1st March in the Village Hall when we will enjoy a lunch, after which Gwen Godwin will tell us how to 'Exercise the Easy Way'! More details about us – call 522915. (JCA)

**THE OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY** meets on Tuesday March 1st at 8pm in the Village Hall for John 'Dusty' Miller to talk on 'What the vegetable judges like to see'. This talk is aimed at gardeners of all abilities who exhibit or would like to exhibit. Admission (which includes refreshments) is 50p to members, £1 to non-members. Then on Saturday March 19th in the Village Hall at 2.15 to 4.15pm is the **Spring Show**, for Spring flowers, photography, flower arrangements, cookery and junior classes. Admission 50p, under 16s free. Refreshments are available.

**THE OTFORD PLAYERS** are pleased to say that the previously-postponed production of 'The Noble Spaniard' by W. Somerset Maugham will now be performed on 10th, 11th, 12th March 2005 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Tickets £5 (Thurs) and £6 (Fri and Sat) to include refreshments and obtainable from Box Office (01959) 524304. The play is a comedy and full of colourful Maugham characters. If you are interested in joining the Otford Players (a most friendly group) give Marian a ring on 522856 or Chris on 522637. We should love to hear from you (either acting or back stage) and we look forward to seeing you in March.

**THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meets on Wednesday March 16th at 8pm in the Village Hall, for Julia Page to give her third talk on the Peninsula War, this one entitled 'Wellesley resumes command, 1809-1812' – which will describe the epic campaign in which the British Army marched across Spain, defeating Napoleon's marshals in one battle after another.

**THE SEVENOAKS PLAYERS** are presenting, by arrangement with the Really Useful Group Ltd, a production of Jesus Christ Superstar, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's legendary rock opera. Brought to Sevenoaks for the first time, it tells the story of the last seven days in the life of Jesus. The production will take place at the Sevenoaks Playhouse from Wednesday 16th until Saturday 19th March at 7.45pm with a Saturday matinee at 3pm. Tickets, from the Sevenoaks Playhouse Box Office on 01732 450175, are priced as follows: Wed. and Sat. mat. £10.50 and all other performances £13.50. Group concessions are available.

## SPOTLIGHT



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

**Proposed mobile phone mast** – the planning decision on this mast in Twitton Lane near the corner with Filston Lane has, at the time of writing, been deferred. There are many reasons against such structures in our highly regarded countryside, and the parish council listed them all and pointed out the desirability of sharing existing masts. The company concerned presented a map of the area of inadequate reception this mast is intended to cover and claimed the absence of another suitable mast. Also mentioned in its favour was the fact it cannot be seen from some directions because of foliage, and its 'disguise' as a metallic fir tree.

As mobile phones become increasingly complicated and popular, the problems of masts and where to put and how to disguise them becomes ever more difficult.

**Recent planning decisions** have dismayed some residents, and the parish council is still trying to arrange a meeting with Sevenoaks District Council so those concerned may learn more of existing procedures and policies, and changes that may occur under the new framework.

**Continual maintenance work** is required to keep Otford as we prefer it to be, and the parish council is involved directly or otherwise with much of it. The Gardeners' Society will be attending to the School House garden, and a boot scraper will be placed outside (and others in the cemetery car park and Oxenhill Shaw). Also, the doors that blew off

the notice board in the High Street should soon be replaced with new ones. We note the regular care Otford receives and are grateful a SDC man collects rubbish on the High Street and Green early each weekday morning, and the Station car park is vacuumed monthly.

**Other good news** is that horns on South Eastern trains are to become quieter by the maximum amount possible without distorting the sound (could this be worse?) and so far 10% of horns have been converted. It would appear from new regulations that drivers must now only sound their horn when someone is on or near the line, and it need not be used on entering or leaving a tunnel.

JGA

### IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family of **Jeremy George Denton White** who died on 4th January aged 53. A service of thanksgiving was held at the Parish Church on 19th January, preceded by cremation at Tunbridge Wells. The first service was conducted by the Bishop of Tonbridge since Jeremy had been his gardener. The second service included moving tributes by Jeremy's wife, Diana, children Ben and Alexandra, and brother Michael. Jeremy was born in Omagh, Northern Ireland, and had a very happy childhood. He joined the timber trade with Glixten Hardwoods in London in 1970 and qualified in timber technology at High Wycombe, spending all his timber trade life with the same company which later became Meyer International. Jeremy met his future wife, Diana, in 1978, and they were married in 1979 at Diana's home in Lima, Peru. They were to settle in Malaysia following a posting there. Their son Bentham was born in 1982 in Singapore and following the family's return to England in 1983, Alexandra was born in 1985. Jeremy was very proud of his family. The family lived in Otford from 1986 from whence Jeremy commuted to the East End.

Jeremy's life changed in 1991 after 21 years working in the timber trade, and he discovered and realised his passion for gardening as well as a developing interest in computers. He put his energies into daytime gardening for a small group of clients with whom he became good friends, and as his brother puts it, enjoyed an evening obsession with computers.

Sadly he faced ill-health at the end of his life but was tremendously supported by his family and good friends and by the efforts of the Hospice in the Weald, for which donations were invited, Emily Jackson House and the Otford Surgery. His courage, good humour and gentleness reflected the depth of his Christian faith.

We send our condolences to the family of **Peter John Pullen** who died on 10th January aged 25. His funeral was held at the Parish Church on 20th January followed by burial at Otford Cemetery. Peter was born in Basingstoke, the eldest of six children. He attended school in Germany where his father was in the Army and later went to Otford and Wildernesse Schools, being especially gifted in art. Peter struggled against problems of ill-health throughout his life which meant that his wish to join the Army remained unfulfilled. He worked for various local firms and had moved recently to a flat from his home above the One Stop shop in Otford. Peter had a very good sense of humour and of mischief, and was always protective of his younger brothers and sisters. He enjoyed music and videos, computer games and martial arts. The tribute written by his family was read at the funeral: 'Peter was a loved and cherished son and brother. He liked the simple things in life and never asked for anything. He easily made friends and would get along with anyone, no matter who they were or where they came from. He liked his own space and never caused trouble for others. He will be missed but as he would have wanted, we will always remember and cherish him in our hearts, remembering the funny and good things he did. We pray he has finally found his peace and is happy.'

As we go to press, we are shocked and saddened to hear of the death of **William James Lidbetter** who died on 4th February aged 74. Jim, as he was known to many, was husband to Margaret, our Reader, and our Architect for the Church Extension Project. We extend our condolences to Margaret, their son Andrew and to all Jim's family and friends.

**GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER**

I yearn for truth but shall not reach it till I reach the source. *Robert Browning*

- Ask myself, do I want to know God, do I want to try to find the true meaning and purpose of my existence? If the answer is, yes I do, this is going to involve time off the treadmill.
- Time can only be created if I have made a conscious decision.
- We must work hard at a commitment to set aside a specific time daily.
- It is often helpful to reflect on a short passage from the bible; maybe one or two verses from a psalm or gospel.
- Prayer is life. 'Anyone who follows me will have the light of life as his guide.'  
*(John 8:12)*

*Delia Smith*

O God, help us to have the commitment to make time daily for prayer. Help us to see that prayer opens our spiritual eyes and ears to see and hear God more clearly in all that we do. Amen



*Registers*



**Funerals (Our Sympathy)**

19th January      Jeremy George Denton White (aged 53) – Cremation  
 20th January      Peter John **Pullen** (aged 25) – Burial

**Church Expenses in January**

Open Collections, for charities and Church expenses ..... £1,087.93  
 Freewill Offerings ..... £5,816.00

