

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	BCP Evensong - Choir -
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group	Evensong - Choir
FOURTH	BCP HC	Morning Worship with Communion - Choir	Evening Praise - Music Group -
FIFTH	CW HC	Mattins - Choir	Contemplative Service - Music Group -

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP every Sunday after Evening Service **Sundays**
in Church Hall

FROGS 11-14 years, first Sunday of month 6 p.m. in Church Hall

OTT 8-11 years, 9.30 a.m. in Church Hall

except on first and second Sunday when in Church

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

except on first Sunday when in Church

HOLY COMMUNION Weekdays

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. (BCP)

Saints Days and Holy Days as announced

If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact Rev. Pat Hopkins.

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

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

Vicar's rest day: Thursday.

SIDESMEN and WOMEN

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

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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APRIL 2005

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 – The Second Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)

6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)

6.30pm Evensong

- 4 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
- 6 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 7 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 9 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Jenny Bromley)
9.30 and 11.00am Confirmation Classes (Vicarage)
- 10 – The Third Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 13 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
3.00pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
Material for the May magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road
- 14 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 17 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 20 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 23 – 9.30 and 11.00am Confirmation Classes (Vicarage)
- 24 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Evening Praise (CW)
- 25 – 8.00pm Fair Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 26 – 8.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church Hall)**
- 27 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45 am Coffee Club (Ellenor's)
3.00pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 28 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 30 – 3.00pm Wedding of Charles Nicholson and Anna-Britt George
- Some early May dates:**
- 1 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Confirmation Service with The Bishop of Rochester
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 2 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**

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APOLOGY – PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR SERVICE

It is very much regretted that the advertisement which appeared in the February issue of the Magazine showed an incorrect telephone number. The advertisement in the current issue shows the right number, and anyone wishing to contact Miss Robinson should ring her on 01322 524431 or 07775 528612 (Mobile).

EDITORIAL

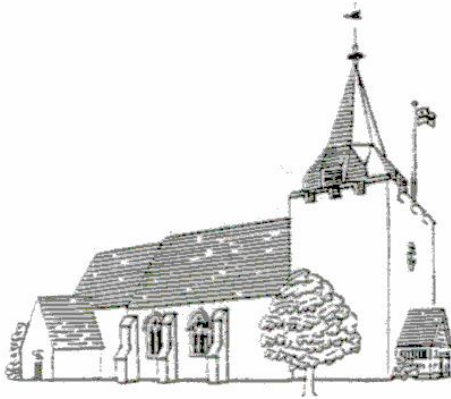
'I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name': the words of the prophet Isaiah writing seven hundred years before Jesus came to earth, speaking of our generous God who goes on giving. At an Otford School assembly recently we were reminded of these words and of the treasures of darkness God has given to us for use in many different ways. We looked at the humble commodity plastic: a material produced from crude oil, at present found deep within the North Sea. Crude oil's first use in the modern world was when it was refined to be used to burn in oil lamps, replacing whale oil, an early saving of the whales! We can't imagine our world without oil: in transport, in solvents, paints, asphalt, clothing fibres, soap, explosives, fertiliser and even medicines ... and so much more.

In the same way there are 'treasures of darkness' in your life and mine, perhaps hitherto undiscovered. As children study at school, college and on the job, they begin to discover the special treasures of darkness which they possess as unique individuals. Such treasures or gifts and skills are refined and improved, and a big part of the excitement of life is the discovery and refining of the resources buried deep within ourselves. As we look at the world around us and also within ourselves, there is a whole treasure house waiting to be discovered and used for the blessing of our own lives and in the lives of those around us. As we discover that treasure, bring it to light and use it, so our lives are given a new meaning and purpose.

More than that, as we discover these treasures, thank God for them, and dedicate them to his service, they can be wonderfully used not just for our own fulfilment but for the extension of God's kingdom in the world. There was a limited picture of that principle in action in the Auction of Promises and Red Nose Day last month. Will you ask God to show you the 'treasures of darkness' he has given to you, and will you, with his grace, use those treasures in his service?

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH



Church Clock. The clock on St Bartholomew's Church has shown some interesting if rather inaccurate times lately. By the time you read this, it will have spent some time in the church clock hospital and will be back with us soon, fully recovered.

Visit of Rural Dean. We look forward to welcoming our Rural Dean, Revd. Dr Susan Ramsaran, soon. She will be the celebrant and preacher at the 6.30pm service of Holy Communion on Sunday 10th April.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on a Tuesday this year: 26th April at 8pm in the Church Hall. We would love to see you there.

Confirmation

Our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Michael, is the presiding bishop at our Confirmation service this year. It is to be held on Sunday 1st May at 9.30am. Please remember all those to be baptised and Confirmed and come and support them on that day.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 5th May and there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.00pm in church on that day at which all are welcome.

Community Celebration Service

This was formerly known as the Civic Service and aims to bring together everyone who would like to give thanks for the life of our village. This year it is to be held on Sunday 8th May at 9.30am and will be followed by refreshments.

Pentecost: Diary Note. The Shoreham Deanery has organised a Deanery Evensong for the evening of Sunday 15th May. It will be held at 6.30pm at St Mary Platt Church. We hope that as many people as possible will be there to support the Deanery choirs, including our own. There will also be an informal service of Pentecost Praise at our own church at 6.30pm on that day.

Parcels of Love

Tom and Marina Dodd, who run the Parcels of Love scheme, have written to say how much they appreciate St Bartholomew's contribution of 94 boxes, including twelve especially for children. They add: 'Please make sure that everyone knows just how valuable one of these parcels is to a refugee. While we were in Australia visiting former refugees from Serbia they told us just how much our visits meant to them when they were struggling to eke out a living in a refugee 'room' somewhere. The next big Thank You is for the Children's boxes for the children who live in a little village called Glozan. We have heard many times that the children do not sleep for many nights before the 'big blue bus' arrives!

Please pray that the bus will get through the Serbian border without any difficulties. A tax has been levied on all goods taken in to the country and we do not want to have to pay 22% on all the gifts that have been so lovingly given. Pray too for the refugees as they hear the 'Good News' once again. We know that many of them now do acknowledge God as being a loving heavenly Father. We want them all to be able to entrust their lives into His care and reap the benefits of being a child of God.'

Sally Woestmann



OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. On Wednesday April 13th we have an entertainment by the WI Choir. Then on April 27th is our visit to 'South Pacific' at Tunbridge Wells. Jill or Ed Yates on 01959 525775 will be pleased to give any further details of the club's activities.

THE OTFORD SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB is holding an **Open Day** on Sunday 17th April at 2.00pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall and would like to invite anyone interested in trying the game of Bowls to come along and join us. All we ask is, if you do not have a pair of Bowls shoes, that you provide yourself with thick socks, to avoid damage to the mats. Bowls will be provided and coaching given. You will receive a warm welcome whether you are in your twenties or sixties plus, so why not give it a try and give yourself some gentle exercise? We regularly play at the Village Hall on Sunday and Thursday afternoons and Wednesday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183.

OTFORD OAST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 21st April, when we welcome back to Otford George Puddefoot, from Riverside Nurseries, who will be showing us how to plant up our Spring baskets and containers for maximum effect. There will be a raffle and also plants for sale so come along and stock up for your garden. George was much enjoyed by our members and visitors last year so if you missed him then, do try and come along.

We meet once a month in the Village Memorial Hall so come along and make some new friends – 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.



GREENHILL QUIET GARDEN, at 41 Greenhill Road, Otford, is to have a **Quiet Day** on Tuesday 12th April at 10am to 2pm – a time for reflection and for appreciation of beauty, and time for yourself. Come for as long or short a time as you wish. Cost £3.50 (if you have lunch) – details from Mrs Matthews, 01959 522046.

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY's speaker on April 20th will be Martin Lloyd, who will talk on The History of Passports. The meeting will be at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, and visitors are welcome at £1.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. At our February meeting volunteers were asked to come forward to man the float for the village fete in May – we have ordered the lorry and are full of ideas for the theme.

We then sat back to hear Monty Parkin tell us the intriguing story of the Seal Chart murder. This unsolved and motiveless crime was committed in 1908 in a summerhouse in the woods beyond Crown Point on the A25, which was known at the time as the 'high road'. Monty Parkin tells a wonderful story and showed us old and contemporary slides to illustrate his narrative.

The evening ended with Marian and Chris reading some love poems (bearing in mind that Valentine's Day was not far off) – a great way to end the meeting.

At our March meeting we had an interesting talk on nineteenth-century Workboxes and their contents. We are now planning our Annual Bumper Boot Sale for Saturday 14th May in the Village Hall at 9.30am. This is one of our main fund-raising events, so lots of support needed please. We sell out our tables very quickly so book one now by contacting Barbara on 01959 522995 or Diana on 01959 522981.

At the **OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY** meeting on Tuesday April 5th at 8.00pm in the Village Memorial Hall Ken Turner will talk on Water Gardens, covering all aspects of his subject. Admission is 50p for members, £1 for non-members; refreshments are included.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Mobile phone mast – The proposed mast in Twitton Lane has been rejected. It was put for approval by the officers but rejected unanimously by Sevenoaks District councillors. There were many factors involved and the related information and arguments for and against would fill a small book. The parish council and local branch of the CPRE were among those objecting to the proposal.

Planning decisions – Have you ever wondered or been dissatisfied about decisions on building developments? The parish council has finally arranged a public meeting with Sevenoaks District Council so concerned residents may learn more of existing procedures and policies, and the changes that may occur under the new framework. This will be in the Primary School Hall on 20th April at 7pm.

It is the government's intention that in future people affected by developments will be consulted by the authority making the decision, and the information provided at this meeting could assist the responses we make in future.

Police presence – Our Police Community Support Officer has been patrolling Otford and adjacent villages for nearly three months now and has met a variety of people in various ways, and reminded some of us of our (thankfully) minor infringements of the law. For immediate attention is the reminder that we should lock our sheds and vans as well as our houses – the season of thefts of lawn mowers and tools has started!

Dumping of garden or other rubbish in public places is an offence, but continues, even in the public cemetery. If you see it happening, please report it to our PCSO or the parish office. If you would like to know what details you should note when observing a suspicious occurrence, there is information in the parish office.

And if you experience law and order problems, there are police surgeries at regular intervals in School House; details are in the parish newsletter.

Sports pavilion – Building on the Recreation Ground will shortly start on this project for our sportsmen and women. The net path for lorries has been laid, and this will also in future help to provide access for the disabled in wheel chairs.

JGA

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **William James Lidbetter** who died on 4th February aged 74. He was cremated at Eltham Crematorium on 18th February followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at the Parish Church. Jim, as he was known to many, was husband to Margaret, our Reader, and our Architect for the Church Extension project.

Jim was born in Camberwell, one of two brothers, the family later moving to Welling. He studied for the Royal Institute of British Architects exams at Woolwich Polytechnic, at Brixton School of Building and at the Architectural Association in London. His first jobs were with local authorities and later with the then Ministry of Works. He worked with London County Council involved in landscape architecture but with plans to be married returned to mainstream architecture at Bexley Borough.

Jim met his future wife Margaret in Bexleyheath and they were married in 1957. They had one son, Andrew, now married to Lis, and more recently two grandsons, Michael and Stephen.

When Jim was 28 he became deputy architect to the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society and was soon head of a team of around 600 people. Later he was Consulting Architect for the Bexley and Greenwich Health Authority. In 1985 Jim achieved his ambition of setting up in private practice, and for the last three years he worked from Otford, where he enjoyed being able to help on local projects. Jim's most treasured title was Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has been responsible for works of all descriptions: houses, schools, doctors' surgeries, churches, bakeries, dairies and funeral parlours. He loved helping families extend or refurbish their homes, and saw the work through from beginning to end, always endeavouring to ensure his clients got what they wanted.

Jim and Margaret were a close and supportive team, each encouraging the other in their particular sphere of ministry. He and Margaret shared a deep and very real Christian faith, reflected in the way they led their lives. Their life was steeped in prayer and during the last hours of Jim's life, they were strengthened by the words of their nightly prayer:

May the Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and
be gracious to us, the Lord give us patience, strength, courage, kindness and love,
the Lord give us healing and peace.

Jim displayed remarkable courage despite debilitating disability. Ankylosing spondylitis was diagnosed when he was only in his twenties but despite the pain over the next forty-plus years he worked cheerfully and with great courage. In December 2003 ulcerative colitis, which is associated with ankylosing spondylitis, was diagnosed, and he faced a decline in health, nevertheless remaining positive.

Jim was a JP in the Bexley Division, appointed in the early 1960s and remaining on the supplemental list after stepping down as an active JP. Among his hobbies was gardening, including knowledge of bee-keeping. He loved flower shows and enjoyed contributing to the Rose Society. He was fascinated by nature, especially butterflies and owls.

Jim had a deep love for his family, enjoying the company of his son and later grandsons. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, always kind and patient, and concerned for others. He and Margaret have always been tremendously generous with their time and energy for others. Jim was concerned at how society was going, particularly related to the breakdown of the traditional family structure.

At his service of thanksgiving, we were reminded of the epitaph on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral. It reads '*Beneath lies buried the founder of this church and city, Christopher Wren who lived not for himself but for the public good. Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you.*' There are countless thousands of people who have cause to bless the name of Jim Lidbetter for the ways in which throughout his very special ministry, he reflected the work of his Creator. There are many people today who have changed the way they live their lives because they have met Jim. The parish church family here will always remember the name of Jim Lidbetter with gratitude: the church extension on which he worked so hard will always be a memorial to him. Donations in Jim's memory were invited by the family for the Church Extension project and the Ankylosing Spondylitis Society.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs Patricia Barbara Bysouth** who died on 14th February aged 54. Pat was cremated at Tunbridge Wells followed by a Service of Thanksgiving on 26th February. Pat was born in South Shields within a family of four children. When she was around eleven the family moved to Cornwall where they ran a successful hotel in Mousehole.

Later Pat studied geology at University College, London, and went on to work as a laboratory assistant and analyser there. Pat met her husband Tony in 1969 and they were married in 1973. Their first homes were in Romford and Rainham and they moved to

Otford thirty years ago. There were three children: Richard, Robert and Jonathan. Pat was always concerned for the community in which she lived and kept two allotments, being a member of the Horticultural Society, the Hardy Plant Society, and a member of the WI in Otford. She worked on the WI Garden and the Methodist Church garden. Her thanksgiving service was well-attended by her many friends from the village and beyond. John Allen wrote in tribute: 'Through Pat's quiet enthusiasm, her great knowledge and the generosity with which she gave of her time, she enriched the lives of others and will always be remembered by those who came to know her.' Donations at Pat's Thanksgiving Service were invited for Cancer Research and the Hospice in the Weald.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs Betty Thelma Batson** who died on 23rd February aged 86. She was cremated at Tunbridge Wells followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at the Parish Church on 9th March. Donations in her memory were invited for the National Osteoporosis Society and the British Red Cross.

Betty was the eldest of four children and was born in Plymouth, Devon. Her surviving sister, Ruth, describes her as a very loving and lovable sister, rightly proud later of her family: missed by but never forgotten. Betty excelled at sports, including swimming, tennis and fencing. She had wanted to be a nurse but later involved in things medical, serving in the Red Cross in Otford and through that helping in Sevenoaks Hospital. Betty ran the Red Cross Medical loan for many years.

Betty met her husband George, then in the Army, in Plymouth in May 1940. She was then a teleprinter operator at the Post Office Head Office. In August 1940 George was transferred to Scotland, and in November they became engaged, marrying in Norwich in 1941. George was blessed in that wherever he was posted in the UK, Betty could follow, because of her reserved occupation. Their first permanent home was in Eltham and in 1960 the family moved to Otford. They rejoiced in the birth of four very supportive daughters. Betty loved gardening and was a first-class cook, with an open heart and open home. She taught her daughters the art of home-making. She loved sitting in the sunshine and was grateful to return home for her last weeks. Betty was involved in the life of the village and was a member, with George, of the local Gardeners' Society, winning prizes through the Society and also being a member of the Otford Society.

Betty will be remembered for her warmth, optimism and cheerful smile, there despite the pain of osteoporosis. She loved her family and celebrated the arrival of the grandchildren and later great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren were pleased to read at her Thanksgiving Service in church.

At the heart of Betty's life was a strong and firm faith, rooted in regular worship at her parish church. She would appreciate especially in her last months regular services of Holy Communion when she took the opportunity to confess all that was wrong in her life and receive God's forgiveness and new beginning. Those times of worship seemed to be very precious times for her and for George and within them and within the times of difficulty and pain, George and Betty grew even closer. Both Betty and George have been regular supporters of the ministry here, there to encourage at all types of service, enjoying their Bible study group, helping with candelabra and Christingles. As was quoted at her Service of Thanksgiving: 'You can shed tears that she is gone ... or you can smile because she has lived.'



GUIDANCE IN EVERYTHING

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall. *Isaac Williams 1802-65*

O God our Father, direct and control us in every part of our life:
Our tongues, that we speak no false words;
Our actions, that we may do nothing to shame ourselves or hurt others;
Our minds, that we may think no evil or bitter thoughts;
Our hearts, that they may be set only on pleasing you;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *From the Catholic Prayer Book (1970)*



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

20th February Rosemary Daara **Fleetwood**

Wedding Blessing (Our Congratulations)

19th February Andrew Maurice **Cumberworth** and Michele Madeline **McDevitt**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

18th February William James **Lidbetter** (aged 74) – Cremation

26th February Patricia Barbara **Bysouth** (aged 54) – Cremation

9th March Betty Thelma **Batson** (aged 86) – Cremation

Church Offerings in February

Open Collections, for charities and Church expenses £2,176.87

Freewill Offerings £3,963.00



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