

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, Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Beasley, Miss Bromley, Mrs Dunning, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Kelsey, Mrs Marchant, Mrs J. Matthews, Mrs Mills, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Speer, Miss Waites, and Mrs Wood.

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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APRIL 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Colin Fleetwood)
10.00am Marriage Preparation course (Church Hall)
- 2 – **Passion Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Family Worship with children
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong

- 3 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am, excluding Bank Holidays**
7.30pm Cameo group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 4 – 8.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church Hall)
- 5 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm Homegroup ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 6 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
8.00pm Lent Group (14 Knighton Road)
- 8 – 9.00am Spring Cleaning of the Church for Easter
9.30am Marriage Preparation course (Church Hall)
- 9 – **Palm Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
10.30am Palm Sunday Procession (commencing at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- HOLY WEEK**
- 10 – 8.00pm Fair Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
8.00pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 12 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm Homegroup ('Brambles', Shoreham Road)
- 13 – **Maundy Thursday**
8.00pm Joint Service of Holy Communion at Otford Methodist Church
Material for the May magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road
- 14 – **GOOD FRIDAY: 9.30am Informal Service for All Ages**
12-3.00pm Three Hours at The Cross
(Revd. David Flagg)
- 15 – **9.00am Decoration of the Church for Easter**
- 16 – **EASTER DAY:**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Festal Evensong
- 17 – **Bank Holiday: There will be no Morning Prayer**
- 18 – 8.15am Morning Prayer (in Church)
- 19 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
2.30pm Homegroup (Vicarage)
- 22 – 9.30-10.00am United Churches' Prayer Meeting (Otford Roman Catholic Church)
- 23 – **The Second Sunday of Easter (St George)**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Evening Praise
- 26 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
- 28 – 7.30pm Children's and Young People's Leaders' meeting (16 Ryecroft Road)
- 29 – 11.30am Wedding of Alan Williams and Dawn Inns
- 30 – **The Third Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Mattins
6.30pm Contemplative Service

Some early May dates:

- 1 – **Bank Holiday: No Morning Prayer**
- 2 – 8.15am Morning Prayer (in Church)

EDITORIAL

Happy Easter!

We look forward this month to celebrating the great Christian festival of Easter. The message of Easter gives us a new word for 'love': it is 'agape': the unselfish giving of oneself for the good of another, giving even to the point of being prepared to die for the other person. The cross reminds us of the depths of that kind of love, and the Resurrection celebrates those set free, the joy of the redeemed.

What does Easter mean for you and me today? It means supremely two things. It means that we can know ourselves forgiven through what Jesus has done for us. It means also that through him, we are given the resources to forgive.

It is extremely costly to show forgiveness to those who have wronged us. Such cost is underlined in the resignation last month of a vicar unable to forgive those who murdered her daughter in last year's July bombings. We pray that in the space and time she has given herself, she may finally come to the point of forgiveness.

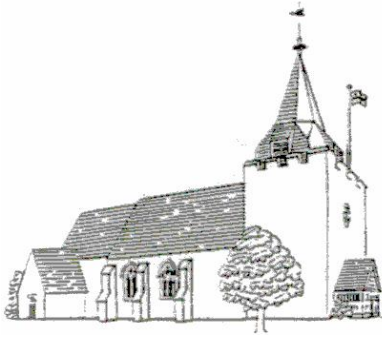
Forgiveness is costly. But unforgiveness is even more costly as we see the results in our world today. Unforgiveness is costly also to the individual unable to forgive. When forgiveness comes, it proclaims something 'other-worldly'. It shows something greater than this world knows, a force which points beyond itself to the supreme forgiver, God himself.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that we ignore what has happened to us. But in forgiving, we don't allow the wrong done to us to be a barrier to our relationships. So we don't say 'I will forgive you, but I never want to see you again': such an attitude denies the spring of love from which forgiveness comes. This is where agape comes in. That kind of love seeks nothing in return. That kind of love means that we love people not because we like them but because God loves them.

We show that we are Christians when we allow the realisation of his self-giving love and forgiveness for us to translate into the way we treat others. As Martin Luther King has written: 'We shall never be true sons of our heavenly Father until we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.' The message of Easter, that Jesus is alive, is proclaimed by the ways we allow his life to be displayed in and channelled through us. Such a message reminds us of the cost of the Cross both to Jesus and to us today. When we come to the end of our resources to love, so Jesus in us empowers us and enables us to proclaim that he is alive, now and always. That message changes the world.

(Rev.) Pat Hopkins





**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th April at 8pm in the Church Hall: an opportunity to look back and forward. We hope you will be there.

Palm Sunday

Do join us for the Palm Sunday procession which begins at 10.30am at the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday 9th April and ends with worship on The Green at around

11am. Palm crosses will be distributed and refreshments offered at the Parish Church.

Maundy Thursday falls on 13th April and commemorates the institution of the Holy Communion/Lord's Supper/Eucharist on the day before Jesus was crucified. We look forward to joining our Methodist friends at 8pm on that day in the Methodist Church.

Good Friday

There will be a Family Service on Good Friday, 14th April, at 9.30am, to which all are welcome. There will be the traditional Three Hour Service on Good Friday afternoon from 12 noon to 3pm. We are delighted to welcome Revd. David Flagg, Head of Chaplaincy Services at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, formerly at Knockholt, as our speaker at that service. David will be basing his thoughts on some of the 'Stations of the Cross'.

Easter Celebrations

We hope you will come along to one of our Easter Day services: the 8am service of Holy Communion; the 9.30am service of Morning Worship for the whole church family, to include Holy Communion, and the 6.30pm Festal Evensong service.

Contemplative Service. This service, held on the fifth Sunday evening of the month, falls next on Sunday 30th April at 6.30pm and will be based on the worship of the Taize community in France.

United Prayer. We welcome Otford residents who worship outside the village to our united churches' prayer meeting on Saturday 22nd April at 9.30am when we pray for both village needs and the needs of all local churches.

Table Top Sale

This sale, for Church Extension funds, is to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 1st May, in the Church Hall. The gifts of the church family will be well represented, following the 'Talents Sunday' on 5th March. We know you will enjoy seeing the diversity of Otford gifts, and we hope you will be generous in stocking up!

Community Celebration Service

This service, formerly known as the Civic Service, is to be held on Sunday 14th May at 9.30am and has as its theme this year all those who volunteer in different ways to enhance our community at Otford. Please let the Parish Church Office know if you feel there are particular invitations we should issue to individuals or organisations.

★ ★ ★

Oxford Benevolent Society. This society meets twice yearly and allocates modest pensions and grants to Oxford residents. If you know of anyone who has a particular financial need whom the Society may be able to help in the short-term, please contact Revd. Pat or Mrs Joan Marchant, 524609.



'Building On' News

The Church Council has now seen and approved the final plans for the extension, based largely on the late Jim Lidbetter's plans and taken forward by our present architect, Roger Joyce and his team. The enabling works (the preparation of the site for the builders) by a specialist firm will start in early Spring, lasting three weeks. The building work will commence as quickly as possible after that. It is intended that the major structural work would be finished and The Green reinstated in time for the November Remembrance Day service.

The Church Council has decided that the project by St Mary's Church, Chalk, near Gravesend, to rebuild their Church Hall, should be the recipient of our away giving, following a recent visit by the Vicar and Churchwardens. Details of this project can be viewed on the 'Building On' noticeboard at the back of church.

Fundraising continues with various events, including the most generous gift of a concert in St Bartholomew's Church by the world-renowned choir of Harry Christophers and The Sixteen. This will be on Saturday 6th May at 7.30pm. Details and a booking form for tickets are on the facing page. Dress is to be Black Tie (optional). And for those who wish to partake, at a small extra charge, the concert will be preceded at 6.30pm by Bucks Fizz and canapés served in the Vicarage garden, by kind invitation of Revd. Pat Hopkins.



The Lindisfarne Gospels

Brian Raynor, one of our Readers, writes:

The Lindisfarne Gospels are a priceless national treasure housed in the British Library in London. It is one of the few Gospel books to survive in its entirety. Its highly decorated colourful pages are breathtakingly beautiful. With over 250 pages one can appreciate the estimate that it took as many as 10 of those Celtic monks 10 or more years to complete all four gospels. They were probably finished around 720 AD. Fortunately these Gospels survived the ravages of the Viking attacks on Lindisfarne. They had been taken to Chester-le-Street near Durham for safe keeping, where a priest called Aldred was provost. It was there that some surprising additions were made to these Gospels.

A poster has been put at the back of St Bartholomew's showing a page from the Gospels. It will be there for the next few weeks. While admiring the beauty of that page, look more carefully and you will see what looks like some graffiti; someone has been writing on it. These additions are not the work of a vandal visiting our church, but were put there by Aldred the priest back in 882 AD. These Gospels were used in the daily worship and for the Celtic Church the Bible had always been its source of authority. So Aldred added a translation of the Latin onto the Gospels so that the 'common people' could understand them. The language was Old English – *thæt word waes mid Gode*.





A fundraising concert given by members of

'The Sixteen'

Directed by Harry Christophers
at
St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

Saturday 6th May 2006
at 7.30pm

Tickets £25.00 and £20.00
(some £20.00 tickets may have a restricted view)

Let your evening begin at 6.30pm in the Vicarage Garden
(by kind invitation of Revd Pat Hopkins)
with Bucks Fizz and Canapés. Tickets £5.00

Booking Form

Please send me concert tickets at £25.00 each
..... concert tickets at £20.00 each
..... tickets for Bucks Fizz & Canapés at £5.00 each

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to:
'PCC of St Bartholomew's Church, Otford' and a stamped addressed envelope.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Telephone.....

Please send this form, remittance and SAE to Mrs H. Fothergill, 7 Darnets Field,
Otford, Kent. TN14 5LB.



ROUNDABOUT

OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. On Wednesday April 12th we have a talk with the intriguing title 'Talk by the Hedgehog Lady' – the lady being Mavis Righini. Then on April 26th comes our visit to Tunbridge Wells to see Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers'. Further information from Jill or Ed on Otford 525775.

THE OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday April 4th, at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall, 'Growing Chrysanthemums' will be an illustrated talk and practical demonstration by Brian Everest, on how to grow chrysanthemums for the garden and for exhibition. Admission is 50p to members and £1 to non-members and includes refreshments.

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY's last indoor meeting of the 2005/6 Winter programme will be a talk by Griselda Barton on 'Tudor Cookery', to be given on Wednesday April 19th at 8pm in the Village Memorial Hall. Visitors are welcome at £1.

'**AN EVENING WITH MR SHAKESPEARE**' will be presented by All Saints' Church in Orpington on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May, in the church. The evening will consist of dramatised scenes from 'King Lear', 'Twelfth Night', 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Macbeth' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', together with readings from the Sonnets, 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Hamlet' and 'Richard the Second'. Tickets, at £7.50 (children £3.00), are available from the director, David Matthews, at 01732 462485 or from All Saints' at 01689 823857.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. It was a sure sign that Spring is on the way when members were handed bulb order forms at our March meeting. Not for this year's display but in readiness for 2007! It was good to welcome several visitors and we hope they enjoyed the evening.

Our speaker was Mrs C. Alexander from the Hop Shop at Eynsford. After generations of growing hops for the beer industry and the dried flower market it was decided by the end of the 1990s when the hop industry had gradually declined due in part to the importation of hops from China and Eastern Europe, to stop growing hops except for some small decorative production. And so to growing lavender (lavare in Latin meaning to wash) and the history of lavender from Roman times to the present day was fascinating to hear. The machinery to harvest the crop came from France and the plants you see growing today in the valley in glorious shades of blue are of three varieties, originating from Provence. Mrs Alexander explained the whole process of harvesting and production and members gathered round after her talk to smell and look at the display of lavender-scented products. We also tasted lavender-flavoured biscuits – delicious. A tour of the farm has been arranged for members in June (someone did say Ladies in Lavender??).

Please come and support our Boot Sale on 22nd April in the Village Hall – lots of stalls to look and buy at, plus the ever-welcome cuppa and piece of cake to revive you between browsing.

Brenda Young (01732 885356)

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Otford Rural Energy Focus. This programme, initiated and run by Sevenoaks District Council, will shortly be launched in Otford. It aims to encourage and assist in the use of energy saving measures in homes. Insulation, low energy light bulbs and other measures will be on the agenda. There will be a bus in Otford Car Park in the near future giving details of help available.

Best of the Best. To mark ten years of the Calor Gas 'Best Village' competition, Calor have invited past winners to take part in a special competition. As winners of South & South East England in 2002 Otford has been invited to take part. First round judging will take place on the afternoon of 18th April. Please make an effort to tidy up around you. Also, please bear in mind that rubbish will be collected a day late as it is the day after the Bank Holiday and, if possible, please don't put out your rubbish bags until Tuesday evening at the earliest.

Tree of Light. Donations from Otford amounted to £1,111 for Hospice in the Weald.

Eggstravaganza. This event will be run by the Parish Council on Easter Monday 17th April. You are invited to bring your decorated eggs in any shape or form for judging by an **eggsper**t who will award prizes in all age ranges from spring chickens to retired roosters. More information will be given in the next newsletter.

Applause. The next event will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm. This will be a concert by Eduardo Niebla, a Spanish guitarist and composer world class virtuoso. This concert is an opportunity to see one of the world's great musicians whose career encompasses concert tours worldwide.

Police Surgery. The next police surgery will be on Thursday 23rd March between 11.00 and 12.30. Please come and see our PCSO Dave Birchall if you have any problems to discuss. You may be pleased to learn that several youths were caught spraying graffiti in Dunton Green. They have been made to clean up the graffiti.

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Joan Evelyn Welstead**, who died on 3rd February, aged 78 years. Her funeral was held on 13th February at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Joan was born and brought up in the Sevenoaks area and lived all her married life in Rye Lane, Otford. Leslie, her husband, died eighteen years ago. In her working life Joan first delivered medical supplies and then worked for an estate agent. She had three sons, Godfrey, Kevin and Andrew, and three grandchildren, Anneka, Natalie and Callum, to whom she was known as 'Nan'.

Joan had many interests and many good friends. She was noted for her ready smile and her helpfulness to neighbours. In her later years Joan became immobilised by arthritis and in recent months she developed pneumonia several times, from which she died in the Princess Royal Hospital.

St Paul arrives at Ephesus

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism'. Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

Acts 19. vv.1-7



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

5th March Amy Mary **Kourtellas**
12th March Sean Woody **Lenaghan**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

13th March Richard Anthony **Legg** (aged 78) – Cremation

Church Offerings in February

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £1,124.51
Freewill Offerings £4,407.00

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.

