

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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MAY 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 – Bank Holiday:
No Morning Prayer
10-12 noon Table Top sale (Church Hall)
- 2 – **No Morning Prayer**
- 3 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)

- 4 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (Side Hall)
- 6 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Sue Stephenson)
7.30pm The Sixteen Concert (in Church)
- 7 – **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. John Goulding)
9.30am Family Worship with children (Revd. Dick Johnson)
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 8 – 2.30pm Feba Radio meeting (41 Park Hill Road)
7.30pm Cameo Group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 10 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. John Goulding)
8.00pm Deanery Synod (Kemsing)
- 13 – **Material for the June magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam,
19 Warham Road**
- 14 – **The Fifth Sunday of Easter: Christian Aid Week begins**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Community Celebration Service
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 15 – 8.00pm Ecumenical Committee (Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church)
8.00pm Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service Annual Open Meeting
(St Luke's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks)
- 16 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 17 – 7.00pm Archdeacon's Visitation, Kippington
- 20 – 9.30am Table Top sale (Village Hall)
- 21 – **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 22 – **8.00pm Ministry Team (Vicarage)**
- 24 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Oxford Evangelical Free Church)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 – **Ascension Day**
8.00pm Service of Holy Communion (in Church)
- 27 – 1.30pm Wedding of Richard Howe and Marie Luckett
- 28 – **The Sunday after Ascension Day: The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30pm Evening Praise
- 29 – **Bank Holiday: There will be no Morning Prayer in Church at 8.15am
Village Fete**
- 31 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Some early June dates:

- 4 – **Pentecost: Whit Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW) and baptism of Adam Lewis
Gardner
6.30pm United Songs of Praise Service (St Bartholomew's Church)
- 5 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week
at 8.15am**
8.00pm Mission Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)

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EDITORIAL

'Ne'er Cast a Clout Till May be Out'

So runs the proverb, warning against discarding winter clothes before the end of the month. May is a lovely month, marked with the beauty and fragrance of blossom. The month probably takes its name from 'Maia', a Roman goddess of growth.

We have just enjoyed a meeting whose subject is growth: our Annual Meeting. We were reminded afresh this year of God's faithfulness. People continue to give sacrificially of their time, money and talents for the extension of God's kingdom, and we celebrate with our Methodist friends the reality of growth within the planning of our new buildings.

As we celebrate God's goodness to us, it is right that we should remember those less well-off than ourselves. We have allocated, therefore, £13,000 each to Msalato Theological College in Tanzania and Chalk Parish Church. Msalato will be building married quarters for students and Chalk will be rebuilding their dilapidated Church Hall, and we share together our fellowship in the Gospel.

In the nine years I have ministered in Otford, much sociological change has affected our church life, and it is important that our church life should be in step with those changes. These remain my priorities in ministry:

encouraging people to come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ and helping them to grow in discipleship and holiness, through emphasis on prayer and study of God's word

endeavouring to prosper our church as an open, welcoming, accepting, loving fellowship

providing diverse patterns of worship based on excellence

nurturing all ages, not least our children and young people

prospering effective communication through an efficient administrative network

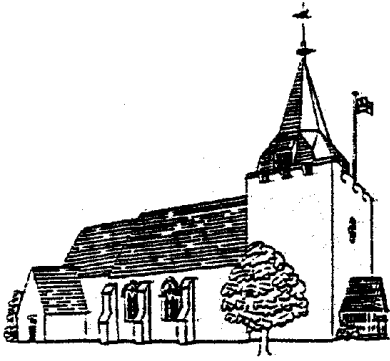
equipping all God's people for the work of mission.

What are your priorities? What is important to you and to your family? What do you want to be remembered for? Are you working too hard at any aspect of your life? Are you letting some areas of your life drift, and spoil what you want to achieve? In this month of May, can you see growth in your life, not least spiritually?

Our Annual Church Meeting helped us to focus on the important, the eternal. Why not spend some time in your Parish Church listening to God and asking for his guidance?

(Rev.) Pat Hopkins





FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday Procession. This popular event was once again held in good weather. We continue to miss Doris the donkey who moved away from the area: does anyone know of someone who might be prepared to lend their donkey for next year's procession? Please contact Revd. Pat or Revd. Kath.

Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday 14th May. You will find an envelope for contributions to Christian Aid inside this magazine.

We hope you will give generously. Many thanks to those who have the sometimes difficult task of collecting the full envelopes.

Welcome to an old friend. We look forward to welcoming Revd. Dick Johnson, son of Ken and Hilary, and Kent Industrial Chaplain, on Sunday 7th May when he will taking our 9.30am Family Service. Do join us then.

The Community Celebration 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.

Archdeacon's Visitation. Our Churchwardens, Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt, will be sworn into office at the traditional Visitation to be held on 17th May at Kippington Church.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 25th May, and there will be a service of Holy Communion on that day at 8pm.

Pentecost

This is on Sunday 4th June. The morning services on that day will include the opportunity to return the money made through the recent 'Talents' initiative. Since this time will be close to the builders beginning work on the extension, the Family Service will include prayers related to this theme.

We hope you will join us also for the 6.30pm service of Songs of Pentecost Praise when we welcome local churches and choirs.

St Bartholomew's Fair – Saturday 24th June 2006

The annual Church Fair is reverting to June this year, so please put the above date in your diary. As usual it will be held in the grounds of Castle House by kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy.

We are hopeful that by the date of the Fair building work on the Church extension will be in full swing, but much will remain to be paid for. The theme of the Fair will, therefore, once again be 'Building On' with the proceeds going towards the Building Fund. There will be the usual stalls, sideshows and competitions, and teas will be served throughout the afternoon. The Colour Scheme this year is Green and White and the theme for the Children's Art Competition 'Animals'.

Further details of the Stallholders will be shown in the June Magazine, but in the meantime anybody willing and able to help at a stall should contact Margie Torry on 524463. Boxes will be available at the back of the Church for donations to the White Elephant stall, Books, CDs, Videos and DVDs, Toys, and Sweets for the children's prizes. Gifts of bottles for the Bottle Stall will be welcomed by Linda and Bert Dunning, 73 Sidney Gardens, Tel. 524182.



'Building On' News. At the time of writing, Tender documents are about to go out with a view to appointing a contractor soon after Easter. This means that we are on track for the main building work to be begin in early June. Before this, however, a specialist firm will be brought in to prepare the site for the builders, and this will entail the removal of a large amount of soil since the level of the churchyard is higher than that of

the church floor. This will inevitably result in some disruption on The Green, but we are working with the Parish Council (and shall be throughout the whole project) to ensure that this is kept to a minimum. As previously stated, it is hoped that the major structural work will be completed and The Green reinstated in time for the Remembrance Day service in November.

The Springtime Dinner in March was a great success, and raised £800 for the Building Fund. Thanks are due to Julian and Christine Cheswick for their generous provision and preparation of the excellent dinner, to all the helpers and musicians, and especially to Sally Woestmann who organised the evening. Many church members are busy combining their talents and £10 money bags to produce pictures, jewellery, scarves, meals and more for the Talents Sale on Bank Holiday Monday, 1st May, from 10am to 12 noon, in the Church Hall. We look forward to the morning Celebratory Services on Sunday 4th June when all the money raised by those taking part in the Talents Scheme will be dedicated.

The concert by 'The Sixteen' in church on 6th May is eagerly anticipated, and a report will follow in next month's magazine.

The Life of Christ – an open-air play in three acts

This performance takes place at the Wintershall Estate, which is at the heart of the Surrey countryside a few miles south of Guildford, and is a private working farm, producing quality Aberdeen Angus beef and lamb. The estate also happens to be home to the popular Life of Christ, a full-length Christian play, during the summer, and to traditional Bethlehem Nativity Plays at Christmas, as well as to smaller religious events during the year.

The Life of Christ is a production designed for all ages and brings to life the remarkable story of Jesus' life. The play is performed in such a way that we follow the actors as they act out the story from Jesus' birth to his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. There is a large cast and live animals are used to give authenticity to the play: the wise men arrive on camels! The play begins at 10.15am, there is a break for us to eat our packed lunches and then the play resumes and finishes at about 4.00pm. The event is open air so we must be prepared for rain or sunshine.

I have not yet attended myself but I have been told it is an amazing experience. We would, however, recommend that those under 8 do not come as it is a long day. The cost is £13.00 for adults and £6.50 for children under 18. We plan to attend on Saturday 1st July 2006. If you would like to join me on this trip or would like to know more please contact me or visit the website – www.wintershall-estate.com

Mags Southgate 01959 524720

ANOTHER TABLE TOP SALE

On Saturday 20th May from 9.30am to 12.30pm we have hired the whole of the Village Memorial Hall for a **BONANZA SALE**. A charge of £10 will be made for each table but all this money will go towards the Church Building On Project.

To book a table, please ring Sue Stephenson on 523789 or Sally Woestmann on 523392. These sales are very popular, so don't delay!

The Maid of Kent and John Frith

Following his article on the Lindisfarne Gospels in last month's magazine, Brian Raynor writes:

Soon after Cranmer became archbishop, he found himself faced with passing judgement on two suspected heretics. One of these was a girl called Elizabeth Barton from the village of Aldington, near Ashford. She started having visions and began 'prophesying'. She was consigned to a nunnery in Canterbury. Archbishop Warham had a number of interviews with the 'Maid of Kent' (which was the way that people now referred to her). Cardinal Wolsey also interviewed her, as did Henry VIII. Sir Thomas More was a bit more cautious about her powers, although he did meet her. When she started prophesying against the new Queen, Anne Boleyn, Cranmer was commanded to interview her, which he did at Otford Palace; she 'confessed' that some of her visions were 'made up'. The poor girl was hanged the next year.

The other 'heretic' was a young Kentish Man, called John Frith, who was born at Westerham, and had been condemned by Thomas More because of his 'Lutheran' doctrines – doctrines that Frith had formulated after many years of helping Tyndale in his translation of the Bible. Cranmer interviewed Frith at his Palace in Croydon over the Christmas week in 1532, when Frith was allowed out of the Tower of London where he had been imprisoned. Cranmer records that they spent many hours discussing together. Cranmer respected this brilliant young man, acknowledged at Cambridge as the outstanding scholar of his generation at a time when Cranmer was a fellow of Jesus College. Cranmer tried hard to get Frith to change his views. Frith would not change – but Cranmer did. In 1533 Frith was burnt at the stake. Thirty years later, in the reign of Queen Mary, Cranmer was also burnt at the stake for upholding those same views for which Frith had been martyred.

Cranmer in his writings refers to the Maid of Kent as a heretic. He also refers to Frith – but never as a heretic. In fact some of the phrases in the 39 Articles seem to be direct quotes from Frith's writings. Also, Cranmer seems to have devised a clever plot whereby Frith could have escaped his guard while being taken back to the Tower from Croydon. But Frith did not take advantage of this plot.

Frith was involved in the translation of the Bible. His doctrines are mirrored in the 39 Articles. So it is not surprising that Bishop Tom Wright says 'there is one man from the period of the Reformation who has not received the attention he deserves – that man is John Frith'.



OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. We have two meetings in May – on Wednesday the 10th there is an Afternoon of Games, and on the 24th an entertainment by the WI Choir. Jill or Ed on Otford 525775 can give further information.

THE OTFORD VILLAGE FETE is to be held on the Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May. With this year's theme as 'BOOKS' a good turnout is hoped for, both for the Fete and the Procession. Linda Linton, on 01959 522710, is organising the procession, and your School, Church or Society group or even individuals are welcome to join in. Any holders of stalls for the village Societies can be confirmed to Deborah Terry on 01959 522354. We look forward to another wonderful Fete this year!

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday May 2nd at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall there is an illustrated talk by John Hughes, a seasoned traveller, on 'Termas de Chillan – Alpines of Chile'. Admission, 50p to members and £1 to non-members, includes refreshments.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. At our April meeting we celebrated our Institute's 47th birthday and the yellow and lilac colour scheme looked very cheerful and spring-like. President Diana Jeremiah welcomed our district secretary Pat Gale and kept the official business, and the reps' reports, to a minimum. Wine (or fruit juice) was poured and we then enjoyed a hot meal of Piquant Chicken with vegetables followed by a choice of dessert (some members even went back for 'seconds'!). The lovely birthday cake was made and decorated by Heather Porter. It really seemed a shame to spoil it but founder member Pat Smith duly plunged in the knife and it soon re-appeared in slices to enjoy with our coffee.

The musical entertainment 'Musical Mysteries' was provided by Martin Harrison who was using his new state-of-the-art equipment for the first time, giving us excerpts from long-ago shows such as 'The Student Prince' to the present time, plus jokes and anecdotes – all very relaxing and familiar. Two bursaries were drawn, the winners being Jeanne Barsby and Mary Laundon and so ended a very happy, convivial WI birthday meeting. Visitors are always welcome, our next meeting is on May 11th, Otford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm – why not come along and find out what else we do?

Brenda Young 01732 885356

THE DARENT VALLEY CHOIR celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. To mark the event with our Musical Director Ben Odom, we shall be singing Rossini's **Petite Messe Solonelle** in St Martin's Church, Brasted, on Saturday 13th May. Tickets may be obtained from Sevenoaks Bookshop or from 01474 815591 and 01959 523279. We hope you will be able to join us.

The Choir also holds a **Singing Day** on 20th May, from 2 to 6.30pm at the Anthony Roper School, Eynsford. This was a great success last year and with our MD/Tutor Ben Odom we shall be singing Haydn's **Nelson Mass**. Music will be available if you do not have your own and you will need to bring your own drink, etc. We look forward to welcoming you.

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY starts its programme of summer outings on Thursday afternoon, May 25th, with a half-day guided tour of Lullingstone Castle, Church and World Garden. The total cost per head will be £6.75. The present Manor House and Gatehouse were built in 1497 and have been home to the family ever since. Henry VIII and Queen Anne were frequent visitors. The Norman church has some impressive tombs and some of the oldest stained glass in the country. And the World Garden of Plants, the on-going project of Tom Hart Dyke, will contain 10,000 different plants from every corner of the world when complete.

In view of Lullingstone's closeness to Otford we have decided as an experiment to travel independently, and ask members to give lifts to those without cars. To that end we ask that everyone meets in Otford car park at 2pm. For those of a hardy disposition, the walk to Lullingstone along the Darent Valley only takes an hour!

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Mid-20th Century Toys and Pastimes – a new Heritage Centre exhibit

The Heritage Centre's display of early telephones and telephone exchange equipment has now been replaced by this fascinating exhibit of toys and games from the 1930s to the 1950s. The centrepiece of the exhibit is a section of a Hornby Gauge 0 model railway including two little clockwork engines and their four-wheeled coaches and little goods

wagons, on a layout complete with a station beside a level crossing, a signal box, a working signal, and even a water-tank, all in tinplate. The 0-4-0 side-tank engines would seem laughably crude to present-day model-railway buffs, used to model locomotives of every wheel-arrangement in incredibly authentic detail, but they evoke an era when, on the Great Western main line just for instance, real heavyweight Castle class and King class engines could be seen on any day of the week, charging through a small country station while an 0-4-2 tank simmered quietly beside its bay platform, waiting to take its two-coach Stopping Passenger along the branch line ...

As well as this railway the exhibit also has a whole range of tinplate models including a remarkable cruiser or battleship nearly 2ft long, a submarine that would have been powered by winding up its little leaden flywheel, and a clockwork speedboat. There is a toy drum, and a brass bugle that looks like those that Boy Scout bands were equipped with. A set of mounted toy soldiers of the 17th Lancers is displayed beside its original box, on which the battle honours of the regiment are printed, together with the helpful statement that the soldiers have moveable arms. A stamp album has not been forgotten, opened at the Germany page with portraits of Hitler on many of the stamps. Girls' toys are not well represented, though no doubt girls would like to play with the white plastic Volkswagen camping caravan, 'Empire Made', of 1950s vintage, or to try the Mickey Mouse/Snow White playing card game.

In all, this is an exhibit not to be missed.

B.C.W.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The drought continues and we receive regular updates from our water company. Small and limited amounts of water are being obtained from other companies; if the situation worsens application will be made to extract more water from the environment – which includes bore holes. When this has been done in the past the water from our natural springs has markedly decreased. It is already low and during the early months of this year barely able to maintain the level of the pond.

Maintenance work on the pond is desirable and this may be a suitable time. The puddled clay base has deteriorated and probably requires renewal, however, the associated problems are complex. Since it was worked on approximately fifty years ago, regulations have multiplied like the fish. To give an example: we can no longer store and replace the fish, but must remove and purchase new fish. We still hope that if work is done there will, as before, be opportunities for community involvement, although catching fish and puddling clay may not be everyone's pleasure.

The average increase in parish precepts will be 8.5% for the present financial year, possibly because of the increase in the number of responsibilities now 'available' to parishes. Otford's increase is 2% on a precept rather higher than most villages in the Sevenoaks district and partly reflects our take-up of responsibilities over the past few years.

The appeal for the new children's play areas seems likely to reach its target at the present time because of the generosity of residents. The apparently high cost partly reflects the work that must be done on the ground surface and fencing to meet present

requirements. The results should be areas that Otford can be proud of. The project involved months of work by councillors to decide on the right equipment and find a source for the grant.

The basis of all aspects of district planning will be changing. No longer a matter of consultation every few years to provide a reference document, but a continuous process in which some sections are always being reviewed with community involvement. We will all be able to comment through questionnaires from the district council, and in some cases community organisations will also have the opportunity to respond. Results depend on responses ...

Otford looked splendid while the daffodils were out. They manage to thrive from year to year in our unpromising roadside verges, and all because of work by councillors, village societies and residents in the past.

JGA

Let us do something beautiful for God

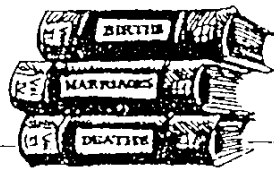
The worst disease of all is to be unwanted, uncared for and unloved. *Mother Teresa*

Grant that your love may so fill our lives that we may count nothing too small to do for you, nothing too much to give and nothing too hard to bear. *St Ignatius Loyala*

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal. *1 Corinthians 13;vv4-7*



Registers



Wedding (Our Congratulations)

25th March Richard William **Willcox** and Kelly Joanne **Woodworth**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

28th March Peter Udo Willi **Sellmer** (aged 62) – Burial

Church Offerings in March

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £320.99
 Freewill Offerings £10,125.00

