

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	5 pm 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, Dunning, Finley, Fleetwood, Grogan, Howie, Ingram, Johnson, Lattimer, Lea, Matthews, Sherwood, Vigis, Wickham, Wood, Worssam, Wragg, Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Beasley, 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

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.

JUNE 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)

4 – **Pentecost: Whit Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW) and baptism of

Adam Lewis Gardner

- 4 – **6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**
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**
7.30pm Cameo (5 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road)
8.00pm Mission Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 7 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm St Bartholomew's Fair Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 10 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Bernard Worssam)
- 11 – **Trinity Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Deanery Evensong
- 13 – **Material for the June magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road**
- 14 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm Worship Committee (Vicarage)
- 15 – 11.00am Cameo outing to Lullingstone Visitors Centre
- 17 – 2.00pm Wedding of Joseph Pockett and Samantha Victoria Edwards
- 18 – **The First Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship for Fathers' Day
6.30pm Evensong
- 19 – 8.00pm Ministry Team
- 21 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am 'First Steps' Teddy Bears' Picnic
8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 24 – **2.00pm St Bartholomew's Church Fair (Castle House)**
- 25 – **The Second Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.00pm Evening Praise in Church
- 28 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Some early July dates:

- 2 – **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW) with children and Prizegiving
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**
7.30pm Cameo (50 Well Road)
- 5 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 6 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)

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EDITORIAL

‘Hey diddle diddle’: New Evidence?

‘Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such fun,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.’

A familiar rhyme which many of us learned in early childhood. It comes indeed from the 18th century so has been heard down the ages.

Could it be that new evidence suggests more of the meaning behind this well-known rhyme? Are the words ‘hey diddle diddle’ in fact a magic incantation related to spells used by white witches? Who or what is the cat? Why is the fiddle related to it so closely? Is the phrasing related to the ‘cat of nine tails’ and to background, out of tune music, describing some kind of 18th century torture? Did the cow suffer from some form of dementia with accompanying hallucinations that it was indeed jumping over the moon? How could such evil cause the small dog to laugh? Did this animal represent a shortish man or woman of that time whose life reflected great evil, who indeed laughed at the pain of others? How, finally, could the dish run away with the spoon? Were people being careless over what they threw out with the washing-up water? Difficult questions indeed.

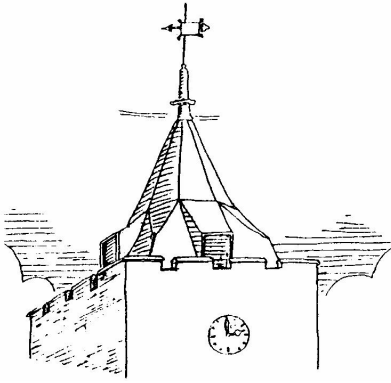
But none more outlandish than the questions being raised in the new book and film ‘The Da Vinci Code’. The book is actually fiction and yet gives the impression of fact. The characters in the book make some preposterous claims: among others, that the Roman Catholic Church has kept the true facts about Christianity hidden, that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene who was the head apostle, and that their descendants became kings of France. The book claims that Jesus was not the Son of God but simply a man who inspired others to live better lives. There is not space here to examine and refute the claims made in the book. There is a booklet available in church: ‘The Da Vinci Code: a response’ by Nicky Gumbel.

We are reminded of the wise words of St Paul writing to his young assistant, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: ‘The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.’

Thrillers are good escapism but we need to be careful not to let such escapism deny the truth about God. Enjoy the book and the film but remember: it’s just fiction.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins





FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

An Evening Praise Service is held on the fourth Sunday of each month, normally at 6.30pm. However, it has been noted that 5pm is a far more popular time for this service and so for an experimental period it will be held at this time. For one thing, it enables our younger youngsters to take part and not be too late to bed on a Sunday evening!

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

Special Service for Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is on 11th June and at 6.30pm on that day we look forward to welcoming the different church choirs from the local area, the Shoreham Deanery (around a hundred singers!) to the shared Deanery Evensong. Our Rural Dean, Revd. Dr. Susan Ramsaran, will be leading our worship, and the preacher will be the new Dean of Rochester Cathedral, the Very Revd. Adrian Newman. The music has been chosen by our own Organist and Choirmaster. Do join us for this choral feast!

Fathers' Day. While this is a secular invention, we are marking the day with a service at 9.30am on Sunday 18th June. Fathers and grandfathers are especially welcome: our Reader Bill Lattimer will be heading up the service.

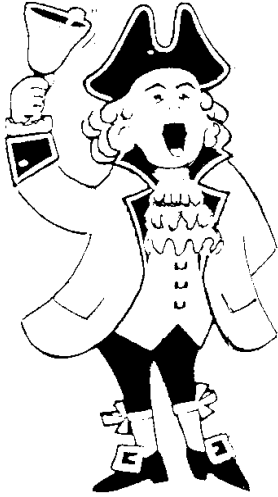
First Steps

This group for babies and toddlers and their carers meets fortnightly on Wednesday mornings at the Evangelical Free Church. The meeting on Wednesday, 21st June, however, will be at 11am in the Parish Church followed by a Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Vicarage garden. Do bring your bear/s and picnic and join us: drinks provided!

'Building On' News

The special firm of contractors appointed to prepare the site for the builders will, by the time you read this, have started work. It is obviously very important both to make the site secure and to screen it, and you will therefore see Heris fencing and debris netting around the building site and around a storage/loading area on The Green which will remain in place for the main building works. Firms of lorries arriving to take away excavated soil will be instructed to avoid school dropping-off and picking-up times. We had hoped that the main contractors would start work in June but, as with any major project, some slippage is inevitable, and the work now seems likely to begin in July. It unfortunately will not be possible to fully reinstate The Green in time for the Remembrance Day service, as previously intended, but plans are being made to ensure that the area around the War Memorial will be usable, tidy and level.

The fundraising team wishes to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Talents Scheme such a success. The Sale alone raised about £1,000 for the Building Fund, quite apart from other imaginative ventures undertaken by individuals. Please do come along to the morning celebratory services on Sunday 4th June when the money raised will be dedicated.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR

SATURDAY 24th JUNE

at 2.00pm

in the grounds of
CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD

By kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy, St Bartholomew's Fair is once again being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House.

The proceeds of this year's Fair will go to the Church Building Fund and we shall be grateful for all the support we can muster. Items for sale can be placed in the boxes at the back of the church, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so that they can be sorted and priced. Alternatively arrangements can be made for them to be collected. In particular this applies to the following:

Bottles: Linda and Bert Dunning. Tel. 524182

Books: Colin Fleetwood. Tel. 523582

Toys: Margie Torry. Tel. 524463

Sweets, Small Toys or items suitable for Children's Prizes:

Christine Malan. Tel. 522654 or Deborah Vigis. Tel. 523331

Craft Items: Sylvia Grafton. Tel. 01732 452117

Gardening Equipment and Tools: Wolfgang Woestmann. Tel. 523392

Plants: Bill Lattimer. Tel. 522058

White Elephant: Anne Southgate. Tel. 522447

DVDs, CDs and Videos: Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood. Tel. as above.

Anne Fleetwood (Tel. 523582) will be very pleased to hear from anybody with items for the **Food Hall** – cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves are all welcome.

There will be the usual Children's Art Competition – Theme 'Animals' – and a Single Rose Competition open to all.

Anybody willing or able to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood, and assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. We shall be meeting at the Church Hall at about 6.00pm on Friday 23rd June to collect tables, chairs and other equipment to be taken to Castle House, and clearing away starts immediately after the Fair.

Hospice in the Weald Events

The following summer events are being organised by the Hospice in the Weald. We hope you will support them:

- Sunday 11th June: Classic Car Rally. Open to all motoring enthusiasts and especially 'classic car' owners. Ring Tanya Ingham on 01892 820533.
- Friday 23rd June, 7.20pm to 1am: Rhythm and Ragtime Ball, Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells. Tickets £55 each. Ring Fiona Parry on 01892 820508.
- Sunday 9th June, 12 noon to 5.30pm: Country Fair at Chevening House followed by evening event from 6.30 to 9.30pm at the same venue: Pasadena Roof Orchestra. Tickets £18.50; £9 children. For details ring the above numbers.

The Sixteen in St Bartholomew's Church

St Bartholomew's Church was packed on the evening of Saturday the 6th May for the concert by Harry Christophers and The Sixteen, every ticket having been sold. The choir went straight into the first group of items in their programme, comprising a plainsong chant followed by a vividly sung *Kyrie Eleison* by Palestrina (1526/6-1594), and that by an eight-part *Crucifixus* by the Venetian composer Antonio Lotti (1667-1740). Subsequently, in short intervals between groups of pieces, Harry Christophers introduced himself and the choir, and spoke about the different pieces and the reasons for their inclusion in the programme. Why 'The Sixteen'? Apparently there were sixteen people in the original choir formed in Cambridge in 1978 and they specialised in the music of the sixteenth century, at that time rather neglected. 'The Sixteen' therefore seemed as good a name as any. The number in the choir now varies slightly and there were seventeen who performed in Otford.

In the ensuing twenty-eight years, as their printed programme explains, The Sixteen has become recognised as one of the world's greatest vocal ensembles. Over ninety recordings reflect The Sixteen's quality in a range of work spanning the music of five hundred years, winning many awards including the Grand Prix du Disque for Handel's *Messiah*, numerous *Schallplattenkritik*, the coveted Gramophone Award for Early Music, and most recently the prestigious Classical Brit Award 2005 for 'Renaissance'.

The Vicar writes:

The members and friends of St Bartholomew's Church would like to record their immense gratitude to Harry Christophers and The Sixteen for giving such an awe-inspiring concert on the 6th May. The choir performed works featured in its Choral Pilgrimage, a tour of our finest cathedrals, bringing music back to the buildings for which it was written, and including pieces by the Spanish Renaissance composer Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611). In contrast, they also performed Five Spirituals from 'A Child of our Time' by Sir Michael Tippett (1905-1998). These included 'Deep River' and 'Nobody knows what trouble I've seen' – songs with familiar words but in extraordinary settings. The soaring notes of the soprano and the depth of notes of the bass singers was electrifying. We thank all those who helped to make the concert possible, especially Sally Woestmann, chief organiser, and Hilary Fothergill who handled ticket sales and seat allocations. We are delighted to report that a sum in the region of £7,000 was raised for the Building Fund.

NO TYNDALE, NO SHAKESPEARE ...

... was the title of the lecture that Professor Daniell gave to the Tyndale Society just over a year ago. In that lecture, Prof. Daniell argues that the richness of the 16th century intellectual and artistic life into which Shakespeare was born had its source in the New Testament, first translated in 1526 from the original Greek by William Tyndale. This was largely reprinted in all the popular Bibles of the 16th century – Coverdale (1535), Matthew's Bible (1537), the Great Bible (1539), the Geneva Bible (1560) and later in 1611, the King James Bible in which 83% of the New Testament is Tyndale unchanged. Tyndale, who was also a Hebrew scholar, had started on translating the Old Testament, but was murdered before he had made much progress. Of the Bibles listed above, only in the Geneva Bible was the Old Testament translated from the Hebrew (Hebrew scholarship was well advanced in Geneva). Unfortunately King James banned his translators from referring to the Geneva Bible, fearing that it was 'contaminated' by Calvinistic doctrines! From recent research on the works of Shakespeare, it seems clear that Shakespeare owned a Geneva Bible, of which, of course the New Testament was pure Tyndale.



When Tyndale was at school, at the start of the 16th century, the English language was a poor thing, a language unknown on the Continent. Just over 100 years later a million English Bibles had been printed. By the time Shakespeare was born in 1564, the whole Bible was in most households, and was being read or heard by those who could not read. The English language had 'been born'. In the many grammar schools (like Sevenoaks) the medium of instruction was now English, no longer Latin. In 1552, the first Maths textbook in English was published, by Robert Recorde. Some years ago, thanks to a friend at Cambridge (a Maths Professor) I was able to see an original of this book at the University Library. The English certainly had a 'Tyndalian' flavour. By the end of the century poets like Spenser, Marlowe and Sidney were using English. And for the playwrights, there were audiences of people used to sitting down and listening to that language. Thanks to recent research, we are now beginning to appreciate just how much we owe to William Tyndale for our great literary heritage. Part of that debt is owed to John Frith, who was often with William Tyndale helping in the translating. John Frith was also a writer, and as Prof. Daniell wrote, it was Martin Luther who challenged the church in 1517 with his 95 Questions (in Latin); it was Frith, the ablest English reforming theologian who answered those questions in 1531 (in English).

Brian Raynor



OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. HELP NEEDED! Is there anyone who could help me to organise and run the Over-Sixties Social Club on a voluntary basis? We have about twenty-five members and meet every other Wednesday afternoon (except August). If you think you are interested could you please ring Jill on 01959 525775 for a chat – leave a message if necessary and I will ring you back. Or email: jill.yates@tesco.net.

Our programme until August is: Wednesday June 7th – Our Birthday Party; June 21st – 'All about Marigolds' by Brenda Aryanpur; July 5th – A Strawberry Tea and Quiz; and July 19th – Coach Outing to Eastbourne.

GARDEN OPEN. Pam Hadrill's garden at **Little Oast** will be open in aid of the Red Cross on Sunday 4th June from 2 to 5pm. Admission is £2.50, Seniors £2. There will be refreshments, and preserves for sale. Little Oast is situated at the end of the private drive alongside the River Darent, at the west end of Otford High Street.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday June 6th at 8pm in the Otford Village Hall there will be an illustrated talk by Deidre Hall on 'Portuguese Gardens up to the 18th Century'. Admission, 50p to members and £1 non-members, includes refreshments. Then on Saturday June 10th is an all-day visit by coach to the **Flower Festival at Hatfield House** in Hertfordshire. Contact the Secretary, Janet Finney, on 01959 523760 for details.

On Saturday June 24th is our **Rose and Summer Show**, at 2.15 to 4.15pm in the Otford Village Hall. It will include Roses and Summer Flowers, early Vegetables, Photography, Flower Arrangements, Cookery and Junior classes. Admission 50p, under 16s free. Refreshments available until 4pm.

THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY's last indoor meeting of the winter season, on April 19th and entitled 'A Taste of Tudor Cookery', comprised illustrated talks by Griselda Barton and Gilly Moysey on the history of medieval cookery up to the end of the Tudor period, followed by a demonstration of the actual results of trying out the recipes in Tudor cookery books, by the speakers assisted by Brenda Aryanpur. A whole table was spread with piles of intriguingly named tasty confections, which the audience were invited to try. Tudor cookery proved to be anything but primitive. There was Marigold Tart; Lombardy Slices (a sort of superior flapjacks made with dates, wine and honey); Prune and Apple Tart – steeped in claret, with rosewater; and Tansy and Spinach Omelette (rather like a quiche). Jumbles were small oval biscuit-like things made from ground almonds, peel, egg, flour and butter; and Gilded March-pane again contained ground almonds, with sugar and egg white. Altogether an event which lived up to its title, and was much appreciated by the audience.

THE OTFORD SOCIETY. The Garden Party of the Otford Society will be held on Saturday 1st July at 62A Well Road, Otford, at 6pm to 8pm. There will be wine and canapés and a Raffle. Tickets available from Carol Griffiths, Secretary, at 11 The Old Walk, Otford, telephone 01959 523140.

THE CANTATE CHOIR (Conductor Robin Walker, pianist Michael Higgins) presents Poetry in Music, a concert of poetry set to music by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Finzi, at St Mary Platt, Borough Green, on Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £10 (including refreshments), are available from the Sevenoaks Bookshop and from the Cantate Box Office on 01892 545799.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. A group of our members has been busy for many months creating a collage/wall-hanging for the West Kent Room at Denman College and the (almost) completed work was on display at our May meeting. We are very nearly there!

The two Resolutions to be voted on at the AGM in Cardiff in June are 'Renewable Energy' and 'Sport for a healthy population' and the facts and figures for both of these were well-presented to us by Jeanne and Maureen. Questions were asked and answered and both Resolutions got our full support.

A group of members will be actively supporting the Environmental Campaign on Packaging Day on 20th June at a local supermarket, to raise awareness of the issue of excessive packaging by supermarkets throughout England and Wales.

After all this deliberation and concentration the evening ended with three light-hearted games of good old 'BEETLE' – with Pat Smith raising the highest score. Our next meeting is on 8th June at 7.30pm when our speaker will be talking about 'Canine Partners'. If you are a dog-lover the subject will surely interest you so why not come along and find out more?

Brenda Young (01732 885356)

SPOTLIGHT

ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Planning decisions are influenced by parliament in several ways. There are occasions when the majority of the local community, parish council and the district councillors who examine the application, are in agreement that it is unsuitable, but that if refused it will most probably be granted on appeal. Appeals are an expensive process for district

councils whose tax raising powers are limited by government, therefore the application is not rejected, and the communities' wishes are not followed.

Only those attending the meetings are aware of how their environment is being decided; it is not made explicit to the community or government.

This parish council is attempting to make it a requirement when planning application decisions are made which are contrary to a parish council's wishes (based on the local plan), for the reasons to be stated.

The Applause evening with the guitarist Eduardo Niebla was a great success. Over a hundred people came. Some of them had heard him before at other performances in Kent and took the opportunity to hear his remarkable talent without going to London and paying the high costs. Many councillors organised, helped set up and ran the event.

The next Applause event is Alice in Wonderland at Otford Primary School on 21st July.

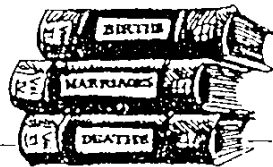
SE Regional Authority has sent the 'SE Draft Plan for submission to Government' (six documents, weight nearly six pounds!). It contains proposals for developments in villages and is of some importance. It is presently available in the parish office for those who wish to read of the good intentions. The Authority is a non-elected body made up of councillors elected to the areas concerned. The parish council will respond to it.

Dunton Green Cold Store Site planning application for a number of matters has also been sent to this council for comment. It is even weightier than the SE Draft Plan, and deserves mention because it concerns an application for nearly five hundred dwellings, with a third intended as affordable housing, adjacent to Otford. The density appears to be approximately 60 dwellings per hectare. There will also be a relatively small area for offices and 500m² for a medical centre with 'potential community space', on the site. The parish council will comment on the application.

JGA



Registers



Wedding (Our Congratulations)

29th April Alan Peter **Williams** and Dawn Elizabeth **Inns**

Church Offerings in April

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £426.13
Freewill Offerings £7,118.00



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.