

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

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JULY 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 – The Third Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW) and Prizegiving

Teddy Bear Abseiling from Tower

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**
2.30pm Feba Radio Meeting (41 Park Hill Road)
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)
- 8 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party
- 9 – **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 10 – 8.00pm Fair Committee (‘Lorien’, St Michael’s Drive)
- 12 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 13 – **Material for the August magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road**
- 15 – 2.00pm Wedding of Anthony David Burrows and Kathryn Elizabeth Lanceley
- 16 – **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 18 – 1.00pm Cameo outing to Burrswood
- 19 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 20 – 8.00pm Deanery Synod (Wrotham) Speaker: Bishop Michael
- 22 – 2.00pm Wedding of Nicholas Frederick William Pearcey and Ruth Alexander
- 23 – **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.30pm Evening Praise in Church
- 26 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 29 – 12 noon Wedding of Nicholas Bowerman and Caroline Jane White
- 30 – **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Mattins
6.30pm Evening Worship

Some early August dates:

- 1 – **There will be No Morning Prayer in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays during August**
- 2 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 3 – 2.30pm Ladies’ Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 6 – **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW) and baptism of Benjamin Richard Snook and Amy Cameron
6.30pm Evensong

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EDITORIAL

Building and Proclaiming

For those who have been discussing the possibility of Church Rooms over the last twenty years, the progress begun on the churchyard is a welcome sight. Undoubtedly there have been many who wondered whether it would ever happen. Finally work has started. Yet there is naturally sadness in seeing a well-loved view change. This summer the church tower will be unlit since the floodlight has had to be moved temporarily. This month we shall miss the roses tumbling across the fence facing The Green. When the work is finished, the roses and floodlight will be reinstated and young trees planted.

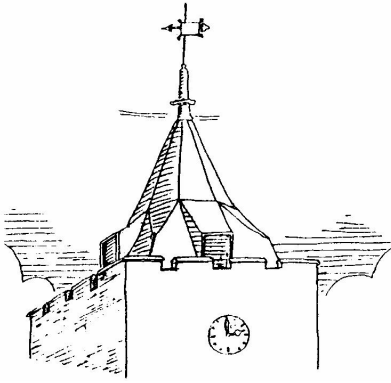
It is heartening to know that great care is being taken in the work being done on the churchyard. There are long discussions about the best and most thoughtful way to do every aspect of the work. The graves have been safeguarded and a temporary gateway through the fence between the village green and the churchyard is now in place, to enable people to visit the graves to the north of the church while building is going on. The floor level of the extension needs to be the same as that within the church, so that where the extension itself will be sited some earth will have to be taken away: lorries taking away this earth are allowed only to be on site outside school bus hours. Care has been taken to safeguard the trees on The Green, and the whole site is to be well-screened.

Undoubtedly there has been and will continue to be disruption to our lives as the new extension takes shape. We hope that such disruption will be minor and worth it as we look forward eagerly to all that the new extension will bring to the parish church and village. The work is being carried out so that the parish church may be as effective as it possibly can to the community it serves. We celebrate our life as a church family and we exist also to be a place of welcome to everyone, of all ages.

Our purpose as a Christian church is to proclaim Christ's love to everyone. That purpose was well illustrated in something that happened at the Pentecost Sunday Family Service last month. Balloons were released by the congregation, having labels attached with the name of the church, and different messages Christians in Otford might want to send to the world. We watched the balloons billow into the sky and wondered where they would fly. Some unfortunately got stuck in the tree on The Green! You may have found others throughout the village. But we were delighted to receive a letter from France, enclosing a label inscribed 'God Loves You', explaining that the balloon had been found by a cyclist passing by the Abbey of Royaumont on the River Oise in northern France. This river flows east towards the River Seine, north of Paris, and so Rouaumont is a good 170 miles in a straight line from Otford. By happy coincidence the balloon had been sent by Ruth Alexander, to be married at St Bartholomew's in July, who happened to have read French at university ... Such a happening reminds us that we are here first and foremost to proclaim the Good News of the love of Christ, and we pray that our new church Extension will enable us to do that more fully.

Please remember in prayer all those who are working hard in the churchyard. If you have any questions or anxieties about the work, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the Churchwardens, Derek Shilling or Janet Hunt.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Evening Praise Service. This informal service led by a music group 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 night! Some of the themes for the next few months are: decision-making, doubt, forgiveness, friends, giving, self-esteem, gossip, sharing faith.

Eric Dilley. We are sad to say good-bye to Eric Dilley, who moved to Tonbridge last month. Eric has been a stalwart in the village and within the life of the parish church, and we are enormously grateful to him for all that he has done to help us in relation to the fabric of the Church, Church Hall and Vicarage. He has seen many of his ideas come to fruition, and the church extension plans contain a great many of his original ideas, put forward some years ago! Eric has been a loyal and supportive member of the Church Council and has been a reliable and helpful assistant at our midweek service of Holy Communion. We hope very much that we shall continue to see Eric in the village from time to time, giving wise and thoughtful advice as ever.

A Feast in June!

June contained some happy and successful events in the Parish Church. We enjoyed welcoming village choirs to the united Songs of Praise service on Pentecost Sunday, 4th June, and relished another treat as choirs from the local area, the Deanery, joined us for Deanery Evensong on 11th June. We thank our Organist and Choirmaster, Kevin Grafton, for his unceasing efforts to ensure the highest standards in our choral services. We hope you will join us for the lovely summer Evensongs, on the first and third Sunday evenings of every month, at 6.30pm. The church will look extra lovely with the flowers from the weddings throughout July and August and the music and singing will draw us closer to God in the quiet beauty of this lovely parish church.

We wish you happy holidays!

Whether you are at home or away, we wish you a very happy summer. The Vicar will be on holiday for the first part of July, and we look forward to welcoming local retired vicars to take our services of Holy Communion, including Revd. Donald Crowther from Kemsing and Revd. Maurice Hewett from Sevenoaks.

Revd. Pat is sad to miss the Family Service with Prizegiving on 2nd July and the Teddy Abseiling that morning but will be praying for a perfect day!



Visiting Preacher. Some of the money raised in connection with the Church Extension was sent to Chalk Parish Church who are rebuilding their Church Hall. We are looking forward to welcoming their vicar, Revd. Nigel Bourne, as our preacher at the 9.30am service of Holy Communion on Sunday 23rd July. Nigel will be bringing a visual display of the work already being undertaken at Chalk: do join us.

Bishop Michael Visit

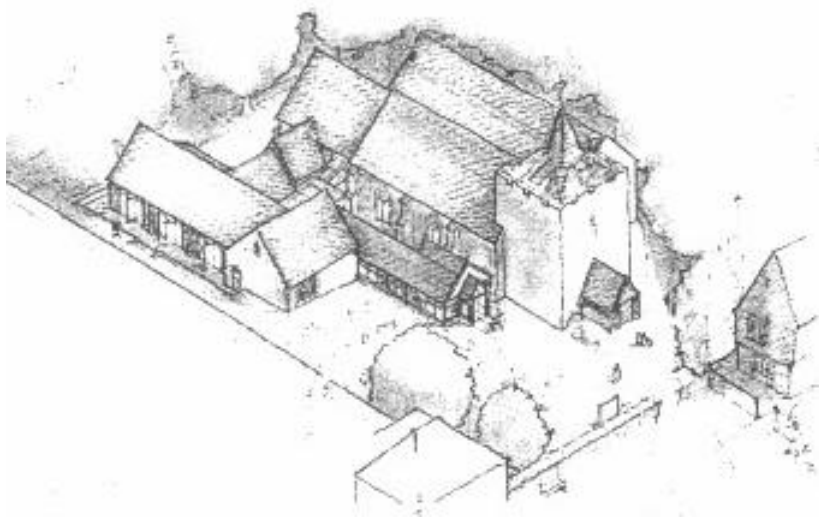
The Right Revd. Michael Nazir-Ali is touring his Diocese this year, and hits the Shoreham Deanery on Thursday 20th July. There will be an exhibition at Wrotham Church detailing the work of the different churches in the Deanery, open from the 20th for a week: all are welcome to go along and see it.



Tender invitations went out to six builders to be returned by Monday 12th June. The specialist firm of contractors appointed to prepare the site for the main contractors started work on 12th June – a little later than planned owing to the time needed for the analysis of soil samples taken from the churchyard and for the issue of the necessary landfill certificate. In the meantime, detailed thought is being given to the management of the new rooms and the precise ways in which

they will be used on a Sunday by the children's groups, choir and congregation, and during the week by office staff, visitors and church counsellors. Churchwarden Janet Hunt will be consulting key users, but if you have any thoughts concerned with usage (especially if they might affect final fittings and fixtures), then please do get in touch with her via the church office.

As far as fundraising news is concerned, thank you to everyone who used their £10 money bags (distributed under the *Parable of the Talents Scheme*) so imaginatively to make a clear 'profit' of more than £1,850 for the Building Fund. This was dedicated at a June 4th Celebratory Service. Several members of the Fundraising Team are now concentrating their efforts on Charitable Trusts as a source of income. We have received £3,500 from trusts so far and hope to receive more from Landfill and other Charitable Trusts.



Teddy Abseiling. Please bring your teddies along to the Sunday Club and OTT prize-giving service at 9.30am on 2nd July, after which at 10.30 to 12 noon there will be another chance to send them down the aerial runway from the Church tower and to receive a certificate for bravery! This is a repeat of the popular venture at last year's Open Gardens scheme. Adults £2.50, children £1.

Spring Harvest

A party from St Bartholomew's will be going to Spring Harvest next Spring. This is a Christian initiative for all ages offering teaching, fellowship, fun, and varied worship. The venue is Butlins at Minehead and the dates are Saturday 31st March to Thursday 5th April (Maundy Thursday). If you would like further details, please contact Andrew Bratby on 01959 525060.

Houseparty. We are organising another Houseparty, this time in conjunction with our Methodist friends, for the weekend of 27th October 2007. It will be held at Pilgrim Hall in Sussex. Details will be available in due course but you may like to make a note of the date in your diary.

Tales from Otford is the title of a well-illustrated new booklet by Brian Raynor. The author, a Reader of St Bartholomew's, draws on his long experience as a Maths teacher both overseas and in this country (latterly at Sevenoaks School) to relate stories showing quite diverse links, some of them long-forgotten, between Otford, Sevenoaks, Cambridge University and the wider world of the mission field.

Some of the 'Tales' concern Otford Palace and the early years of the Tudor Reformation. Others are more recent – as an instance two brothers of the old-established Polhill family of Otford, at Cambridge in the 1880s, where they were talented cricketers, gave up the prospect of well-rewarded careers at home to go out as missionaries to China.

Priced at £2.99, 'Tales from Otford' is available from the Otford Heritage Centre, from the Sevenoaks Bookshop, and from shops in Otford. Proceeds are in aid of the St Bart's Building On Fund.



THE OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY has a full-day outing on Saturday 15th July, commencing at 9am at Otford Pond, to the Milestones Museum, Basingstoke, and the Vyne, Sherborne St John, Hampshire.

Milestones Museum is an 'open air museum' housed in a massive modern building. It comprises a network of streets and buildings based on those found in Hampshire in Victorian times and the 1930s. Among other exhibits are the Tasker and Thorneycroft collections of agricultural and commercial vehicles, a display of vacuum cleaners and domestic appliances and a 'home entertainment' collection. Refreshments, including hot meals, are available at the museum.

The Vyne is a sixteenth-century house that reflects changing styles and tastes over 500 years. Set in attractive grounds, and built for Lord Sandys, Lord Chamberlain to Henry VIII, it retains its Tudor chapel and later acquired a classical portico, a Palladian staircase and a wealth of old panelling and fine furniture. Refreshments are available at the cafeteria.

The cost per head of the outing is £21.20 to National Trust members, £28.70 to non-NT members. Book places with Mr and Mrs Ward (01959 522384).

OTFORD LIBRARY provides a range of services. These comprise not only up-to-date books for adults and children but also:

Free use for up to an hour a day of two PCs – just bring along your Library card or join on the day (please bring one piece of ID);

Storytime for pre-schoolers (term time only) Tuesdays at 2.30 to 3.00pm;

Bookchat – a lively discussion on the second Thursday of the month at 10.30am;

Homework club – come along for help and fun activities on Wednesdays from 4.00pm (term time only).

We are starting a **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** session – stories and songs for Mums and babies. Please ask at the library for details.

So come and visit your friendly community library! Telephone 01959 522488.

GIRLGUIDING OTFORD urgently require volunteers to keep the very popular Rainbow unit running for girls aged 5-7. They are holding an Open Evening on Wednesday 5th July at the Gatehouse, Otford (adjacent to the Vicarage), from 7.30pm. Anyone interested in helping the Rainbows or any other section is welcome to come along to find out more and meet some of the leaders already involved. Please telephone either Jane 01959 523342 or Jeanette 01959 523617 for more information.

OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES SOCIAL CLUB. Two meetings are planned for July: on Wednesday 5th there is to be a Strawberry Tea and Quiz; and on the 19th we have a coach outing to Eastbourne. Enquiries to Jill or Ed on 01959 525775.

ST HELEN

What do you think of when you hear the name ‘St Helen’? Perhaps a Rugby Club? Perhaps a hymn tune (Lord enthroned in Heavenly splendour)? Maybe a church in the City of London? Or even an island in the Atlantic (St Helena)? Who was Helen? First and foremost, she was the mother of Constantine, the Roman Emperor who became a Christian in about 350AD; an event that facilitated the spread of Christianity at that time, but also unfortunately made Christianity an ‘official religion’, with political overtones, a situation which still survives in some places today. (When I joined the army I was asked what my religion was; I replied: ‘Christian’. ‘Oh Church of England, you mean’ retorted the Sergeant!)

Constantine’s father was the Emperor Constantius who in 296AD re-established the authority of Rome in England; he was based for many years in the Roman town of Colchester; there is a tradition that it was there that he met Helen, a Celtic Christian, an interesting tradition that is hard to verify.

However, one event that involved Helen is well documented. In 326AD she led an archaeological dig to Jerusalem and in a cistern underneath a temple built by Hadrian on the site of Golgotha she found the ‘Titulus’ that we read about in John’s Gospel 19:19: ‘Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. It was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek’. However, on the ‘Titulus’ that Helen found the order of the inscription was ‘Hebrew, Greek and Latin’. In legal terms this order is more likely with the language of the Roman administration coming last, giving it the Roman prefect’s seal. John, when he wrote his Gospel some 40 years after the crucifixion, remembered the three languages, but perhaps not the order. When Helen returned to Rome her son Constantine found that his New Testament had the ‘wrong’ order; it did not agree with what his mother had found. So he ordered that 50 new copies of the Greek Bible be produced with the ‘right’ order. As a result all the old manuscripts of John’s Gospel pre-Constantine have one order; those post-Constantine have ‘Hebrew, Greek, Latin’. This is not a problem that we need to worry about, but it is an interesting dilemma faced by those translating the Bible today.

Brian Raynor

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The Annual Parish Meeting is the occasion when all residents have the opportunity to hear about the work done for Otford by the parish council and ask questions about parish matters. This year a few dozen people heard reports from our PCSO and each of the parish councillors. They also heard about our Primary School and the Otford Sports Association. The proposed new children's play areas were explained in some detail and pictures of the equipment shown. The changes in the Planning Application approval system and the building work likely to affect Otford were mentioned.

This meeting is the main event when all aspects of local government can be presented to people in the village, and there seemed to be an air of general contentment – which may give some satisfaction to the councillors who wrestle with the continual problems that arise.

The Police Community Support Officer for Dunton Green, Shoreham and Otford gave a report in June for the last four months to councillors from these villages, and described his work (with the local police officer) in some detail. The councillors present all agreed on his effectiveness from their knowledge of his work in their areas. Parking on pavements (footways!) is a frequent problem in some roads in Otford; warnings have been given to many in the past but now penalties are likely for those who offend!

The latest information on Air Quality shows that Otford air is still within government guidelines. The Bat and Ball junction has been declared an air quality management area (this is outside this parish) and the London Road in Dunton Green will be assessed for air quality.

The drought continues and one of the comparatively minor results is that our village planters will have little or no bloom during the summer – and probably a decreasing amount of foliage. Regrettable, but they normally require tens of gallons of water each week during the hot months of the year.

J.G.A.

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IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Geoffrey Allan Levien** who died on 25th May aged 87. Geoffrey spent his childhood years in Norfolk and during the war served in the Catering Corps. He later cared for his mother in their homes in Tunbridge Wells, Seal and Otford. Geoffrey married Mary and they were together for thirty years until Mary's death in the early 1970s. In latter years Geoffrey welcomed bed and breakfast guests at his Otford home. He enjoyed travel and the support of many good friends.

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The pain of Indifference from those we Love

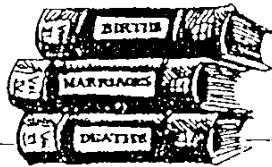
Love is a very strong force in the world, and when it is blocked it causes pain. There are two things we can do when this happens. We can kill the love so that it stops hurting. But then of course part of us dies too. Or we can ask God to open up another route for that love to travel.

God loves the person who has caused us pain, and if we ask God, He will give us his love for this person, a love nothing can prevent, nothing can destroy. Whenever we cannot love in the old, human way, God can give us the perfect way. *Corrie ten Boom, The Hiding Place*

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. *Ephesians, chapter 4 verse 2*



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

4th June Adam Lewis **Gardner**

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

27th May Richard Arthur **Howe** and Marie Helen **Luckett**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

31st May Margaret Ellen **Ferry** (aged 71) – Burial
6th June Geoffrey Allan **Levien** (aged 87) – Cremation

Church Offerings in May

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £293.83
Freewill Offerings £4,846.00

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.

