

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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AUGUST 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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)

- 6 – **9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW) and baptism of Benjamin Richard Snook and Amy Isabelle Cameron**
6.30pm Evensong
- 9 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 12 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Jenny Matthews)
- 13 – **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
11.30am Baptism of Joshua David Reid
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
Material for the September magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road
- 16 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19 – 3.00pm Wedding of Douglas Walter Clucas and Tara Anne Dearing
- 20 – **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 22 – 8.00pm Church Extension Project Committee (Church Hall)
- 23 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 27 – **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity: St Bartholomew**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.00pm Evening Praise
- 28 – **Bank Holiday:**
11.00am onwards: Super Summer Sale (Church Hall)
- 30 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Some early September dates

- 3 – **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)
11.30am Baptism of Harry and Ruby Edwards
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 4 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
2.30pm Feba Radio meeting (41 Park Hill Road)

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.



EDITORIAL

Happy Holidays!

Whether you are staying at home or going away, we hope you will have an enjoyable summer. Part of the joy of taking time out is the ability to take time to listen. To listen to the beauty of one's surroundings and not least to listen to those we care about. This meditation may help us to stop and think how our listening may be improved. It comes from the Bloemfontein Samaritans in South Africa, and was quoted in the Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service May Newsletter:

Listening

You are NOT listening to me when ...

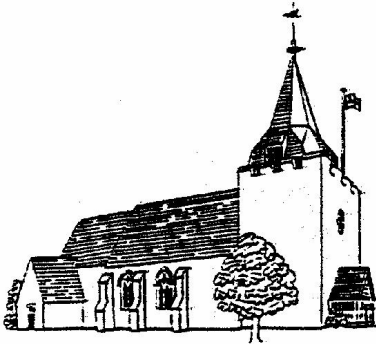
You do not care about me;
You say you understand before you know me well enough;
You have an answer to my problem before I've finished telling you what my problem is;
You cut me off before I've finished speaking;
You finish my sentences for me;
You feel critical of my vocabulary, grammar or accent;
You are dying to tell me something;
You tell me about your experience, making mine seem unimportant;
You are communicating to someone else in the room;
You refuse my thanks by saying you really haven't done anything.

You ARE listening to me when ...

You come quietly into my private world and let me be;
You really try to understand me even if I'm not making much sense;
You grasp my point even when it's against your own sincere convictions;
You realise that the hour I took from you has left you a bit tired and drained;
You allow me the dignity of making my own decisions even though you think they might be wrong;
You do not take my problem from me, but allow me to deal with it in my own way;
You hold back your desire to give me good advice;
You do not offer me religious solace when you sense I am not ready for it;
You give me enough room to discover for myself what is really going on;
You accept my gift of gratitude by telling me how good it makes you feel to know that you have been helpful.

(Rev'd.) Pat Hopkins





FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

St Bartholomew's Fair. Many thanks to all those who supported the Fair on 24th June. It was a perfect day and profits were only slightly down on last year.

Timing of Church Services. Following discussion it has been decided to keep the second morning service time as 9.30am. This has proved to be the most popular time, and also enables our children to attend church as well as be committed to Sunday morning sporting fixtures.

The 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 more popular time for this service and so for an experimental period, it will be held at this time.

Also experimental in the winter months (November-February) may be the moving of the 6.30pm service time to that of 5pm.

Patronal Festival

Once a year we celebrate the life and witness of St Bartholomew on our Patronal Festival. This year this day falls on Sunday 27th August, and the 9.30am service of Holy Communion will follow this theme. We hope you will join us for one of the services on that day to give thanks for all that we share in our parish church.

Summer at St Bartholomew's

For the 9.30am service throughout the summer holidays, Christian activities will be provided for children who attend. We welcome all ages to all our services.

Summer Missions and Houseparties

We remember all those who will be attending such Christian events this month, and unite in prayer for the Sheringham Beach Mission in Norfolk which Dawn Hallam and others will be leading. Pray for safety, good weather, a united team, and for many children and adults to move forward in their journey of faith.

Pastoral Assistants – Going and Coming. We are sad to say 'goodbye' this month to Jenny Bromley, who has worked with Susan Reid as fellow Pastoral Assistant in St Bartholomew's. We thank Jenny for the many ways in which she has reflected Christ to us and wish her every happiness as she moves to Cromer, in Norfolk. We look forward to seeing her on various visits in the coming months.

We look forward to welcoming a new Pastoral Assistant Mrs Margaret Lidbetter. Margaret has been much involved pastorally both within the church and beyond it through the Sevenoaks Churches Befriending Scheme and in her ministry as Chaplain to Sainsbury's. Margaret has been instrumental in founding the new initiative for those on their own, 'Cameo', and continues to lead and preach at our services as our Reader. Margaret will be authorised as Pastoral Assistant at a service on Sunday 1st October at 6.30pm at Pembury Parish Church: although it is our Harvest celebration day, we hope a number of folk will be at Pembury to support Margaret.

Autumn Sermon Series

This begins on Sunday 3rd September and will take place within the 9.30am services on the theme of 'Growth'. As we celebrate the growth of our new church extension, we need also to remind ourselves of the personal growth in faith and trust to which God calls us. We hope you will join us for the series.

SUPER SUMMER SALE

We shall be having a repeat of this popular event on **August Bank Holiday Monday**, the 28th, from 11am to 3pm in the Church Hall. There will be the usual stalls: Cakes, Jams, Preserves, Books, Plants and Produce – and of course the real money-spinner **Bric a Brac**.

This is your chance to tackle that Spare Room or Attic and sort out all the unwanted presents, unloved ornaments and outgrown toys (though not the outgrown clothes!).

We are anxious to make this year a success in view of the exciting Building On activities. Please consult your diary and see if there is any chance of your lending a hand for an hour or two on that date. If so, Sally Woestmann would be very pleased to hear from you on 01959 523392 – or just accost her when next seen! Thank you in advance.

PS the Produce Stall has always proved popular. If you have any fruit or vegetables, plants or flowers that you could contribute, these would be very welcome.

The Kent Churches' Sponsored Cycle Ride is to be held on Saturday 9th September and is a wonderful opportunity to visit local churches and chapels and raise money through walking or cycling for your parish church. It's fun to travel in a group, and we thank those who have cycled for us in the past. If you'd like further details and an entry form, please contact Simon Wragg on 01732 462953.

A Children's Christian Holiday Club is to be held from Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th October, part of half-term week, in the mornings, at Otford Primary School. The theme is 'Seaside Rock', and looks at the life of St Peter. Application forms will soon be available. If you would like to help, Dawn Hallam or Mags Southgate (524720) would be delighted to hear from you.

The 5pm service on Sunday 29th October will be a celebration service of the Holiday Club week.

Harvest Gifts

We are proposing to 'do different' this Harvest in relation to harvest gifts. Rather than giving harvest goods within the village, we shall be supporting the Christian charity 'Send a Cow'. Details will appear in next month's magazine, but instead of local harvest gifts, families and individuals will be invited to give money in order to support the 'Send a Cow' project. This organisation works in ten of the poorest African countries: Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania, Cameroon and Ghana. 'Send a Cow' works through local community organisations who have come together to find solutions to the problems they face.

The provision of livestock and training in natural organic farming practices is helping farmers work their way out of poverty for good. Animals are purchased in Africa, making a further contribution to African economies. Diets are improved, the surplus is sold to bring in desperately needed income, and to pay for healthcare, clothes and better housing, and children are enabled to thrive through local schools and colleges. Continuing support is provided, and the gift is multiplied: every recipient guarantees to pass on what they have received to another impoverished family who has already received training: perhaps a calf, a beehive, or some apple tree seedlings. The family receiving will do the same in their turn, and so on. People who could only once receive can enjoy satisfaction and pride in becoming givers. One cow costs £750, and there are other possibilities, for example a pair of oxen at £210; two goats for £125; three sheep for £35; a beehive for £40; seeds plus training £50; 100 fruit tree saplings £30. Details are available from Send a Cow, The Rickyard, Newton St Loe, Bath, BA2 9BT, www.sendacow.org.uk (0845 6604670). We look forward to welcoming a speaker from 'Send a Cow' on Sunday 1st October at 9.30am.

Russell House School will be collecting tins this Harvest, for onward transmission to needy families in the East End of London, through St Saviour's Priory.

There will continue to be floral gifts sent through Harvest. We hope that this new initiative will be a happy and successful way of sharing the plenty we have in Otford.



AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Parochial Church Council have now agreed to appoint W.H. Simmonds of Wrotham to build the church extension and it is hoped that they will be able to start work towards the end of August, with completion in April next year. The specialist firm brought in to prepare the site – Archaeology South East – have now successfully completed their work including a

reduction in ground level, and the site is now secure in view of the depth of the excavations. Access to the graves in the north-west part of the churchyard can still be obtained via a new gate alongside Colet's Well.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR 2006

Monday 26th June. The rain is hosing down, the TV producers at Wimbledon are desperately searching the archives for something to entertain the millions waiting for play to start, and the Chairman of the Fair Committee is thinking how blessed we have been – twice, even three times blessed. Not only had Saturday been a gloriously sunny day, but the Lord had decreed that England's next match in the World Cup should be played on Sunday afternoon rather than Saturday. Moreover, if we had not moved the Fair back to June this year it would have clashed not only with Wimbledon but England's Quarter Final against Portugal.

Given the weather and the setting the Fair could not fail to be a success. Mark and Irene Roy had once again proved the most welcoming and accommodating of hosts, and as always the house and gardens provided the ideal backdrop. The weather clearly played its part in the increased profit on Ice Creams and also on Strawberries and Cream, and no doubt World Cup fever accounted for the Football Game actually doubling their takings! Elsewhere income was slightly down on last year, perhaps because the warm weather, the beguiling sounds of the Bartholomew Wind Band and the excellence of the teas tempted people to linger at the tables on the lawns. Certainly the Teas made an excellent profit in excess of £400, as did the Cakes who also won First Prize for the Best Dressed Stall. Despite gloomy prognostications and the problems created by the water shortage the Plants also took well over £400 – a just reward for a great deal of dedicated hard work.

Dedication and hard work plus a large measure of generosity – these are the hallmarks of our Fair. Unlike so many fetes these days the commercial element is minimal, all the stalls being self-financing and the only expenses being the hire of the main marquee, the sound system and the Bouncy Castle. The amount of preparatory work is enormous. It is hard to imagine how many hours went into designing and making the items for the Craft stall (not to mention the skill), and huge amounts of time were also devoted to cooking, collecting, delivering, sorting and pricing. On the day itself people came not only to work on the stalls and sideshows but to attend the car park, keep the gate, serve and wash up the teas, sell tickets for the Raffle or Tombola, paint faces and count cash. The working parties for setting up on Friday evening and clearing away after the Fair were also well attended. The net result of all these labours is a contribution of £5,268.83 to the Building Fund and we are immensely grateful to all who helped in any way.

Special thanks must go to the members of the Fair Committee. Margie Torry has the major task of recruiting and organising the stallholders and the fact that all the stalls were fully manned is a tribute to her formidable powers of persuasion. Peter Venables generously took on the job of Secretary (as well as intrepidly driving the OBM lorry) and was highly successful in obtaining sponsorship, both cash and donations and prizes for the Art Competitions and Raffle. It was also good to have him back at the Wheel of Fortune. Susan Reid's efficient marshalling of the Programme-sellers produced a bigger income than that from any single stall. In addition to running the Children's Tombola,

Christeen Malan took responsibility for the Art Competitions and, largely due to the enthusiastic support of Deborah Vigis, the number of entries was far higher than for several years past. Nobody worked harder than Sue Stephenson, and her contacts with other Village organisations proved extremely valuable.

Finally two unsung heroes. When the British Legion felt that they could no longer manage the Coconut Shy, Nobby Brackett took it on with some misgivings and actually increased the profits. Clive Southgate was not only the first to arrive on Friday evening but the last to finish the clearing away, delivering the rubbish to the tip. In between he erected marquees, organised the tables, chairs and other equipment, sorted the electrics, helped with two stalls and generally ensured that everything went smoothly on the day. Our grateful thanks to them both.

Colin Fleetwood



LITTLE OAST GARDEN. Pam Hadrill's garden at Little Oast will again be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 3rd September from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is £2.50, children free. There will be Home-made Teas, and plants 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 EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. At our June meeting we welcomed four new members. We then had a detailed and fascinating talk by Mr M. Wells on 'Canine Partners', describing how dogs are trained to help people live a normal life when they are unable to do things for themselves. Nearly every piece of furniture has a cord fixed to it, e.g. for opening a cupboard door, drawing or opening curtains, controlling light switches, the fridge door and believe it or not the various remote controls for the TV etc. The dogs sense what has to be brought to their owner, sometimes without a command.

On July 13th Lt Col. M. Martin gave us an excellent talk on 'Tales of a Battlefield Tour Guide Around the World'. Colonel Martin was in the Royal Hampshire Regiment for 28 years and moved homes 20 times in 22 years. When he retired he joined Holts Firm Tours in 1984. In order to get the best of a tour people must be willing to learn and get involved in things relating to the battlefields. Also a comfortable hotel is a big help. He certainly gave a full account of all the places he had visited in the progress of his journeys, and related several amusing incidents. All in all a very worthwhile talk.

Our next meeting is on Thursday August 10th, when there is a talk on 'Crime Prevention – How Not to Become a Victim'. This is not to be missed as it involves everybody whatever your age. See you all then.
(Diana Jeremiah, President)

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday September 5th at 8pm in the Village Memorial Hall Len Stebbings will talk on 'Container vegetables – with seasonal hints' – an illustrated talk and practical demonstration on how to grow vegetables on the patio. Admission (which includes refreshments) 50p to members, £1 non-members.

Then on Saturday September 9th is the Society's Autumn Flower and Craft Show, with vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, art, cookery and junior classes. This is at 2.15 to 4.15pm in the Village Hall, with admission 50p, under 15s free. Refreshments available until 4pm.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. There is a full-day outing to Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Berks, on Saturday September 2nd, commencing at 9am at Otford Pond. Waddesdon Manor was built in 1874-79 in the style of a magnificent 16th-century French chateau for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to entertain his guests and display his art treasures. It includes world-ranking collections of porcelain, carpet and paintings. It also has one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, including a rose garden and an outstanding parterre complete with statuary, plus a rococo-style aviary containing exotic birds.

There are various restaurants and cafés for lunch/afternoon tea, as well as picnic areas in the extensive grounds. Total cost per head £26.50, National Trust members £14.50 – further information from Cliff or Elizabeth Ward on 01959 522384.

SPOTLIGHT



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The Pavilion is now completed, and at the time of writing we hope that His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent on his private visit to Otford will have time to formally declare the opening of Otford's Eric Dilley Pavilion.

The Otford United Football Club which has done so much to assist in the provision of the building, is also intending to provide a path for pedestrians to the Pavilion. This will of course be used by the Tennis Club, which will contribute to maintenance of the section to the courts.

An invitation to Otford to twin with a French and German town/village has been received. It is from Précigné, a market town situated in Anjou (western France). It belongs to the 'communaute de communes' of Sable sur Sarthe and, like Otford, has about 3,000 inhabitants. Précigné has already twinned with a German village (Wewelsburg, near Paderborn), which is about the same size as Précigné, and for more than thirty years there have been regular exchanges between the two; often involving young people.

There are several people in Otford who speak French, but the invitation came from Mon. Salagnac, the Secrétaire du Comité de Jumelage, who speaks excellent English which he learnt in Otford (Twitton, to be precise), and there are already English people living in Précigné. It was largely Mon. Salagnac's affectionate memory of his stay here many years ago that led to the invitation. For further information there is a website that may be found under precigne.fr.

This is a splendid opportunity for all ages, and if you would be interested in participating in visits, please let the parish office know –524808.

The Pond. We hope to be able to go ahead shortly with the repair (re-puddling) of the base of the pond. This will mean more screens and vehicles in the centre of Otford, but it fits in well with the drought problem!

JGA



Do Not Delay doing God's work till Tomorrow

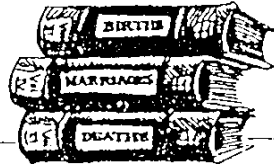
Principles do not apply themselves!

Lord, give me the grace to work to bring about the things that I pray for. *St Thomas More*

You are my portion, O Lord;
I have promised to obey your words.
I have sought your face with all my heart;
Be gracious to me according to your promise.
I have considered my ways and turned my steps to your statutes.
I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. Psalm 119, verses 57-60



Registers



Wedding (Our Congratulations)

17th June Joseph **Pockett** and Samantha Victoria Edwards

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

20th June Rae Doris **Whitehead** (aged 50) – Cremation
23rd June Marguerite Elizabeth **Roe** (aged 85) – Cremation

Church Offerings in June

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £511.00
Freewill Offerings £5,109.00

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