

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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SEPTEMBER 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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)
 8.00pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 – 9.30am First Steps (Oxford Evangelical Free Church)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. David Casiot)
- 7 – 2.30pm Ladies' Prayer Circle (4 Warham Road)
- 9 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (Foreman: Clive Southgate)
 10.00am-6.00pm Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride
- 10 – **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. David Casiot)
- 11 – 7.30pm CAMEO Coffee and Chat (50 Well Road)
- 13 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
Material for the October magazine by today, please, to Bernard Worssam, 19 Warham Road
- 14 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 17 – **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
- 18 – 8.00pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 19 – 8.00pm Mission Committee ('Beech Coppice', Old London Road, Dunton Green)
- 20 – 9.30am First Steps (Oxford Evangelical Free Church)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm Ministry Team (10 Flowerfield)
- 21 – 8.15pm Fundraising Committee (4 Pilgrims Way East)
- 24 – **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity: Poverty and Hope Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.00pm Evening Praise
- 25 – 7.30pm Focus (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 26 – 8.00pm Worship Committee (Vicarage)
- 27 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 28 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)

Some early October dates

- 1 – **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 2 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
- 3 – 8.00pm Church Extension Project Steering Committee (Church Hall)
- 4 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

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EDITORIAL

In my experience, nothing causes more discussion among churchgoers than the subject of worship. Perhaps that is not surprising for two reasons. When Jesus was summarising Christian teaching he spoke of the first commandment: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind'. Is it any wonder, then, that the power of evil, the devil, would make every effort to spoil our intention to keep that commandment in worship, distracting, dividing, deceiving? Secondly, if we want to give God his worth – which is what worship means – we shall be concerned to do that in the best way possible – and that 'best way' is different to each of us – which is what causes the discussion!

Such a dilemma was highlighted within last month's magazine. The supplement 'Home Words', printed by The Church Times, has been included in our parish magazine for many years, and the sentiments expressed are not necessarily those to which we might all adhere! Many of the articles are designed as discussion starters. The article, 'Singing Something Simple' by John King, was an example. In it, John slates a contemporary Russian hymn – 'How Great Thou Art' – which has recently been chosen as the nation's favourite. He wrote that the BBC programme Songs of Praise sometimes plumbed 'the depths of banality' and spoke of the choice of that hymn as 'eccentric'. He compares 17th century Addison's 'The spacious firmament on high' which he believes is 'seriously grown-up'. He speaks of harmful hymns 'corroding the coinage of worship'. More than that, he affirms that strangers to church read the unfamiliar words they're expected to sing and think 'who are these people who like such rubbish?' Ironically, 'How Great Thou Art' is just as popular with those who don't attend church as with those who do. Perhaps its popularity is linked to the fact that it begins with the experience of many: sensing God within his creation before coming to know him as a person. The vastness of the ocean has spoken to me of the depth of the love of God. For others, it is the beauty of hill and valley. For yet others, the experience of family life has pointed them to God their creator and friend.

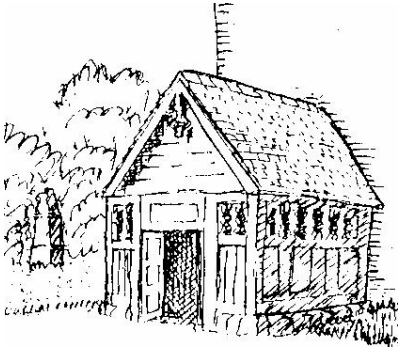
The words and music should be meaningful and of a high standard. It is sad that youngsters only remember hymns from primary school and are limited to such choices as 'Give me joy in my heart' or 'Lord of the Dance' for weddings. Isn't it illogical to ask within the hymn 'Jerusalem': 'and did those (Jesus') feet in ancient time walk upon England's mountains green?' when Jesus never did come to England? Amusing stories have been written about children's confusion over such hymns as 'Gladly the cross-eyed bear' and 'I will make you vicious old men*'. Many of our newer worship songs are excellent, but some presuppose a relationship with God which many Christians would not describe of themselves.

In the end, our earthly worship prepares us for heavenly worship. The book of Revelation gives us some idea of what that will be like. For now, we need to be united in God's love. As the Bible puts it, 'be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'. And as you come to worship this weekend, think on these words from the Danish philosopher, Kierkegaard: 'In worship, it often seems as though the worship leader is the actor and God is the prompter, whispering in his/her ear. The congregation listen and at the end they "applaud" if they like the way worship has been led, or throw things if they don't! But that is back to front. In reality, God is the audience, the congregation are the actors and the person leading worship is the prompter. So when we come together to worship, we come wanting to please God alone, offering to him our very best.'

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins

* *fishers of men*

**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



'Building On' Progress Report

The preparatory work in the churchyard is now complete and by the time you read this, our builders, W.H. Simmonds of Wrotham, will have begun work on the new extension. A special service on 20th August included prayers for those buried within the 'footprint' of the new building and prayers also for those who will be working on the project. The building has necessitated some tree work to be done but we will be implementing a replanting programme as soon as practicable.

Care will be taken to ensure the least possible disruption to traffic on the roundabout, the safety of pedestrians, and to ensure that the site is secure and tidy. We expect the building to be finished in April 2007, and the Bishop of Rochester will be coming to open it in May. We still have some way to go in respect of finance, and should be grateful of your support, not least in prayer. If you have any concerns please do ring the Vicar on 01959 523185.

The Autumn Sermon Series 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.

'First Steps'

This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and our own church and includes the opportunity for chat, refreshment, and also a short Bible story with singing and activities for the children including games and craft. It meets at the Evangelical Free Church fortnightly, and the next meetings are 6th and 20th September, from 9.30 to 11.30am.

'Back to Church Sunday'

This is to be Sunday 24th September and is to be held by many churches throughout the UK. It is designed to encourage back to their parish church those who for various reasons haven't attended for quite some time. It's an opportunity to sample the worship now offered by a 21st century church. At St Bartholomew's on that day we shall be offering an 8am service of Holy Communion based on the Book of Common Prayer, a 9.30am choral service of Holy Communion based on the Common Worship material, and a 5pm service of Evening Praise led by an informal music group. We'd love to see you at one of these services!

This Sunday is also Poverty and Hope Sunday when we have the opportunity to give through a voluntary retiring collection to needy projects at home and overseas, designated by Rochester Diocese.

New Pastoral Assistant

We look forward to welcoming as our new Pastoral Assistant Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, who is to work alongside Mrs Susan Reid. Margaret is already our Reader and she will be authorised as Pastoral Assistant on Sunday 1st October at 6.30pm at a service in Pembury Parish Church.

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.



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.

Harvest Gifts

This Harvest we shall not be distributing harvest goods within the village as we have in the past. Instead we shall be supporting the Christian charity 'Send a Cow'. This organisation works in ten of the poorest African countries: Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania, Cameroon and Ghana. 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).

If you would like to be part of our Harvest project this year, think about how much you would like to give, place the money or cheque in an envelope labelled 'Send a Cow' (preferably with a Gift Aid declaration so that the charity can claim more money from the Inland Revenue) and bring it to one of the Harvest services on **Sunday 1st October**. Children will receive a sticker and leaflets will be available for everyone. 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.

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

Healing Service at Rochester Cathedral

This is to be held on Saturday 14th October at 6pm. It is organised by the Diocesan Council for Health and Healing. The speaker will be an excellent communicator, Revd. Eric Delve, Vicar of St Luke's, Maidstone, and will include a time of worship with the opportunity for prayer and the laying-on of hands. Further details are available from Mrs Sally Forward on 01892 527592.

Children's 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.

Come and meet each other. If you want to meet with other 'solo' people then CAMEO is for you. Everyone is welcome. From September we will meet twice a month on Mondays at 7.45pm – on the second Monday of each month we meet for coffee and a chat and on the last Monday we meet to focus on a subject. In addition, we arrange for a variety of visits. The emphasis is on friendship, fellowship and getting to know each other. For further details phone the Church Office (523185).

Joyce Amrbose writes: CAMEO has planned a visit to the Churchill Theatre on Thursday 12th October at 2.30pm to see 'The Pirates of Penzance' performed by the Carl Rosa Opera Company. If you would like to come, please let me have your £22 before the 12th October and I will book the seats.

Feba Radio UK is planning an Open Day on Saturday 30th September from 9.30am to 4.30pm at its headquarters in Ivy Arch Road, Worthing (5 minutes' walk from Worthing Central Station). Visitors will be welcome to call in to meet members of staff for information and discussion, with demonstrations of the radio work, including the 'Studio in a Suitcase' of special interest in Alex Stout's training of workers in Cyprus and Lebanon. (R.B.)



OTFORD OVER-SIXTIES' SOCIAL CLUB. Our Autumn programme starts on Wednesday September 6th with a talk on the Mustard Seed Appeal (this is about the filling of shoe boxes for abroad). Then on September 20th we have an entertainment by the pupils of Russell House School. Information from Jill or Ed on 525775.

LITTLE OAST GARDEN. Pam Hadrill's garden at Little Oast will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday September 3rd from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is £2.50, children free, and there will be Home-made Teas, and plants for sale. Little Oast is beside the River Darent, at the west end of Otford High Street.

SEVENOAKS AND DISTRICT WEA. Courses will start in the week beginning September 25th, some running for ten weeks, some for twenty; and there are also to be some Saturday Day Schools. Details are in our brochure, available from the Otford Library. A 20-weeks Literature Course in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall entitled 'Journeys of the Mind', tutored by Christine Bett, starts on Monday October 10th – our Try Before You Buy policy allows you to attend the first session before committing yourself to enrolling for the full course. Further details can be obtained from Joyce Allen, Branch Secretary, on 01959 522915, or from Dorothy Palmer, Assistant Branch Secretary, on 01959 522936.

ENGINE TURNING. Martin Matthews invites you to the inaugural showing of his new film 'Engine Turning', produced by Barbara Darby as a video in both VHS and DVD versions. The showing will be at Oak Hall (Otford Manor) on Wednesday 4th October at 7.30 for 8pm, and will be followed by tea/coffee and desserts.

Parishioners may recall seeing Barbara's '**Four Generations of Watch Case Makers**' which came out in 1999 featuring Martin's family history. It became very successful, going international. In the new film Martin explains the development of the Lathe from antiquity to the Computer Age, from craft-decorated wooden items to finely-cut designs as seen under enamel and security-printed patterns on stamps and banknotes, produced by the Rose Engine and other geometric machines.

Martin is a member of Otford Methodist Church and is hoping to help support the building of their new Church Hall, by a donation on the evening if you so wish. Apart from this, both videos DVD and VHS etc, will be available on the evening at a special promotional price. Admission will be free, but in order to help with catering you are requested to phone Martin beforehand if you would like to come. To reach Oak Hall from Otford, take the Pilgrims Way East, then travel up Row Dow. At the top of the hill, bear round to the right (Birchin Cross Road), then turn right into Shorehill Lane about 400 yards further on.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. There was a good turn out of members at our August meeting and trade was brisk at the sales table. We heard a report on current progress of the long-awaited repairs to our village pond (a large catfish having been discovered lurking in the depths) – and our delegate to the recent National AGM at Cardiff in June gave us a good, descriptive report of her day there.

Our speaker, armed with garden spade, was an ex-WPC and her talk entitled 'Crime Prevention, how not to become a Victim' did all of that. Supermarkets, charity shops, car parks including those at cemeteries, the fleetingly empty car whilst mum drops the children off at school, are just some of the most vulnerable places where thieves are waiting to help themselves to our handbags and their contents. Wear your handbag underneath your coat, she told us, if you are spending a few hours in a busy city, and always lock your car when going to the kiosk to pay for the petrol you have just filled up with. Garden sheds need to be padlocked or alarmed to prevent garden tools from being used as implements to break into our houses (the garden spade was demonstrated here) and she told us to put our postcode on lawn mowers, chain saws, etc. She gave examples of some of the various scams used to trick us. Always beware of the casual caller with his/her tale of woe to play on our sympathy to gain entry. Trust no one she said – a sobering, sad but true state of the times.

We are a very friendly group and visitors are always welcome. How about coming along on 14th September to hear Tom Hart-Dyke tell us about orchid growing and being kidnapped in Columbia? Our meetings start at 7.30pm in the Otford Memorial Hall; ring Diana on 01959 522981 if you need to know more.

Brenda Young (Publicity Officer 01732 885356)

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, at 2.15 to 4.15pm in the Village Hall. Admission 50p, under 15s free. Refreshments will be available until 4pm.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. On Saturday September 2nd is a full-day outing, starting at Otford Pond at 9am, to Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Bucks. Waddesdon Manor is a National Trust mansion built in 1874-79 to house art treasures of the Rothschild family. As well as these it has fine Victorian gardens. For last-minute booking phone Cliff or Elizabeth Ward on 01959 522384.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The short private visit to Otford by HRH The Duke of Kent was a happy occasion, arranged by library staff and the Otford Society to show him certain features in the village. We were pleased the Duke made time to officially open the refurbished library and our new village sports pavilion, and to meet some who were connected with these projects. There was insufficient time to see all that Otford has to offer and meet more than a few other residents, and the inevitable security considerations also limited what could be done.

Work on the Pond has started because of the drought and the need to replace the base. The ducks went without any trouble to their summer residence and will return when

repairs are complete; the fish have travelled in air-conditioned comfort to a new public pond in London, where they will probably be able to continue with their bread diet. At the time of writing the pond is to be drained, fenced and allowed to dry before silt and some of the eroded clay is removed and fresh clay added and puddled. If any Swan mussels are found we will try to move them and care for them in a village pond – but I am not sure how easy it is to move them!

Twinning I return to the subject of twinning with Précigné (a small market town in Anjou, north-western France) and Wewelsburg in Germany, because we would like to know how many people are interested before we invite representatives from these villages to visit Otford in the autumn to give information on their villages and possibly arrange for us to visit them. If you would like to hear more about twinning at a public meeting, please let the parish office know.

Précigné has a web site where you can learn about the village (and Google can ‘translate’ for you); note, it is spelt with a ‘c’, not an ‘s’.

Planters in Otford have not had their summer bedding or any watering because of the drought and heat, and they are looking sad – particularly in comparison with premises that water regularly with piped systems.

We will have to consider if we should and can keep the planters in Otford. Do you have any views?

JGA

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family of **Ann Rushton** who died on 23rd July aged 82. Her funeral was held in church on 8th August followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells and interment in the church’s Memorial Garden. Following work in medical research, Ann married her husband Roland in 1943 and they brought up four children: David, Christopher, Annette and Katie, rejoicing later in the birth of ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Ann lived life to the full, writing for radio and magazines, keeping ducks, chickens and geese, breeding and training gundogs, enjoying riding. Later she trained as a teacher, including a year at the Sorbonne in Paris, working in Orpington and later at a local preparatory school. In retirement she ran an art gallery in Shipbourne and worked, selling and restoring, in a local antiques business, also manning the stands at the big antiques shows in London. Later Ann took up quilting and throughout her life loved gardening of which she had expert knowledge. She was fluent in French, later learning German, Italian, Greek and in the last year or so began an Open University course on Latin. Ann was interested in everything and was always interesting in her conversation. She was a very kind and thoughtful person, immensely supportive of her family and friends. Ann had a deep and abiding faith which enabled her to face her last illness with courage and peace, knowing the certainty of God’s ‘welcome home’ for her. She was immensely supportive of the work of the church here, and the Vicar paid tribute at her funeral to the key role which Ann had played in supporting and encouraging her.

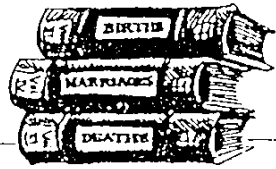
We send our condolences to the family of **Douglas Lamond Masters** who died on 26th July aged 79. His funeral was held at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 4th August.

We send our condolences to the family of **Gladys May Gillham** who died on 26th July aged 90. Her funeral was held at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 8th August followed by interment in the church’s Memorial Garden.

We send our condolences to the family of **Arthur Charles Frances Dipple** who died on 3rd August aged 79. His funeral was held on 18th August at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium followed by interment in the church’s Memorial Garden.



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

6th August Amy Isabelle **Cameron**
 6th August Benjamin Richard **Snook**
 13th August Joshua David **Reid**

Weddings (Our Congratulations)

15th July Anthony David **Burrows** and Kathryn Elizabeth **Lanceley**
 22nd July Nicholas Frederick William **Pearcy** and Ruth **Alexander**
 29th July Nicholas **Bowerman** and Caroline Jane **White**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

4th August Irene May **Jordan** (aged 95) – Cremation
 4th August Douglas Lamond **Masters** (aged 79) – Cremation
 8th August Gladys May **Gillham** (aged 90) – Cremation
 8th August Pamela Ann **Rushton** (aged 82) – Cremation

Church Offerings in July

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £1,778.73
 Freewill Offerings £4,206.00



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