

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	CU@5 - Church Hall -	BCP Evensong - Choir -
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Hall -	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Hall -	Evensong - Choir
FOURTH	BCP HC	Morning Worship with Communion - Choir	CU@5 - Church Hall -	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Choir	CU@5 - Church Hall -	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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MARCH 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 - 2.00pm Women's World Day of Prayer (Methodist Church)

3 - 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)

4 - **The Second Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Morning Worship with children and baptism of Louis James Kitchener Handy

- 11.00am** Baptism of Lisa Jane Whitbread
5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 5 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
 2.30pm Otford Benevolent Society meeting (10 Bubblestone Road)
 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
 8.00pm Lent Course (Methodist Church)
- 7 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.00am Lent Course (Vicarage)
 8.00pm Standing Committee (Vicarage)
- 10 – 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)
- 11 – The Third Sunday of Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 12 – 7.45pm Coffee and Chat (14 Warham Road)
 8.00pm Finance Committee (‘Lorien’, St Michael’s Drive)
- 13 – 8.00pm Lent Course (Methodist Church)
- Material for the April magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, ‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TQ.
 matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 14 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.00am Lent Course (Vicarage)
 8.00pm Ecumenical Committee (18 The Old Walk)
- 17 – 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)
- 18 – The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW) and baptism of Amélie Grace Muir
5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong
- 19 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 20 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
 8.00pm Lent Course (Methodist Church)
- 21 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.00am Lent Course (Vicarage)
 8.00pm PCC meeting (Side Hall)
- 24 – 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)
- 25 – British Summer Time begins: Clocks FORWARD one hour**
The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passiontide begins
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)
- 26 – 7.45pm Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 27 – 8.00pm Lent Course (Methodist Church)
- 28 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. John Goulding)
 11.00am Lent Course (Vicarage)
- 31 – 9.00am onwards Spring cleaning of the Church
 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)

see page 10 for early April dates

EDITORIAL

'Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace.'

This is the prayer in use in the Anglican Church for the third Sunday of Lent, which this year falls on 11th March. It is called a 'Collect' because it collects together in a prayer the themes of the readings set for that day.

Lent is a time for reflection and for facing reality, not least the admitting of failure and shortcoming within our lives, and the resolving, with God's help, to begin again, to endeavour to be more Christlike, coming closer to him.

Such a resolve to come closer to him means the willingness to walk in the way of the Cross. That is not something we find easy. Many of us shun pain of all kinds, whether medical or dental. Some dislike visiting hospitals or care homes, knowing that the surroundings of such places may become familiar one day. In days gone by, early bereavement was commonplace; today people often expect that they and those close to them will live to considerable old age without major illness.

Christ calls us to follow in the way of the Cross. Spiritually speaking, that means being prepared to be totally committed to him, reflected in the way we lead our lives as Christians. Put simply, it is the preparedness to love until it hurts. Has the Church in this country become lethargic, apathetic, cosy and comfortable? Does it avoid the pain of loving both God and neighbour? Then it has forsaken the way of the Cross.

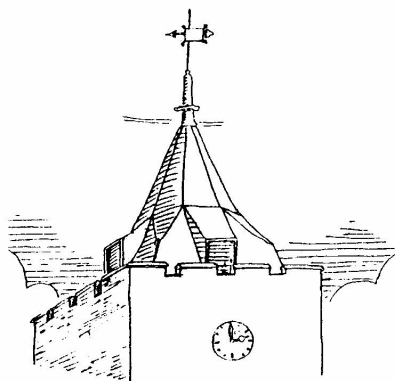
The Methodist Church, at the beginning of each year, celebrates a Covenant Service, to remind themselves of God's covenant of love to them and their own response to his love. In the season after Christmas it was used in the morning service in the Anglican Church. It includes this prayer, which I have altered to the singular pronoun:

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to
your pleasure and disposal,
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

It is a good prayer on which to reflect in this Lenten season. For to truly discover what it means to walk in the way of the Cross brings a deeper knowing, a more precious understanding of the God whose name is Love.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins

**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



Women's World Day of Prayer

This falls on Friday 2nd March and a service will be held at the Methodist Church at 2pm on that day. The speaker will be Jenny McPherson, Warden of Readers in the Anglican Church.

Confirmation classes begin in March for the Confirmation service to be held on Sunday 22nd July at 6.30pm in the Parish Church. There are several adult vacancies.

Lent Course

This is to be held on Tuesdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March at 8pm in the Methodist Church. The evening will begin with refreshments and then be followed by a short Lenten meditation and an audio tape on the subject of 'Sharing Our Faith'. It will end at 9pm. The course will be repeated in the daytime, on Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March, at 11am in the Vicarage. All are welcome.

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 18th March, and we look forward to the baptism of Amélie Muir at the 9.30am service on that day. Posies will be offered to ladies in the congregation.

Palm Sunday

This is on Sunday 1st April, and there will be the usual united churches' Procession, beginning at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church at 10.30am and ending with an act of worship on The Green, followed by refreshments in the Parish Church. Palm crosses will be available at all services on that day.

Maundy Thursday is on 5th April, and there will be a united churches' service at the Parish Church at 8pm. This service commemorates the Last Supper.

Good Friday

This is on 6th April. There will be a service for all ages at 9.30am on that day and also the Three Hours' Meditation on The Cross, lasting from 12 noon to 3pm. The latter will be based on the book 'Seven Words for Three Hours' with talks by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, Lucy Winkett and Edmund Newell, Canons of St Paul's Cathedral, Tarjei Park, Vicar of Golders Green, Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, Sabina Alkire, Economist, and Giles Fraser, Lecturer in Philosophy at Wadham College, Oxford, and music by Adrian Snell, composer, and cellist Hannah Alkire, who has made solo appearances at St Paul's and Westminster Abbey. There will be hymns and times of silence as usual within the service.

Easter Day is on Sunday 8th April, and there will be services of Holy Communion at 8 and 9.30am, the latter being more informal. There will be a service of Festal Evensong at 6.30pm on that day, featuring special Easter music. Do join us!

Oxford Guild of Bellringers

The Guild held its AGM on 25th January, and it was agreed to change the time of ringing on the Thursday practice evening to begin at 7.45pm and end at 9.15pm.

Wanted urgently! An Editor for this magazine. Only two/three days work a month. Willing support always available from the Vicar and Office. Advice on hand from current Acting Editor and the Editor Emeritus. Opportunity for service to church and village. Please contact the Vicar or David Matthews for an initial discussion.

PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS !

We hope that is what you will do to support our

COUNTRY GARDEN FAIR

At

CHEVENING

**On Sunday 15th July
from 2–5pm**

Please put the date in your diary and watch this space !

Most of the stalls and attractions will come from ‘outside’ but St Bart’s will be providing and manning stalls with CAKES, CRAFTS, BOOKS, CHURCH ITEMS SUCH AS MUGS, SHIRTS ETC. AND AN ARTS DISPLAY, ie PAINTINGS, BRONZES.

If you think you can help in any way by baking, making craft items or just offering an hour or so’s help on the day, please speak either to Sue Stephenson (524808) or (523789) or Sally Woestmann on 523392. We really do need to hear from you !

Thank you in anticipation.

St Bart’s Crafts at Chevening

Work on items for the Craft Stall is already underway but we need all the help we can get to make this the biggest and most attractive yet. To this end, we are holding an open meeting between 2.30 and 4.00pm on Saturday 17th March 2007 in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome so please come along with any ideas, materials etc. and view some articles already produced. Janet (Hunt) and I are hoping to hold a few teaching sessions, covering a variety of crafts from easy to more difficult. Watch for further details in the weekly notices. We know that there are a great many talented people in the village and we need you! If you have any queries, ideas, etc., please contact me by telephone or at Church.

Sylvia Grafton (01732 452117)



We are happy to report that building work is proceeding according to plan. You may have seen a large crane on site in early February which lifted the roof trusses into position. By the time you read this, the roof tiling should be underway. Pupils from Otford Primary and Russell House Schools were excited to

sign their names on the reverse of some of the tiles and to think who might discover them in several hundred years' time!

Plans are going well for the Country Fair at Chevening on Sunday 15th July. Proceeds from the entrance fees, teas and the stallholders' fees will go to the Building On Fund.

MISSION MATTERS

Sarah Hubbard reports that she will be leaving for Argentina on 14th March 2007 (until 10th July) as part of a 12-person team sent out by the charity, Latin Link, to work on two church projects.

The first project will be based in Venado Tuerto (70,000 inhabitants), which is 322Km south of Santa Fe in the province of the same name, in conjunction with a Pentecostal church. The Iglesia Emanuel Church (Pastor Hugo Fuertes) has its own radio station and the aim of the project is to build a base for the station so that it can continue broadcasting in the area and gain an official licence. The radio station has good government and church support but really needs a proper building to be eligible for the licence.

The second project will take place in Tartagal, a small town in the north of Argentina, in the province of Salta, linked to a small Baptist church, the Iglesia Bautista Jesu Cristo para Todos. This time the work is to finish off three classrooms, which are to be used for the Sunday school, and help to build a new church kitchen. More details on Latin Link's projects can be found on www.stepteam.org

Sarah says that she plans to liaise with her mum Jacky's class at Otford Primary School by e-mail and would like to take out letters introducing people to new pen pals and e-mail addresses for other contacts.

She has raised most of the necessary money to enable her to go by her own efforts and is very grateful for the contribution of £300 from the church. Each team member has been asked to raise an extra £200 beyond their own needs as a contribution to church funds in Argentina and she is still working on that.

In addition, Latin Link advise that, if team members are given any other extra money, then that could be converted into pesos in order to buy some gifts in Argentina for the church or use it to pay for a special treat, such as an outing for the children.

Depending on space in her luggage, Sarah has been asked to consider taking out clothing, painkillers (e.g. Panadol Extra: apparently very expensive and in short supply), materials for Sunday schools, puzzles and toys.

Sarah is happy to be contacted on Sarah@otford.net if you would like any information or to support her in some way.

BARTHOLOMEW CONCERT 3rd February 2007

It was so good to play for you again. Thank you for your support and your many appreciative comments confirming that this was a very successful concert, AND thank you to the parents and friends who made the event run so smoothly.

Bartholomew is now in its nineteenth year, and we are still enjoying ourselves, still making music, still entertaining you. Of course, most of us are not original! Every year we say goodbye to some players, and welcome others. There has always been something special about 'Bartholomers'. We are much more than the sum total of our parts, and thank God for bringing us together and making our music possible.

There have been so many inquiries this year that auditions are being held for the next season, which will begin in September. Although this concert featured mainly young people this time, Bartholomew is for musicians of any age, and we particularly welcome returning players. So, if that woodwind is gathering dust in the attic, please rescue it, and come and join us. There are 10 rehearsals a year (Sept to Jan), on Sunday afternoons, with two concerts which raise funds for Hospice in the Weald and St Bartholomew's Church. For more details please contact Jean Kelsey on 01732 462409, or speak to any band member.

We are looking forward to entertaining you again at ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR on June 16th. See you there!

JK



ROUNDABOUT

THE OTFORD PLAYERS. Regrettably, The Otford Players' March 2007 production of 'My Friend Miss Flint' has to be cancelled as the leading man is unable to combine his teaching position in Guildford with rehearsals in Otford. There have also been problems with rehearsal venues. It is hoped to perform the play at a future date and in the meantime the Players are seeking people who are not only keen to act but also keen to work backstage on building the set, scenery, etc. If you are interested please contact Marian Wills on 01959 522856, Sue Simpson on 01959 525404 or Ken Gunderson on 01959 522709. We should be delighted to hear from you!

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. The ever-popular Monty Parkin was the speaker at our February meeting and his talk, with slides, entitled 'Women in Print' charted the presentation, through advertising, of women through the ages. They were definitely victims of fashion, wearing cosmetics which damaged the skin, compressing their bodies into the 'Electric Corset' and wobbling along in their hobble skirts. A gleaming house was the reward for the 1930s housewife if she used Mansion Polish on the furniture, Mirro for cleaning her pans, with a glass of Wincarnis wine to boost her flagging spirits at the end of the day. The final slide of a 21st century man loading the washing machine showed that, finally, women had thrown off their earlier chains of domesticity. It was an amusing and enjoyable talk, presented in Monty's gentle, deprecating style and much enjoyed by the members.

Tables are rapidly being snapped up for our Boot Fair on 21st April. If you are hoping to dispose of your unwanted items ring Diana without delay on 01959 522981. Tables cost only £8, entry at the door is 50p.

Our next meeting is on 8th March when we will welcome a speaker from the Demelza Children's Hospice. Come along at 7.30pm and join us.

Brenda Young

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. On Wednesday March 21st at 8pm in the Village Hall, Julia Page will speak on the subject of 'Britain v. Napoleon: Wellington and Waterloo 1815'. This will be the last of her well-received series of talks that have dealt with the progress of the Peninsular War, in which Wellington was involved from the start in 1808. Visitors will be welcome to the meeting, at £1.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday March 6th at 8pm in the Village Hall there will be a talk by Peter Collett on 'Growing less common fruit', showing how gardeners can easily enjoy such fruits as blueberries and apricots. Admission price, which includes refreshments, will be 50p for members, and £1 for non-members. Then, on Saturday March 31st, is our SPRING SHOW, in the Village Hall from 2.15 to 4.15pm. There will be classes for spring flowers, photography, flower arrangements, cookery, and Juniors. Admission is 50p, under 16s free, and refreshments will be available until 4pm.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE (formerly CWCI – Christian Women Communicating International). Have you read 'Dancer off her Feet' by Julie Sheldon? It's a book recommended by the Alpha Course. Julie will be the speaker at the Know Your Bible Conference on Monday 12th March at 9.45am to 2.30pm at St Nicholas's Church, Sevenoaks. Her theme is P.E.P. – Patience, Endurance, Perseverance. Do come and hear Julie. It's sure to be a good, faith-strengthening day. Contact Joyce Ambrose (01959 523782) if you would like more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

I am pleased to report that our Village Design Statement is being put together by a reconstituted committee under the chairmanship of Mr Rod Shelton. Nine villages in this district have completed a VDS and defined what they would like in the field of planning; six, including Otford, are preparing theirs. Statutory requirements take precedence, but these Design Statements, when supported by a high proportion of residents, are expected to influence the operation of the District Council's planning process.

If you are concerned about the way in which building developments are changing Otford, there will be a chance for you to take part in a workshop to express your views; a one-day event is being planned.

A resident elsewhere said: 'If we don't speak now, our feelings about our village may never be considered.'

Otford is the centre of the District – we are told – and Sevenoaks District Council has chosen Otford Recreation Ground to launch their new Community Plan, a few days after the Otford Fete. There will be an 'ice rink', stalls, etc. so it will be a busy week for us in May – and congratulations to the ladies who have formed the fete committee and are busy making arrangements.

In January there was more vandalism than usual, with graffiti in various places (there have been arrests in the district for this offence) and dumping on council land, some of it large items that could only have been brought by a vehicle. If you see it occurring, please take the vehicle number and report it to the police (01622 690680) or parish council.

In a similar way, attempts to 'beautify' areas of open council land by planting or placing objects on them are unwelcome and may be illegal. If you have suggestions about council land, please bring them to the attention of the council.

All these activities take money that could be used constructively.

JGA

IN MEMORY

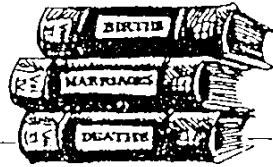
We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Robert Sidley** who died on 9th January aged 72. His funeral was held at the Parish Church on 18th January followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Robert was born in Pinner, Middlesex, attending Public School in Hertfordshire. At the age of 17 he was admitted to the Warsosh School of Navigation to begin a career in the Merchant Navy. In 1957 he joined the Straits Steamship Company in Singapore, and was later appointed captain of SS Bidor, operating in the Far East. In 1963 he met his wife, Mary, and they were married a year later. They returned to the UK in 1965 and Robert was appointed by Trinity House to be a Thames River Pilot, where he remained until his retirement. He then became involved in local politics, first as a Parish Councillor and then as District Councillor. He and Mary celebrated the arrival of two children: Mark, who gave a tribute at the funeral, and Carina. Robert's main interests were nautical activities, travelling abroad, walking, golf and the Arts. He and Mary were also members of their Parish Church. He was sadly afflicted by Alzheimer's disease at the end of his life and donations for the local branch of the Alzheimer's Disease Society were given in his memory. He was lovingly cared for by his family and by Abbey Court Nursing Home.

SOME EARLY APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 – Sunday next before Easter: Palm Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
10.30am Palm Sunday Procession (meet at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford)
5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)
6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30pm Evensong (Preacher: Revd. Joseph Whiting)



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

28th January Isabella Grace Hannah **Richardson**
 11th February Katie Emma Louise **Williams**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

18th January Robert **Sidley** – aged 72 (Cremation)
 22nd January Pamela Joyce **Davey** – aged 79 (Burial)

Church Offerings in January

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£447.20
Freewill Offerings	£5,245.00

KENTDOWN MUSHROOMS

Seasoned logs cut to size

Ash for open fires

Chestnut for wood stoves

Call the mushroom man – 01474 703164