

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 | cu@5 - Church Hall - |
| FIFTH | CW HC | Matins - 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 and Mrs Wood.

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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APRIL 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 – **PALM SUNDAY: Sunday next before Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

10.00am Palm Sunday Procession (commencing at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford)

6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)

6.30pm Evensong

HOLY WEEK

- 2 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am (excluding Bank holidays)**
2.30pm Feba meeting (41 Park Hill Road)
- 4 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 5 – **Maundy Thursday: No Bellringing**
8.00pm **Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's Church**
- 6 – **GOOD FRIDAY: 9.30am Informal Service for All Ages**
12-3.00pm Three Hours Devotion at The Cross
(Rev. Pat Hopkins)
- 7 – 9.00am Decoration of the Church for Easter
- 8 – **EASTER DAY:**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
9.30am **Morning Worship with Holy Communion (CW)**
6.30pm **Festal Evensong**
- 9 – **Bank Holiday: There will be no Morning Prayer**
- 11 – 10.00am Holy Communion (Rev. David Casiot)
- 13 – **Material for the May magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ**
matthews.dg@lineone.net
- 14 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party
- 15 – **The Second Sunday of Easter (Easter 1 BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
6.30pm **Evensong**
- 16 – 7.45pm Coffee and Chat (Twitton Oast)
- 17 – 8.00pm **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church Hall)**
- 18 – 8.00pm Deanery Synod
- 19 – 8.00pm Fair Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 22 – **The Third Sunday of Easter (Easter 2 BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (BPC)**
9.30am **Holy Communion (CW)**
5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Hall)**
- 24 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
8.00pm Project Steering Committee (Church Hall)
- 25 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Evangelical Free Church)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 28 – 9.30am United Churches' Prayer Meeting (Church Hall)
- 29 – **The Fourth Sunday of Easter (Easter 3 BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
9.30am **Matins**
6.30pm **Contemplative Service**
- 30 – 7.45pm Focus Group

Some early May dates

- 1 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 8.15am (excluding Bank Holidays)**
2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 2 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00pm PCC meeting (Side Hall)

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EDITORIAL

Happy Easter!

If there is one gift God could grant you, what would it be? Could it be for you the gift of Peace – peace of mind and heart, peace within your family, peace among the nations? Could it be instead Truth: the ability to discern between conflicting voices, the certainty of clear guidance, for you and for those whom you love? Or would you ask for Love, to energise your life and to give you a meaning for living?

Our Choir sang recently a moving anthem from a poem written by Digby Mackworth Dolben, a friend of Gerald Manley Hopkins, who had drowned tragically at the age of nineteen. The words had been set to music by Canon Anthony Caesar who has written much excellent music, including our own Communion setting, and even a special anthem based on words from Psalm 127 for the opening of our new church extension: 'Except the Lord build the house: their labour is lost that build it'.

Dolben's poem reminds us of our search for the things we would hold dear, and the fruitlessness of such a search, given our human failings. In seeking the Creator rather than anything created, the poet found he had all things:

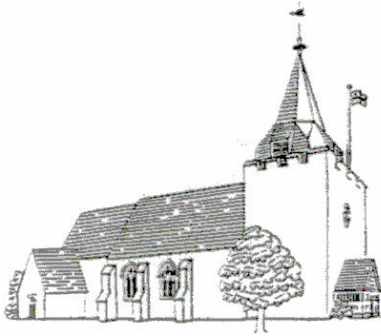
*I asked for Peace – my sins arose,
And bound me close, I could not find release.
I asked for Truth – my doubts came in,
And with their din, they wearied all my youth.
I asked for Love – my lovers failed,
And grief assailed, around, beneath, above.
I asked for Thee – and Thou didst come
To take me home, within Thy heart to be.*

This is my Easter prayer for you, taken from the Iona Community in Scotland:

*Lord of the empty tomb, the conqueror of gloom, come to you.
The Lord in the garden walking, the Lord to Mary talking,
come to you.
The Lord in the upper room, dispelling fear and gloom,
come to you.
The Lord on the road to Emmaus, the Lord giving hope to Thomas,
come to you.
The Lord appearing on the shore, giving life for evermore,
come to you.*

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins

**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



Palm Sunday

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 8.00 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!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th April at 8pm in the Church Hall. For many reasons this will be a special meeting and we do hope all parishioners will join us as we look back with thanksgiving and forwards with hope.

Calling all Otford Christians!

You may live in Otford but for various reasons worship elsewhere. We are sure that you have a concern for your village and we hope, therefore, that you will join us for the United Prayer Meeting on Saturday 28th April from 9.30 to 10.30am in the Church Hall to pray for the village and for all the churches from Otford and beyond which will be represented.

Traditional Services. For those who love the Book of Common Prayer, there is a choral service of Matins on the fifth Sunday of the month, the next being Sunday 29th April at 9.30am. On the fourth Sunday of each month, the 8am service of Holy Communion is based on the Book of Common Prayer. The 6.30pm service on the first and third Sunday in the month is one of Evensong based on the same Book, led by our Choir. The midweek service of Holy Communion, at 10am every Wednesday, is also a Prayer Book service.

CU@5 Service

This popular informal service, held weekly in the Church Hall at 5pm, is taking a break for April (except 22nd April) and will recommence for the early summer period from Sunday 6th May. Do come along if you haven't been before – and if you have, do bring your friends!

Contemplative Service. This is held on the fifth Sunday evening of the month, the next one being Sunday 29th April at 6.30pm. It gives an opportunity to be still and listen to God before the busyness of a new week.

Date for your Diary – Village Celebration Service

The Otford Celebration Service, formerly known as the Civic Service, takes place on Sunday 13th May at 9.30am. This Sunday is also Rogation Sunday and will give special opportunity for thanksgiving and prayer for our village and community.

PARCELS OF LOVE

Letter from Oak Hall in Serbia to St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

... Thank you so much for the gift of £100 that you have passed to us for Oak Hall in Serbia. Thank you, too, for the beautifully prepared parcels that you delivered to us. Many refugees will be very touched by your generosity.



This all comes as a great blessing as the work in Serbia continues. Please pass on our thanks to all around you who have helped in preparing this very generous gift.

The work of the Bible School develops at a wonderful pace – now led by the national team. We praise God for all that He is doing in these most significant days!

May you know God's leading and blessing as you continue to walk with Him.

Yours in his service

Andy and Faye Mayo



News from the building site: the roof of the new Church Centre went up without difficulty and is now being boarded and tiled. Once the roof is complete, we should start to see the rate of progress accelerate. The wet weather has caused a small delay, but we are still on course for completion in June.

Much careful thought is being given to various design matters, such as the layout of the new kitchen and the eventual landscaping of the area around the completed Church Centre. Plans are being made for a celebratory service to mark the inauguration of the building.

Fundraising news: there is no major increase to report on the total funds raised, but small sums are still coming in. Many adults and children enjoyed signing a roof tile at the beginning of February, and this exercise raised £900. Thanks are due to all those who organised the very enjoyable Wine and Wisdom evening which, in turn, raised the sum of £600.

Plans are progressing well for the **Country Garden Fair** in the grounds of **Chevening House** on **Sunday 15th July** from **2.00-5.00pm**. So far, we have received £125 from organisations reserving stalls.

Please telephone Sue Stephenson (523789 or 524808) or Sally Wostmann (523392) for more details or if you can put up a poster in a suitable place to attract professional stall-holders.

Vicki Howie

MISSION MATTERS

As a result of our 2006 review, we welcome to our list of partners **The Mission Aviation Fellowship, whose purpose is to multiply the effectiveness of the Church, using aviation and other technologies that overcome barriers in reaching the world for Christ.**

The flights support Christian workers, evangelists, teachers, medical personnel, relief and development workers; haul food, seed, and livestock; transport the sick and injured; deliver doctors, medicine and relief supplies, and carry the materials for a better life to people who need it most – people others cannot reach.

In 2005, the MAF fleet of 54 aircraft executed 36,761 flights, logged 3,461,427 miles, transported 111,666 passengers, and delivered 10.8 million pounds of cargo, all on 1,700 rough, unimproved dirt and grass airstrips as well as waterways.

One MAF 'plane can haul a half-ton of cargo into a region that would otherwise require a train of pack animals, several guides and weeks of gruelling effort to reach by land. In 2006 MAF 'planes saved Christian and humanitarian workers 71,684 days of travel time or 296 work years redeemed for productive work!

Also, in the wake of natural disasters and civil wars, the 'planes can take off and land on short, crude airstrips to reach those in the greatest need.

KILIMANJARO HIKING CHALLENGE 2007 FOR MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

I have now safely returned from my experience in Tanzania.

I successfully completed the Kilimanjaro Trek but did not reach the summit as I got altitude sickness on the final assault.

I have to say it was the hardest challenge I have taken part in and out of 31 trekkers only 10 reached the top. A great achievement for them and the team work of us all in the party.

We spent four gruelling days ascending from 1800m to 4600m via the Machame route.

Day 1. 1800m to 3100m. 10.30am to 4.30pm, through magnificent forest to our first camp site.

Day 2. 3100m to 3840m. 9.00am to 2.00pm, through jungle forest and a steep climb to the Shira Plateau. Camp site 2.

Day 3. 3840m to 4800m and down to 3900m. 9.00am to 5.00pm, walking at high altitude for acclimatization via the Lava Tower at 4800m, and returning to a lower altitude for camp site 3.

Day 4. 3900m to 4600m. 9.00am to 7.00pm. A hard day starting with a rock ascent of the Barranco Wall, followed by the arid and desolate landscape with scree and passing under the glacier until we reached the most inhospitable and rocky camp site (4) on earth at Barafu, in howling winds.

Day 5. 4600m to 3000m via the summit. 1.00am to 3.00pm. After only two hours sleep and with little appetite for the meals provided we set off for the summit in the cold in the dark and a howling wind. After a short distance I felt dreadful and lacked energy, unable to continue and realising that I had altitude sickness and would not make the summit. I was escorted back to the tents. Not everyone had set off and many returned during the night, all escorted and some carried by the guides.

Those who continued reached either the crater rim or the top, returning via steep scree and rock to the tents. After resting and in different groups we descended to the Millennium camp site 5. A steep downhill trek on scree and loose surface through scrub until we reached the top of the forest.

Day 6. 3000m to 1800m. 9.00am to 2.30pm. A gentle trek down to the Mweka Gate through the forest, for lunch and return to the hotel by coach.

Thank you for all your support. Though I did not make the summit I did what I set out to achieve and completed the hardest trek I ever want to tackle.

Tony Grogan

This is an early warning about copy being needed early in May for the June magazine because of holiday arrangements: copy should reach David Matthews by Sunday 8th May.



ROUNDABOUT

OTFORD AFTERNOON WI celebrated its 88th Birthday on 6th March with a lunch for the members, followed by a talk entitled 'Life as a Cruise Director'. The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th April when one of our members, Margaret McKendrick, will be telling us all about herbs.

Gladys Lampon has for very many years been the Pilgrims Way District Outings Representative and has arranged many memorable coach trips and outings for the District WI, but Gladys recently moved to a residential home in Sevenoaks and is unable to continue with the organising that all this entails. We are, however, very fortunate in that Joyce Allen has volunteered to take on this role and has many interesting ideas for the future. This and many other interests are catered for in the WI.

Oxford Afternoon WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 2.00pm and, if you would like to join us, just come along or ring Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736, or look at the Otford.net website for more details. You will be made very welcome.

Joyce Shaw

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OAST will meet on 19th April when 'Hypnotherapy' will be our topic for this month. We have Mair Stratton coming to explain all. Hypnotherapy is a recognised tool for dealing with a wide range of situations, practical, physical and emotional.

Susan Stacey

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Vice-president Pat Goddard took the March meeting and there was certainly the opportunity to enter plenty of diary dates as the various reps gave details of forthcoming events.

Laura Carey from the children's hospice Demelza House was an excellent speaker, introducing us to its layout by way of a 'tour' through the various rooms and facilities. Every effort is made to make the small, young patients welcome and at ease. Medical equipment is kept out of sight in each of the eight bedrooms and everything to help and provide comfort for a child's stay has been carefully thought out. A water feature has been constructed by the School of Military Engineering and some of the crew of HMS Kent spend time doing practical jobs when on shore leave. A dog and three goats at Demelza House are popular pets. All this costs a great deal and £3.5m is needed annually to keep the hospice running.

Joan Beacom was the lucky winner of the bursary and she will shortly be applying for her chosen course at Denman College.

At our April meeting the institute celebrates its 48th birthday with a hot meal followed by birthday cake (no candles!) and entertainment together with a good helping of laughter and friendship. If any member has not yet bought her ticket please ring Chris Bourne on 522485.

Brenda Young

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. On Wednesday 18th April at 8pm in the Village Hall Gwen Jones will give a talk entitled 'Oast Houses: their History and Development' – a subject about which little is generally known but which must intrigue many, not only visitors to Kent, but also long-term residents. Non-members of the Society will be welcome to the meeting, at £1.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. The April meeting of the Society is on Tuesday 3rd April at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall, when Irene Palmer will speak on 'A Day Out With Darwin', which will look at how a great man (and a Kent resident)

worked. Admission price (including refreshments) is 50p members, £1 non-members. Then on Tuesday 1st May at the same venue Paul Twyman will speak on 'Trees and shrubs for the small garden'.

For details of all events please contact the Society Secretary, Janet Finney, on 01959 523760, or email gardeners@Oxford.net or visit the Society's website www.oxford.info/gardeners.

Country Style is holding a coffee morning and spring/summer ladies fashion sale on behalf of **AGE CONCERN** (Charity No. 1088213). It will be held at Darenth Valley Golf Club, Station Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, on Thursday 12th April between 10am and 3pm. Admission £2.00 to include coffee and biscuits.

Delicious bar snack/lunch available from the Golf Club. Treat yourself to a leisurely day at this lovely venue and enjoy the innovative shopping experience for affordable, quality, well known, colour co-ordinated fashions for all occasions in sizes 10 to 20. Please bring your friends and help us support this worthy charity. For further details please telephone Val Garner on 01825 744131.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Oxford and the Parish Council. The Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council, Councillor Mrs Cook, visited Oxford in March to learn more about the parishes in the District. Mrs Cook was sufficiently impressed to write afterwards that we are a vibrant and active village, and that she was amazed at all the projects for which the parish council is now responsible. These reflect on the time and effort that parish councillors and clerks put into meeting Oxford's needs.

On 'Planning'. Some will know that the whole system is undergoing a fundamental change in the way in which decisions are made. At the local level, instead of a Sevenoaks District Local Plan that attempts to define in some detail what may be done, there will be a 'Local Development Framework' (LDF) supported by such things as a Sustainability Appraisal.

March is the month when policies will either be moved to the LDF or omitted. In the latter case this is mainly because they are said to be aims rather than policies, or are covered by *national* planning policy statements. More than half are due to be dropped for these reasons.

All of which may seem to be abstract paperwork but will to a large extent determine changes involving Oxford buildings. This will affect all who live here – and for some it will have a major impact. Some affected by some recent applications will know that national standards on what is thought desirable or permissible for new housing have changed considerably since the majority of Oxford's homes were built.

Our Village Design Statement, when finished and approved, will be taken into account when decisions are made on new developments, and if you wish to have any influence on what goes into the Statement and happens in future, you will have an opportunity early in June to see a draft and comment on it.

The launch of the Community Plan will be on 30th May on our Recreation Ground. It will be different from the Fete, and will have something of interest – and importance – for all ages. So far over twenty-five 'events' have been listed. More information later...

JGA

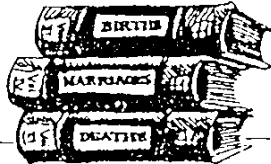
OBEDIENCE TO GOD

It is not that we do not know God's commands but that we do not do them – and then, of course, as a result of such disobedience, gradually lose the capacity to recognise God's command for what it is. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

You came, Lord Jesus Christ,
to teach us the way of life which God requires:
Make us receptive to your word,
And help us to obey, whatever it may cost,
that our lives may bear much fruit;
to the glory of your name. Amen



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)
4th March Lisa Jane **Whitbread** (adult)
4th March Louis James Kitchener **Handy**
18th March Amélie Grace **Muir**

Church Offerings in February
Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £270.01
Freewill Offerings £4,079.00

KENTDOWN MUSHROOMS

Seasoned logs cut to size

Ash for open fires

Chestnut for wood stoves

Call the mushroom man – 01474 703164