

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Hall -	BCP Evensong - Choir -
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Hall -	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Hall -	Evensong - Choir
FOURTH	BCP HC	Morning Worship with Communion - Choir	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Hall -	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Choir	<b>CU@5</b> - 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 and Mrs Wood.

## PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Austin, Mr Beacom, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Cole, Mrs Corson, Mrs Davison, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Gamer, Mrs Greener, Mrs Groom, Mr Housden, Mrs Hubbard, Mrs Hubert, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jeremiah, Mrs Keeling, Mrs Lattimer, Mrs Lawrey, Mrs Malan, Mrs Marchant, Mrs Martin, Mrs Mills, Mrs Parker, Mrs Raines, Mrs Raynor, Mrs Redding, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Roffey, Mrs Scantlebury, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Wills, Mrs Worssam, Mrs Wragg, Mrs Yates.

# MAY 2007

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 – Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am  
2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 2 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
7.45pm PCC meeting (Side Hall)
- 5 – 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)

- 6 – **The Fifth Sunday of Easter (Easter 4 BCP)**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)**  
**6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**
- 8 – **Material for the June magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, ‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ**  
**matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 9 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Hall)  
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd Donald Crowther)
- 12 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party  
4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)
- 13 – **The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday (Easter 5 BCP)**  
**Christian Aid Week begins**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30am Otford Community Celebration Service**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)**  
**6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)**
- 14 – 7.45pm Coffee & Chat (Twitton Oast)  
8.00pm Mission Committee (‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green)
- 15 – 9-10.00am Pastoral Visiting team meeting (Vicarage)
- 16 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00pm Archdeacon’s Visitation (Wrotham)
- 17 – **Ascension Day 8.00pm Service of Holy Communion (in Church)**
- 18-20 Confirmation candidates’ weekend away
- 19 – 2.30pm Wedding of Graeme David Childs and Lisa Jane Whitbred
- 20 – **The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sunday after Ascension Day (Easter 6 BCP)**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd David Casiot)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**
- 21 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 23 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Hall)  
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00pm Fair Committee (‘Lorien’, St Michael’s Drive)
- 25 – 8.00pm Ministry Team
- 26 – 4.30pm Confirmation class (Vicarage)
- 27 – **Pentecost: Whit Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**  
**9.30am Holy Communion (CW) (Preacher: Revd Dennis Mihill)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)**
- 28 – Bank Holiday: Otford Village Fete
- 29 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 30 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Some early June dates**

- 3 – **Trinity Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship with children and baptism of**  
**Jessica Hazel Prange**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Hall)**  
**6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**6.00pm Deanery Evensong (Wrotham)**

# EDITORIAL

*Ten little Christians standing in a line,  
One disliked the minister, then there were nine.  
Nine little Christians stayed up very late,  
One overslept on Sunday and then there were eight.  
Eight little Christians on their way to heaven,  
One took the low road and then there were seven.  
Seven little Christians chirping like chicks,  
One disliked the music, then there were six.  
Six little Christians very much alive,  
But one lost his interest and then there were five.  
Five little Christians pulling for heaven's shore,  
But one stopped to take a rest, and then there were four.  
Four little Christians each busy as a bee,  
One got their feelings hurt, and then there were three.  
Three little Christians knew not what to do,  
One joined the sports club, and then there were two.  
Two little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done,  
Differed with each other, then there was none!*

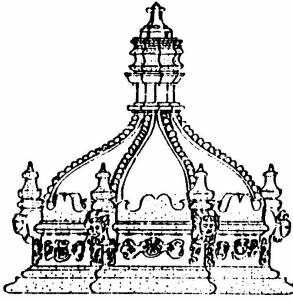
But were they Christians in the first place? Or was Christianity simply one of their pastimes, and church another social club?

We celebrate at the end of this month the beginnings of the first Christian church, and read in the book of Acts of a community exploding with the power of the Holy Spirit. As ordinary people made Jesus their Lord, so the blessing of God was released in their lives and in the lives of those around them, to heal and to set free, to teach and to guide.

That church reflected God's self-giving love and the infectious joy which comes from knowing him in Christ. There was nothing that God couldn't do with such a people, such a Church.

He waits for just such a people, just such a church in our generation.

*(Revd) Pat Hopkins*



## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

### Retirement of Vicar

At the end of March, Revd. Pat announced that she would be retiring as Vicar following the completion of the Church Extension. She will be moving to Norfolk. Her last Sunday will be 9th September, and there will be services of Holy Communion on that day at 8 and 10.30am, followed by a farewell reception in the Village Hall. Preparations are already in place for the process which will lead to the appointment of her successor. We hope you will continue to support the

ministry here, not least by continuing prayer and regular attendance at worship and church events.

**Experiment Evening Service: CU@5.** This experimental informal service continues through May and June, with a service every Sunday at 5pm in the Church Hall, followed by refreshments. Do join us when you can.

### '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 Churches 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 Methodist Church Hall fortnightly, and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 9th and 23rd May, from 9.30 to 11.30am.

### Oxford Community Celebration Service

So many of us appreciate living in this lovely part of Kent, and we have at least one annual opportunity to gather in the Parish Church to give thanks for our life together in this village. The next occasion is on Sunday 13th May at 9.30am for the Community Celebration Service. This day is also Rogation Sunday and we will include prayers for the different aspects of the village. Do join us for the service and for refreshments afterwards.

**Christian Aid Week.** This begins on Sunday 13th May. We hope you will be kind and generous to those who give up time to deliver and then collect envelopes on behalf of Christian Aid, which gives us all an opportunity to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. We are grateful to our magazine distributors who take on this challenging task this month.

### Archdeacon's Visitation

This takes place on the evening of Wednesday 16th May at Wrotham Parish Church, when our Churchwardens are sworn into office. Please remember Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt in your prayers as they prepare for the Interregnum beginning in September.

### Christian Resources Exhibition

This excellent exhibition is to be held from 16th to 18th May, from 10am to 4.30pm at Sandown Park racecourse, Esher, Surrey: details are available on the notice board at the back of church.

### Confirmation

This is to take place on 22nd July, and youngsters who are considering Confirmation will be spending a weekend away at Halls Green Christian Activity Centre from 18th to 20th May. We send them our best wishes and trust that the weekend may be helpful in every way.

### **Mission Partners**

We are pleased to support the Smith family in Nairobi, Kenya, through the Church Mission Society. A speaker from that organisation will be coming to preach at our 9.30am service of Morning Worship on Sunday 20th May. We hope you will join us to hear about the work of the Society. We welcome Mrs Margaret Killingray, Reader at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, as preacher at the evening service on that day.

### **Pentecost**

This falls on Sunday 27th May, and we welcome as our preacher at the 9.30am service of Holy Communion Revd. David Mihill from Sevenoaks.

### **Deanery Evensong**

This annual event, for all the churches in the Deanery of Shoreham, takes place on Trinity Sunday, 3rd June, at 6pm at Wrotham Parish Church. There will be no evening service at our own church on that day so that we can go as a church family to support our own Choir and others in the Deanery as they lead our worship at Wrotham.



**News from the building site:** As you can now see, the roof of the Church Centre is complete and tiling has commenced. The stonemasons have been on site, finishing stonework on quoins and windowsills. A trial hole has been made in the Church wall in advance of knocking through the main opening from the new Centre into the Church. This should take place during the week

commencing 16th April and it will be necessary to board off a small area at the back of the church the previous week. Completion of the project is still on course for June and costs are approximately in line with our budget. On the advice of our Church Treasurer, we have been able to transfer £15,000 from General Funds into the Building Fund which means that the latter now stands at well over £950,000.

At their May meeting, the Project Steering Committee will be discussing some ground rules for usage of the Centre, including deciding the sorts of events that it would be appropriate to hold there. If you have any thoughts or ideas concerning this then please speak to the Churchwardens. Progress is being made on deciding the final finishes. The Bishop of Rochester will dedicate the Church Centre when he comes to the confirmation service on 22nd July. However, there will be a Thanksgiving Service on 2nd September at 5pm when we hope that as many as possible, including those involved in the various stages of the Project, will come along to celebrate the opening of the Church Centre.

Vicki Howie

### **CHEVENING 2007 Sunday 15th July 2007**

Progress is being made, slowly but surely, towards the BIG EVENT.

We should like some more participants please:

FROGS: What about running a few sideshows?  
Talk to Sally on 523392

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE who is keen to have a stall?  
If so, please ring Sue on 523789

CAN YOU HELP ON THE DAY? If so, Sue, Sally or John Bailey (01732 461102) are the people to contact.

ACT NOW! as they say – and thank you very much for doing so.

PS. We, St Bart's, are also organising TEAS for the Village Fete. This is a chance to earn over £1,000 for the new Church Centre, but it will be hard work.

If you can help in any way, before or during the event, ELLEN would be delighted to hear from you on 01959 525060. Even one hour's help would be really appreciated.

The date is MONDAY 28th May – Bank Holiday

St Bartholomew's Fundraising Committee

Spring Harvest is an ecumenical Christian conference which takes place every year at Minehead and Skegness around Easter time. A group of us from St Bartholomew's spent six days at the Butlins camp at Minehead and had a wonderful time. Every morning there are Bible studies led by a well-known preacher, this year led by Steve Chalke who took us through the book of Philippians.



Then there is a wide choice of seminars to attend. You can choose to go to a Radio 4 level seminar or Radio 2 or many others. During the afternoon there are other seminars – dancing, drama, creative writing, new songs, and many more – apart from all the other Butlin activities most of which are free (swimming, funfair, 10 pin bowling, cycling, high ropes climbing, snooker, pool, billiards, etc!). In the evenings there is a celebration meeting which begins with a time of worship and then each night a different, well-known speaker continues the theme of the day. If you still have any energy left there is late night entertainment, for example, the singer Jonathon Vieira, comedians, pop groups for the youngsters and so on. While the adults are in their meetings, there are group activities for all children in the mornings and evenings. All the activities are optional so you can go to as many or as few as you want. The morning and evening sessions are also relayed to your chalet TV so you can stay in the comfort of your chalet but still join in. This year was the second of a 3-year rolling theme 'The Big Picture'. Last year they focused on the idea of 'One God', this year we focused on 'One, holy, catholic and apostolic church'. I believe we all found the week very challenging and inspiring. It is an amazing experience to worship God with about 3,000 other people of many denominations (although Anglicans did seem to be the majority!). We all thank Andrew and Ellen Bratby for encouraging us to go this year as a group and we will be encouraging others to join us next year – we will be going from Saturday 5th to Thursday 10th April 2008. Contact Andrew for further details (01959 525060).

**STOP THE TRAFFIK**  
**People shouldn't be bought and sold.**

On the 25th March we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade. During the 400 years of slavery it is estimated that 11 million were bought and sold. **Today the United Nations estimates that there are 22 million slaves.** Children, men and women are still bought and sold in many countries for hard labour in farming, sweat shops, for the sex industry and to be soldiers. Half of the cocoa produced for the world's chocolate comes from the Cote d'Ivoire



where 12,000 children are thought to be enslaved in this industry. Children are often entrapped, kidnapped or even sold by their parents because of their poverty. Please look at the Stop the Traffik website ([www.stopthetraffic.org](http://www.stopthetraffic.org)) for more information. There is a petition which we will tell you more about in the near future. There are Stop the Traffik key rings which you can buy as well as bags and much more information on the website.

Mags Southgate

**Because of holiday arrangements, copy for the next magazine  
should reach David Matthews  
by 8th May 2007.**



# ROUNDAABOUT

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OAST.** Thursday 17th May will be a Resolutions meeting when we will be discussing and voting on the resolutions put forward by the W.I. members.

Susan Stacey

**OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.** Our President, Diana Jeremiah, welcomed fifty members to the institute's 48th birthday meeting in April. The delicious smell of food was wafting from the kitchen but before committee members served the hot meal, followed by a choice of puddings, there were reports from various Reps. The birthday cake was made and decorated by Heather Porter to her usual high standard and was cut by our newest member, Maggie Fisher.

We then sat back to enjoy hearing our speaker, Lee Ault, resplendent in a Victorian crinoline, transport us back into the nineteenth century. We followed a day in the life of 'The Caged Lady' who, bathed and dressed by her maid, then sallied forth on calls. What a life, we thought, but then remembered that she was 'the property' of her husband, had no rights as such and no financial independence. Lee showed us a vast assortment of underclothes worn in that period as well as tiny shoes, tight kid gloves, parasols, bonnets and a most beautiful Kashmir shawl. The layettes made for the babies in the brood of Victorian children were beautiful. Most of the items in her collection of much treasured heirlooms came from Lee's own family, handed down during the years.

Linda Richfield was the jubilant winner of the Denman bursary and she also won the prize for the Best Decorated Egg competition. We have been pleased to welcome several new members during the past months and are always glad to see more new faces at our meetings. On 14th June 'A Petticoat Pilot' will be our speaker – if that intrigues you, feel free to come along and meet us all and hear more at 7.30pm on that date.

Brenda Young

**OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY.** On Tuesday May 1st Paul Twyman will talk on 'Trees and Shrubs for the Small Garden', a practical demonstration of how to make a small space look good. His talk is to be at 8pm in the Village Hall. Admission (includes refreshments) is 50p for members, £1 for non-members. The early June talk is on Tuesday June 5th and is by Harris Howland, on 'Lilies'.

## **ARCTIC VOICE EXPEDITION 2007/2008 PRESENTATION EVENING** **11th May, Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, 7pm-10pm**

'The Arctic is the world's early warning system and the red light is on.'

Join local Polar Explorer Glenn Morris, FRGS, as he gives a fascinating account of his travels in one of the world's most fragile environments. Glenn is soon to lead the first British sea kayaking expedition through the infamous North West Passage to raise awareness of climate change. The evening includes a presentation by Tonbridge Grammar School on a unique schools twinning project with the Arctic involving Kent schools.

Tickets £5 includes refreshments (kindly donated by Waitrose) available from: Sevenoaks Bookshop, Sevenoaks Chronicle Newspaper Office, The Studio, Otford, or contact: 01959 525188/00745 137458/piprose7@aol.com or [www.arcticvoice.org](http://www.arcticvoice.org).

Pippa Rose

# SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

**At the Annual Parish Meeting** in March the work done by the councillors and clerks over the past year was described for the benefit of all those residents attending, enabling them to ask questions and find out what was intended for the next financial year. The past year was notable for many things, including the formal opening of the Eric Dilley Pavilion by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent on the 13th of July during a private visit by the Duke.

Our Police Community Support Officer gave a brief account of his work, and I was able to report on his commendation and reward by the High Sheriff of Kent because of his bravery in an incident in Sevenoaks.

Unusually, the Kirsch Cup was presented to one of Otford's cricket teams because of their outstanding successes last year (the cup has been presented to individuals in the past). Among their successes they won the Kent Cup and were third in the South East National Spirit of Cricket competition; they also won their league cup and were the Sevenoaks Chronicle Team of the Year, and they brought with them an impressive array of other trophies they had won during the season. It was said that it was their skill, dedication and, notably, their team work that contributed to these results.

**The Otford CRAG Group** (Carbon Rationing Action Group) held its first meeting in March and will hold the second meeting at 8pm in the Club Room on 25th April. The main aim of these groups is to enable each person to become aware of their contribution to global warming and assist in finding ways of reducing it. They are informal groups, intended to discuss and share knowledge and experience. Otford residents are said to have one of the highest carbon footprints in the Sevenoaks District and may readily be able to make some reductions. Membership is free; there is only a small charge for use of the room.

For information about other future meetings, please contact Louise Shrubsole, the Sevenoaks Council's Energy Conservation Officer.

**May will be a busy month for Otford.** The first 'twinning visit' from this village to Precigne in northwest France will be over the first weekend. The Fete will be on the 28th, thanks to the ladies who have formed this year's committee, and another big event will be two days later on the 30th, when the District Council will launch its Community Plan on the Recreation Ground – something to interest and amuse all ages, and some bargains as well; watch for further information.

**A charge of criminal damage** was recently brought by the police against a person damaging parish council play-area property, and an award made to the parish council for repairs. There is now a 'library' of graffiti that – like handwriting – enables offenders to be traced and prosecuted, and the expense of removing their work recovered.

JGA

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## IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Grace Annie Weston** who died on 7th March aged 91. Her funeral, led by Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, was held at Eltham Crematorium on 21st March. Grace had lived formerly in Warham Road, but had spent her last years at Eglantine Villa, Horton Kirby.



## *Registers*



8th April	<b>Baptisms (Our Welcome)</b> Ben Nicky Ryan Cloud
21st March	<b>Funerals (Our Sympathy)</b> Grace Annie Weston (aged 91) – Cremation

### **Church Offerings in March**

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses .....	£260.51
Freewill Offerings .....	£9,274.00