

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, 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, and Mrs Wood.

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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JUNE 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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)

- 3 – 6.00pm **FROGS (Church Hall)**
6.00pm Deanery Evensong (Wrotham) Please note there will be no
 Evening Service in church
- 5 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
- 6 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Oxford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm Worship Committee (Vicarage)
- 9 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party
 2.30pm Wedding of Gary Charles Hutchings and Lynda Alison Gorham
- 10 – **The First Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
 5.00pm **Celebration Service at Oxford Methodist Church**
 5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Hall)**
 6.30pm **Holy Communion (CW) Preacher: Revd. Canon Dr. Jane Hedges, Westminster Abbey**
- 13 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Material for the July magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, ‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TQ
matthews.dg@lineone.net
- 16 – 2.00pm **St Bartholomew’s Church Fair (Castle House)**
- 17 – **The Second Sunday of Trinity**
 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
 5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Hall)**
 6.30pm **Evensong**
- 20 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Oxford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
- 24 – **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am **Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)**
 9.30am **Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Casiot)**
 5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Hall)**
- 27 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)

Some early July dates

- 1 – **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
 9.30am **Morning Worship with children and prizegiving**
 6.00pm **FROGS (Church Hall)**
 6.30pm **Evensong**
- 4 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Oxford Methodist Church Hall)
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)

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EDITORIAL

'The answer lies in the soil ...'

One of my favourite hobbies is gardening. I enjoy nothing more than visiting a local garden centre or plant auction and returning laden with colourful possibilities for my garden, in Otford or in Norfolk. For my birthday last year, you were kind enough to 'treat' me to some garden furniture, the choice for which is so wide that I have yet to decide on material, colour and style! Part of the joy of gardening is leafing through gardening magazines and books, to receive inspiration and guidance. To me, there is nothing more satisfying than planting and nurturing plants and flowers and seeing them blossom and flourish.

God, too, is in the business of growth and nurture. We are told in the account of Creation that he took delight in what had been made: 'God saw that it was good.' As you and I share with God in different kinds of growth and nurture of his gifts, so we reflect the nature of the Creator.

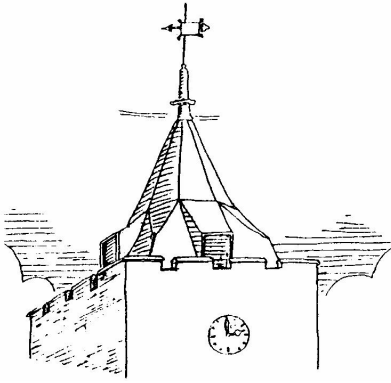
I wonder, however, how much we nurture our own spiritual growth. Some of Jesus' last words to his disciples use the picture of himself as a vine and ourselves as the branches, bearing fruit. John chapter 15: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.'

To remain close to Christ requires preparation and effort. How encouraging it is to read in our Diocesan Newspaper, 'Rochester Link', available from the church, that a Co-ordinator for Spirituality and Spiritual Direction has been appointed by the Bishop. She is the Revd. Susanne Carlsson, based at the Community of Sisters of St. Andrew in Edenbridge. She writes: 'My main responsibility is to help and support those who would like to deepen their relationship with God.'

I have had the privilege of being a Spiritual Director to several Christians over the years. I have also gained enormously from having a Spiritual Director from time to time. Such a person offers to meet individuals regularly, perhaps monthly or termly, to help them to listen to what God is saying in their lives. The title 'Director' means that we give such a person permission to lead us forward as well as to nurture us in the spiritual life. As we share with them our own difficulties in living as Christians, they are people to whom we can become accountable, who are prepared to gently question and challenge us. They may recommend a retreat or quiet day. They are very likely to recommend particular books to help us on our spiritual journey. They often enable us to understand the Bible in new ways.

If you would like help in moving forward in your own Christian life, you can contact Susanne at St. Andrew's Convent, Eden Hall, Stick Hill, Edenbridge, TN8 5NN, telephone 01342 851383.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Deanery Choral Evensong

This will be held on Sunday 3rd June, Trinity Sunday, at 6pm (not 6.30) at Wrotham Parish Church. This service will feature the combined choirs of the Deanery, including our own, and the preacher will be the Venerable Peter Lock, Archdeacon of Rochester. There will not be a service at the Parish Church on that evening but **CU@5** will take place in the Church Hall.

Church Extension: Away Giving. A proportion of the money collected for the Church extension has been given to two needy projects elsewhere: married quarters for students at Msalato Theological College, Tanzania, and a new Church Hall for Chalk Parish Church. The latter is now ready for occupation, and will be opened on Tuesday 5th June. Please continue to pray for these projects.

Methodist Church Hall

We are delighted that our Methodist friends are now using their new Halls complex. It will be formally opened on the evening of Sunday 10th June.

Westminster Abbey is the Patron of St Bartholomew's Church and has the task, with the Parish and Diocese, of choosing a new Vicar. Revd. Canon Jane Hedges from the Abbey will be coming to preach and celebrate at the service of Holy Communion on Sunday 10th June at 6.30pm. We hope you will join us.

Revd. Pat will be acting as Duty Priest for the last time as Vicar of Otford from Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd June. She is likely to be celebrating Holy Communion on 19th, 21st and 22nd June at 12.30pm in the Nave of the Abbey and would be pleased to see friends from Otford at any of those services, followed by a sandwich lunch in the Cloisters.

Quinquennial Inspection

This five-yearly inspection of the church takes place on Thursday 5th July. Our Inspecting Architect is likely to look at the need to renew the surface of the Tower as well as other items.

Dates for your Diary

We look forward to the visit of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Michael Nazir Ali, on the evening of Sunday 22nd July, when he will be conducting a Confirmation service and asking God's blessing on the new Church Centre.

On Sunday 2nd September at 5pm we look forward to welcoming our Archdeacon, the Venerable Clive Mansell, to the Thanksgiving Service for the Church Centre.

Due to the large numbers likely to attend these services, we shall need to issue tickets which will be available from the Parish Church Office.



News from the building site

Excellent progress is now being made. Tiling, electrical wiring and plumbing in the extension is almost complete. The interior has been plastered and the first coat applied to the exterior. Work on the heating installation is now going ahead and should be completed within the next 2/3 weeks. Progress is being made on final finishes: Purbeck limestone will be used on the corridor floor; the partitions for the children's rooms have been ordered and curtains are to be made; and the layout of the kitchen has been agreed and the cooker, hood and refrigerator ordered.

It is hoped that the project will complete in June as planned, 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 £950,000. Plans are well in hand for the Country Fair at Chevening and over £500 has been received from stallholders reserving their sites. At their May meeting, the Project Steering Committee discussed some ground rules for usage of the Centre which have been approved by the PCC.

The Bishop of Rochester will dedicate the Church Centre when he comes to the Confirmation Service on Sunday 22nd July at 6.30pm and there will be a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 2nd September at 5.00pm to celebrate the opening of the new Church Centre. A small committee, under the chairmanship of Janet Hunt, has been set up to oversee invitations and arrangements for both.

Away giving: Chalk Parish's Hall opens on Tuesday 5th June: Revd. Pat and Susan Reid will be attending.

Vicki Howie



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR SATURDAY 16th JUNE

At 2.00pm

In the grounds of
CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD

By kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy, St Bartholomew's Fair is once again being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House.

The proceeds of this year's fair will go to the Church Building Fund and we shall be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of church, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so they can be sorted and priced. Alternatively, arrangements can be made for them to be collected. In particular this applies to the following:

Bottles: Linda and Bert Dunning. Tel. 524182

Books: Colin Fleetwood. Tel. 523582

Toys: Margie Torry. Tel. 524463

Sweets, Small Toys or items suitable for Children's Prizes: Christine Malan. Tel. 522654 or Deborah Vigis. Tel. 523331

Craft items: Sylvia Grafton. Tel. 01732 452117

Gardening Equipment and Tools: Nancy Jonsson. Tel. 525158

Plants: Bill Lattimer. Tel. 522058

White Elephant: Sally Aylward. Tel. 01732 450850

DVDs, CDs and Videos: Sue Isted. Tel. 523419

Food Hall—Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves: Anne Fleetwood. Tel. 523582

There will be the usual Children's Art Competition – Theme: 'Outer Space' – and a Single Rose Competition open to all.

Anybody willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood, and assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. We shall be meeting at the Church Hall at about 6pm on Friday 15th June to collect tables, chairs and other equipment to be taken to Castle House, and clearing away starts immediately after the Fair.

Crafts at St Bart's

So far I have received many beautiful items, including cot quilts, cushions, bags, toys, rugs, scarves, children's boleros etc., for which I am extremely grateful, so please keep up the good work! For the *Church Fair* on June 16th, we are concentrating on lots of small craft items and hand-crafted cards, so if you're a card-maker, we'd love to sell some of your cards as well as our crafts. For *Chevening* (July 15th) we are concentrating on many craft items of all sizes and varieties, and a small supply of cards. We still need more help to make the craft stall at these two events big, attractive and successful. Any items, large or small or even middle-sized, will be very much appreciated! If you are able to join one of the craft sessions, see the weekly notices for details. If you have any queries, ideas, etc., please contact me by telephone (01732 452117) or at church.

Sylvia Grafton

MISSION MATTERS

Some amazing news from the Bible Society

Fifty years ago, in 1957, Janet and I went out to Ghana to join the Maths Department of Achimota School. Ghana had just become independent; one of the first African countries to do so. They were exciting times. Achimota School was also an exciting school at which to teach. The school had been founded in 1927 on Christian principles and was a co-educational Boarding School. One of the founders, a Ghanaian called Kwegir Aggrey, wisely said, 'Educate a boy and you educate an individual. Educate a girl and you educate a family.' In 1957 the school had 5 boys' and 3 girls' boarding houses. It was one of just four Secondary schools in the country. (There were 120 when we left 12 years later.) The majority of the students were very hard working and very bright.



Ten years ago, Janet and I were invited back to Ghana. The school was celebrating its 70th Anniversary, and the country, 40 years of Independence. It was rewarding, but not unexpected, to find that many of our former pupils were in positions of responsibility in the political and spiritual life of the country. In fact the President came up to Janet and said: 'Do you remember teaching me in Form 1?' Actually, she didn't. But she did remember teaching his wife as a sixth-former; she was a very bright girl. The Vice-President had been the House Prefect in the Boarding House of which I was House-Master. The Minister of Education was one of my former sixth form students.

So imagine our delight, when a few weeks ago, we received a letter from the Bible Society (a society we support) in which it said:

'This year Ghana is celebrating its Golden Jubilee – 50 years of independence. And the Government has given the green light to **provide a commemorative Bible to every student in Ghana's Junior Secondary Schools.**

That's a million 12 to 16-year-olds in schools like our comprehensives. In reality, a whole generation could grow up inspired and influenced by the Bible's enduring message.

The letter went on to say that these are no 'ordinary Bibles'. They have been produced in the sturdiest of bindings and with the stoutest of covers. **They will last for years and years as they are used and used.** The language is the easy-to-read Good News version. Together with the Bible, these young students are also being provided with a 'get started with the Bible plan'. We suspect this is being provided by the Ghana Scripture Union with which Janet and I were involved. Churches, individuals and businesses in Ghana have already paid for the first 150,000, but the Bible Society is asking for donations to help them respond in full to this amazing request.

Brian Raynor

From the Wardens and PCC

Archdeacon Brian Mansell talked to the PCC at its meeting of Wednesday 2nd May about the issues and processes that follow from the announcement by Pat of her retirement in September. One major item will be the need to produce a parish profile in the form of an illustrated booklet for the candidates for the post of Vicar. This will contain a full account of our church life and the place of the church in the village, as well as what we are looking for in a new vicar.

We would like to give you the opportunity to share your experience and views of our church life and your thoughts on what is required in a new Vicar and so we invite comments from members of the church and village.

Please write to the Wardens or members of the PCC as soon as possible.



OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. On Wednesday July 4th we have a half-day outing to Danson House, Bexleyheath, leaving Otford at about 2pm. In view of the increasing costs of coach hire and the presence of an excellent car park there, it has been decided to ask members to travel to Danson Park independently, giving lifts to those without cars. For those unable to do so, please contact Elizabeth or Cliff on 522384, who will try to find suitable transport.

The fine Palladian house has now been fully restored by Bexley Borough Council, and we shall be given a guided tour of the house, which was opened by the Queen only in 2005. There is a café there. Total cost per head £5.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Tuesday June 5th at 8pm in the Village Hall Harris Howland will talk on 'Lilies', a look at this popular flower from a member of the RHS Lily Group. Admission price is 50p to members, £1 to non-members. It includes refreshments. The Society has arranged a visit on Tuesday 19th June from 7pm onwards to the garden at Cottage Farm, Cudham, by kind permission of Phil and Karen Baxter. Transport is by members' cars, and the admission price is £5. For details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760, or you can visit the website www.otford.info/gardeners.

OTFORD EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. Three members from our institute will be attending this year's AGM at the Albert Hall in June when this year's Resolution against the threatened closure of community hospitals will be proposed and voted on. Also on the agenda is the Farmgate Milk Prices campaign in which the NFWI are teaming up with the NFU to highlight the importance of the dairy industry to the rural community, economy, countryside and environment and to debate the many issues which need to be resolved to give the British dairy industry a brighter and better future.

Thank you to everyone who supported our successful boot sale on 21st April. Unfortunately we could do nothing about the congestion in the car park but the lovely spring sunshine was a bonus to the outdoor stall-holders! Come along to our meeting on 14th June, at 7.30pm, if you would like to hear all about 'A Petticoat Pilot'.

Brenda Young

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OAST. On Thursday 21st June, our guest speaker will be Joan Egan, who collects luxury bags, clothes, scarves and other items from the past.

Susan Stacey

SOME LATIN EPITAPHS

The Sevenoaks U3A (University of the Third Age) is a voluntary organisation for retired people, with over 750 members. It has a programme of 70 or more subjects of study ranging from Arabic through Pottery to Wine Appreciation and is organised into groups of eight or so people – there may be more than one group for the more popular subjects. This year, the introduction of Latin as a subject attracted some 15 people, so there are now two groups. In one of them it seemed a good idea to attempt the decipherment of Latin epitaphs, and as a start to look at the few in St Nicholas's, the parish church of Sevenoaks.

The east end of the south aisle of this church was formerly a chantry chapel, founded by Richard de Gand in 1257. A modern tablet on the wall of the aisle explains (in English) that a Latin inscription at one time on the wall of the chapel started: 'Qui pro aliis orat pro se ipse laborat'. This translates as 'Who prays for others labours for himself'. The inscription as translated continued: 'Pray for the soul of Robert Lawe, chaplain of the chapel of the Blessed Mary of this church. He died 1400. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen'. Chantry chapels, commonly found in Cathedrals and in larger parish churches, were served by priests appointed to say masses for the soul of their founder, but monuments to the chantry priests themselves are rare.

Some eighteenth-century monuments are very grandiose. That to David Polhill in St Bartholomew's church is not only by a foremost sculptor, but includes a lengthy inscription (in English) describing his illustrious ancestry and his admirable personal character, as well as his distinguished record as an MP. In complete contrast, in sentiment as in size, there is a 1-ft square marble slab let into the floor of the chancel of St Nicholas's, Sevenoaks, with a Latin inscription that simply reads: 'Let fame be absent. Here lies Hugh Owen, in hope of resurrection. Such as were his qualities will at that time be revealed. 1716'.

The use of Latin for epitaphs has not entirely died out. Close against the wall of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, there is a memorial slab to a Lieutenant Colonel of the 17th/21st Lancers, who died aged 72 in the year 2000. It includes the following two-line epitaph:

Milites veterani numquam moriuntur
Paulatim modo evanescerunt.

The first line translates as 'Old soldiers never die'. You can guess the second.

Bernard Worssam

IN MEMORY

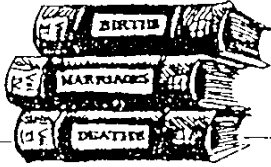
We send our condolences to the family of **Brian Herbert Wright** who died on 17th April aged 72. His Service of Thanksgiving was held at the Parish Church on 1st May, preceded by cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. In his youth Brian played rugby, badminton and cricket to a high standard, and sport remained an interest throughout his life. He qualified as a Graphic Artist but soon after was doing National Service. Brian went on to work at Avon Cosmetics for 27 years and later worked with Help the Aged as International Marketing Director and later Marketing Consultant. He and his wife Doreen were married two years after he came out of the army, and they celebrated the birth of three daughters, Melanie, Sue and Natalie, later fully immersing themselves in the lives of their seven grandchildren. Brian was an enthusiast for life, a family man whose gifts were much appreciated, someone who involved himself fully in the life of the village in which he lived, a man both respected and loved.

We send our condolences to the family of **Sydney Maltby Shaw** who died on 21st April aged 85. His Service of Thanksgiving was held on 3rd May, preceded by burial at Otford Cemetery. Sydney had an identical twin brother, Lewis, and two sisters. He attended Shooter's Hill School and served an apprenticeship at Woolwich Arsenal followed by study at Woolwich Polytechnic, where he gained a scholarship to King's College,

London. He became a Boy Scout in 1933, an interest which stayed with him all his life: he served as leader for Woolwich Scouts for over fifty years. Donations in his memory were requested by the family for the Otford Scout Group, for improved facilities at their Scout Hut. In World War II, he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and was commissioned in 1943, serving in Burma, India, Singapore and Java. After the war he worked for Unilever until his retirement in 1981. In his earlier years he played the viola along with his family. He served for many years as a Magistrate at Woolwich. His interests included bell ringing, grandfather clocks, family history, table tennis, bowls and throughout his life he enjoyed an early morning swim, inside or outside, whatever the weather! Sydney will be sadly missed, a cheerful and helpful man, concerned for others and for the welfare of the village he loved.



Registers



Funerals (Our Sympathy)

1st May Brian Herbert **Wright** – aged 72 (Cremation)
 3rd May Sydney Maltby **Shaw** – aged 85 (Burial)

Church Offerings in April

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses£343.48
 Freewill Offerings£8,495.00