

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	Confirmation and Opening of Church Centre
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, Johnson, Lattimer, Lea, Matthews, Sherwood, Vigis, Wickham, Wood, Worsam, 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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JULY 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 – The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Morning Worship (CW) with children and Prizegiving

11.30am Baptism of Ellis William Coles

6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)

6.30pm Evensong

- 2 – 2.30pm FEBA meeting at 41 Parkhill Road
- 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8.00pm Adult Confirmation class
- 3 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
- 4 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Church)
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Side Hall)
- 7 – 2.00pm Otford School Fete
- 8 – **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
- 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW) and baptism of Elliott de Warrene**
Allgood Boulton
- 6.30pm **Holy Communion (CW)**
- 8.00pm **Ministry Team (Vicariate)**
- 9 – 7.45pm Coffee & Chat
- 8.00pm Adult Confirmation class
- 11 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 13 – **Material for the August 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
- 12.30pm Wedding of Nicholas Ott and Andrea Crowden
- 4.30pm Young People’s Confirmation class (Vicariate)
- 15 – **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
- 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
- 2.00-5.00pm **Chevening Open Day**
- 6.30pm **Evensong**
- 16 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8.00pm Adult Confirmation class
- 18 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00pm Deanery Synod, Platt
- 20 – 6.30pm Confirmation rehearsal (Church)
- 21 – 2.30pm Wedding of Mark Spagnoli and Clare Worgan
- 22 – **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Mary Magdalene)**
- 8.00am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
- 6.30pm **Confirmation Service and Opening of Church Centre (Bishop of**
Rochester)
- 23 – 7.45pm Focus group
- 25 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 28 – 2.00pm Wedding of Ross Tappin and Anne Lai
- 29 – **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00am **Holy Communion (CW)**
- 9.30am **Mattins**
- 6.30pm **Contemplative Service**
- 30 – 7.45pm Cameo Coffee and Chat

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EDITORIAL

Firm Foundations and Great Expectations

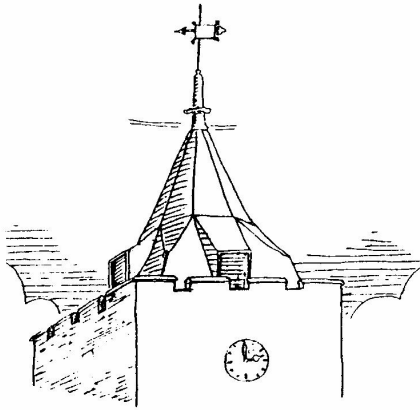
In our Christian lives, there are times which reflect in a graphic way Almighty God's faithfulness to a weak and erring people. Such has been the case in the last month, as several of us have shared in two special events.

One was the opening of the new Parish Hall in Chalk, near Gravesend. The church building is surrounded by fields but the village clusters half a mile away, with the Parish Hall at the centre, ministering to many different age groups and needs. The church's vision for the next five years is that it wants to become known as 'the church at the heart of our community'. A year ago, the Hall was in a terrible state: damp, decaying, and on several different levels: those with disabilities were inevitably excluded. The community has an elderly population, and many were on limited means. The estimated cost for a new Hall was around £500,000 and a year ago the congregation was hard pushed to find any more money, facing a shortfall of £30,000 before any building contracts could be signed. The Vicar, Revd. Nigel Bourne, wrote to the churches in the Diocese, to ask for financial help. At that time, as a church we were seeking a building project in a needy local area which we could support, alongside our own extension building project: giving to these projects was, of course, optional. It has been a privilege to stand alongside Chalk Parish Church and see God work in amazing ways to bring about what he had already planned. On 5th June there was a wonderful atmosphere of joy and thanksgiving as the people of Chalk received their new Hall and celebrated with their guest of honour, the Duke of Kent. The new Hall features easy disabled access, increased storage, more flexible spaces, enhanced kitchen and pre-school facilities, more and better toilets, and good heating and insulation. Charles Dickens wrote 'Great Expectations' in the village, and during the building project the parish had as its watchword: 'Have great expectations with God'.

The other special event for me was the weekend away shared recently with our young Confirmation candidates. They are delightful youngsters, and their depth of bible knowledge and spiritual enthusiasm has so encouraged the leaders who have shared with them and with their families as they have grown in the knowledge and love of God. It has been a privilege to stand with them as they look forward to taking this important step of faith in Confirmation on 22nd July, together with several adults who also speak of the reality of a living faith.

In Chalk and in Otford, and far beyond, God meets with his people and draws them on into greater blessing. The verses from the Psalms often linked to our own building project are these: 'Except the Lord build the house: their labour is but lost that build it'. A similar thought is expressed in the parable Jesus told about the house built on rock, about a life built on a relationship with God, a life rooted in his love, which stands firm amidst the storms of life. As we build on this strong foundation, it is our prayer that each of us will experience God's faithfulness.

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins, Vicar



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

The Wardens and Standing Committee of the PCC continue to make preparations for the Interregnum and the appointment of the next Vicar of Otford. The parish profile, a booklet of information about the people, vision, worship and work of the church, is being drafted for PCC approval.

Last month, members of the church and village were offered an opportunity to contribute your views about church life and what you would like to find in a new vicar. No one replied! However, the Wardens and members of the PCC are still keen to hear from you, whether personally or on paper.

On Sunday 10th June, Canon Jane Hedges, Sub-Dean of Westminster Abbey, officiated and preached at the 6.30pm service and afterwards met members of the congregation. She will represent the Abbey, our Patron, in the choice of a new vicar and said that she is looking forward to getting to know the parish.

Family Service with Prizegiving

This takes place on Sunday 1st July when we shall be presenting our Sunday Club and OTT children with prizes for attendance. This event ends the children's summer term: their activities from 16th September will be held in our new Church Centre!

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.

Dedication of new Church Centre

We look forward to the visit of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Michael Nazir Ali, on Sunday 22nd July at 6.30pm, the feast of Mary Magdalene, when he will be conducting a Confirmation service and asking God's blessing on the new Church Centre and on those who will use it.

Please pray for the younger candidates for Confirmation: Megan Bailey, Imogen and Georgia Chandler, Bethany Crawley, Alex Davies, Helena and Edward Fothergill, Patrick Hanger, Naomi Hunt, Isabel Mee, Ben Southgate, Rachel Torry and Richard Vigis and adult candidates James and Julie Wall and Kevin and Laura Andrews. Due to the large numbers likely to attend this service, we shall need to issue tickets which will be available from the Parish Church Office.

There will also be a morning of activities for families and individuals on that day, beginning with a service at 9.30am on the theme of 'Jesus our Cornerstone' and ending with a late morning picnic lunch and the dispersal of celebratory balloons. Do join us!

Church Centre: Away Giving

We have written elsewhere about the two projects with which we have linked over the last year or so. Donors to the Church's Building Fund were asked if they would like a proportion of their donation to go to these projects: married quarters for the students at Msalato Theological College, Tanzania, and Chalk Parish Church's new Parish Hall.

Contemplative Service. The service on Sunday 29th July at 6.30pm will be held in the new Church Centre and will include imaginative ways of prayer.

Rochester Diocesan Children's Festival

This was a wonderful day out spent at Aylesford Priory. Every two years the diocese organises a festival – a day of varying activities. Margie Torry and I went on Saturday 9th June with 10 of our Sunday School children. We went to a drama workshop where we had a go at miming. At a music workshop we learnt a spiritual round to drums and the girls made bags out of newspaper (at the Christian Aid workshop) whilst hearing about a group of girls in India who spend all day making these for very little money. They also iced a pilgrim! The boys enjoyed a game of cricket with boys from other parishes and had two goes on an inflatable assault course. While we were eating our picnics we were entertained by some singing puppets! The day began with a short service and finished with worship incorporating the singing we had learnt at the workshop and some flag waving from another and was led by Goff the Clown. James Vigis took part in the opening procession of the parish banners. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable day but came away sad as it is the last festival the diocese are able to fund.

Mags Southgate



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, OTFORD 'COUNTRY GARDEN FAIR' SUNDAY 15th JULY 2pm to 5pm



**In the beautiful grounds of
CHEVENING HOUSE, CHEVENING
By kind permission of the TRUSTEES**

St Bartholomew's Church will be holding a 'Country Garden Fair' in the grounds of Chevening House, Chevening, on **Sunday 15th July from 2-5pm.**

Attractions include: tethered hot-air balloon
tombola
bouncy castle and climbing wall
birds of prey demonstration
teddy bear aerial runway – bring your teddy!
dumbbell demonstration
art display

There will also be live music, a photographer, face painting, a coconut shy, ice creams and teas and refreshments.

A fine range of stalls will include books, crafts, cakes and preserves, garden accessories, jewellery, sweets and wood turning.

You can also visit the maze and stroll around the beautiful grounds and lake.

Car parking is free and admission costs £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.

We need all hands to the pump again on this one so please contact Sue Stephenson on 01959 523789 or Sally Westmann on 01959 523392 with offers of help or for further information.

MISSION MATTERS

Sevenoaks area Youth Trust

We have supported the Trust since its birth and the latest information comes from Dawn Hallam after the AGM.

'We should give thanks for the continuation of the work with disaffected young people, particularly around the Hillingdon Estate, and that the workers and volunteers are accepted by the young people. The two workers are now a regular presence in Wilder-nesse and Bradbourne Schools, although Jane, the detached worker shared between SAYT and Kemsing, is leaving to get married this summer so prayers for her replacement are asked for, as for the DJ course that is planned for the start of the summer break. SAYT acknowledges the support, both financial and prayerful, of local churches. However, one speaker challenged those present with the argument that SAYT is doing the work that the local churches ought to be doing. This certainly challenged me. How do we reach out to young people in our village who wouldn't dream of coming to church?'

Ed: Any thoughts on Dawn's question in her last sentence would be welcome. Maybe we could start a correspondence?

The Scripture Union Sheringham Beach Mission

Dawn has also provided the following:

'Four of us from St Bart's will be going to Sheringham. Liz Cole will be leading a satellite mission at Beeston. This can be really hard work as you have to build a team from scratch each year and it is mainly outdoors so very weather dependent. We need to pray for stamina and wisdom for Liz and Ed (her co-leader) because spiritually this is front-line.

Sarah Hubbard is coming to Sheringham soon after returning from South America and we pray that God will be able to use her enthusiasm and all that she has learnt whilst away to encourage both the children and the team. Emma Torry is coming for the first time so we pray that she may find her feet quickly and has a great time.

The issues concerning me include the need to accommodate the large number of families and to put together the Bible-reading notes with the YPF helping to collate, as well as remembering to do all the other stuff! But PTL we have three of us cooking, so that will make life much easier than usual.

I would ask you to pray for the team that we will stay focussed on Jesus and not our own agendas and that we will be in step with what Jesus will be doing.'



COME AND SING MESSIAH

As part of the continuing celebration of the opening of the new church extension, there will be a performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday 13th October in church, preceded by an afternoon rehearsal. All will be welcome to come and sing, for a small fee, or to listen to the performance, for a slightly higher fee. Kevin Grafton will conduct, and Michael Bell will provide organ accompaniment. Details of rehearsal and performance times will be announced soon, but in the meantime please book the date!



WHERE WERE YOU? During the May Bank Holiday weekend a group of 12 Otfordians were featured with a photograph and article in the French newspaper Ouest France enjoying three days of warm hospitality in the French village of Precigne, near Le Mans in Anjou, Western France and visiting the medieval village of Asnieres sur Vegres, the Benedictine Abbey of Solesmes sur Sarthe for Gregarian plainchant Vespers, a factory manufacturing thermoformed plastic parts for the automotive industry, two Primary schools, the local Medical Centre and a local organic beef cattle and pig farm. These visits were interspersed with good food and wine and playing the local game of Boule de Fort.

There will be opportunities for further contacts when Otford hosts a similar visit next May 2008, followed by teenagers coming to camp in Otford. There is also a generous invitation for two English girls (16-18) to spend time in Paris and Precigne this summer, all expenses paid, apart from travel. Please contact Jane Lawrey (01959 522360) for further details as soon as possible, if you are interested.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OAST. Our meeting on Thursday 19th July is entitled 'Coincidence and a Victorian murder'. Can we solve the mystery and discover, 'Who Done It?!' with Dorothy Cox.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. There is to be a half-day outing to Danson House, Bexleyheath, on Wednesday 4th July. Transport will be by members' cars, leaving Otford village car park at about 2pm, giving lifts to those without cars. It is requested that those who would need such a lift should telephone Elizabeth or Cliff Ward on 522384 preferably before the day, to enable them to try to arrange suitable transport.

There is an excellent car park in Danson Park. The Palladian house has been fully restored by Bexley Borough Council, and we shall be given a guided tour. There is a café there. Cost £5 per head.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. On Saturday 14th July from 2pm onwards there is to be a visit to Great Comp Garden, Comp Lane, Platt, near Borough Green. Transport is by members' cars – please endeavour to car-share if at all possible. If you require transport or have a spare seat in your car please contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760.

From Otford, take the A25 to Maidstone and carry on through Borough Green, just beyond which the garden is signposted on a right-hand turn (Long Mill Lane). Cross into Comp Lane, and the garden is on the right, signposted. Admission to Great Comp Garden is £4. The owner, Mr Cameron, will give us an introductory talk. There is a tearoom at the garden as well as a small shop and a nursery.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The Parish Council now has its full complement of eleven members. Three councillors left the council either through moving from Otford or because of pressure of work; one councillor was co-opted and I am pleased to say another two residents were elected. The workload for councillors can be high but the results of their decisions and activity can be seen in many places in Otford.

Vehicles both moving and parking in the village cause problems as everyone knows. The district council is writing to all parishes on the subject of parking problems and enforcement, and Otford will be considering how best to deal with our sometimes over-crowded car park. If parking elsewhere is 'discouraged' in any way the problem may get worse. There is no solution that will benefit all; the best compromise must be sought and any regulation paid for by the users of the car park. It seems likely that there will be greater enforcement of parking restrictions, so please do not park on double yellow lines.

Twinning of Otford with Precigne. The first two visits have been successful and future visits are in the pipeline for next year. It is *not* run by or for the parish council; the initial approach was to the Chairman of Otford Council, as representative of the village, and councillors helped set up and arrange the initial visits but it is open to all to join in, be on the committee, arrange meetings and go to experience life in France or Germany. I expect it to be of special value for young people to help them learn languages and realise what it means to be part of Europe. Information on these activities – as with most others – will be in the parish Newsletter or you can ask in the parish office.

JGA

SOLITUDE

We must come to understand and experience the transforming power of silence if we are to know solitude... The purpose of silence and solitude is to be able to see and hear. *Richard Foster*

Settle yourself in solitude and you will come upon Him in yourself. *Teresa of Avila*

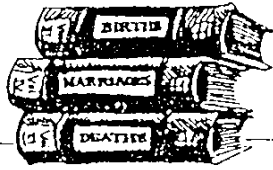
And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. *Matthew 6:5-6*

Saviour, teach me the silence of humility, the silence of wisdom, the silence of love, the silence of perfection, the silence that speaks without words, the silence of faith. Lord, teach me to silence my own heart that I may listen to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit within me and sense the depths which are of God. Amen.

Frankfurt prayer, sixteenth century



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

3rd June

Jessica Hazel **Prange**

Weddings (Our Congratulations)

19th May
9th June

Graeme David **Childs** and Lisa Jane **Whitbread**
Gary Charles **Hutchings** and Lynda Alison **Gorham**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

12th June

Kenneth Sydney **Lambert** – aged 90 (Cremation)

Church Offerings in May

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£1,415.94
Freewill Offerings	£5,010.00