

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	5.00pm Summer Songs of Praise
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, 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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AUGUST 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 - 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

5 - **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am Family Worship (CW) and baptism of Susannah Elizabeth Brown

11.00am Baptism of George Booth and Martha Booth

6.30pm Choral Evensong

- 7 – **There will be No Morning Prayer in Church on Tuesdays during August**
8.00pm Pastoral Link Scheme meeting (Vicarage)
- 8 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party
- 12 – **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 13 – **Material for the September magazine by today, please, to David Matthews,**
‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ
matthews.dg@lineone.net
- 15 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19 – **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
6.30pm Evensong
8.00pm Ministry Team (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 21 – 8.00pm Project Steering Committee (Church Centre)
- 22 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 26 – **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity: St Bartholomew**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
5.00pm Summer Songs of Praise
- 27 – **Bank Holiday**
Coffee and refreshment event (Church Hall)
- 29 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Some early September dates

- 2 – **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am Family Worship (CW)
12 midday **Thanksgiving Service for a Ruby Wedding Anniversary**
(ex-Otford)
2.30pm **Baptism of Xiato Mei Elizabeth Robson**
5.00pm **Thanksgiving Service for Church Centre**
(Archdeacon of Tonbridge, Ven. Clive Mansell)
- 4 – 8.15am Morning Prayer (in Church)

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EDITORIAL

Change: Key to Growth

Change is something most of us face with trepidation. Change is there from the moment we face birth in the transition from womb to world to the moment we move from life to death. Change forces us to move from the status quo and thrusts us into adjustment to a new situation.

We may face change for good reasons: a house move to be nearer our place of work or our grandchildren, an assuming of a new role or responsibility. Yet there are also times of change which we don't welcome: illness, bereavement, an enforced and unsought change of circumstance.

At times of change, we find ourselves experiencing strong feelings. There are feelings of anger, often expressed in unexpected ways. Such times allow the child in us to feel fear and anxiety. Change often brings feelings of sadness as we face up to losing what we have held dear.

The plans for an extension to the parish church building have aroused all these feelings in us in the last few years. We have wondered whether we were doing the right thing. We have had many discussions about how the money could possibly be raised. We have lingered lovingly over old photos and drawings of the church building and Village Green.

By the time you read these words, the extension will be finished and ready to use, with all the attendant advantages to church and village life it will provide. We have encountered change and allowed it to enrich us as individuals and as a church family. We have allowed change to be a catalyst for new life. There have been difficult parts of the journey to this point but we have experienced God's presence and guidance in ways formerly unknown. We have found our lives transformed by some amazing answers to prayer as God has continued to show his faithfulness.

Maybe an illustration from the other side of the world relates to this. In the freezing waters around Greenland are lots of icebergs, some small and some massive. If you look at them carefully, you notice that sometimes the small ice floes move in one direction while their huge counterparts flow in another. This is explained in a simple fact. Surface winds drive the little ones, whereas the gigantic masses of ice are carried along by deep ocean currents. When we face challenging times, it may be helpful to see our lives as being subject to two forces: surface winds and ocean currents. The winds represent everything changeable, unpredictable, even distressing.

However, operating at the same time with these winds is another force that's even more powerful. It is the sure movement of God's wise and sovereign purposes, the deep flow of his unchanging love. St. Paul expresses it like this in Romans chapter 8:

'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

(Revd.) Pat Hopkins

FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

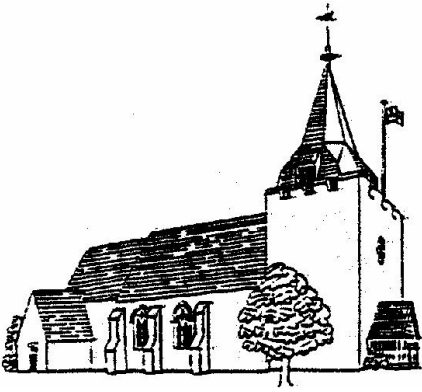
FROM THE WARDENS

As we go to print, we are eagerly awaiting the visit of Bishop Michael on 2nd July, not only to confirm our candidates but also to dedicate the new Church Centre. Unfortunately, because of the delay in delivery of windows and in spite of hard work by our contractors, there will be things still to finish after the Bishop's visit. However, all should be complete by Sunday 2nd September, when we will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving, followed by a reception for all those, including workers and donors, who have been involved in the project. The service will be at 5.00pm and our preacher will be the Archdeacon of Tonbridge. We will be issuing tickets for this service and these can be obtained from the Church Office.

On the 9th September, the day of Pat's retirement after ten years' service, she will celebrate Holy Communion at 10.30am. This will be followed by a reception in the Village Hall from 12.00 until 2.00pm, to which all are warmly invited.

There will be no 6.30pm service on that day but there will be services of 8.00am HC and CU@5.

If you would like to contribute towards a gift to mark Pat's retirement, please place your donation in an envelope and hand it to either the Churchwardens or to the Treasurer.



Choral Evensong

This will be held on Sunday 5th August at 6.30pm. In his 150th anniversary year, Edward Elgar's music will be featured.

Patronal Festival

We shall be celebrating our Patronal Festival and remembering St Bartholomew at the services on Sunday 26th August. It is the fourth Sunday of the month and the evening service will be 'Summer Songs of Praise', to be held at 5.00pm in church. It will feature favourite hymns and readings: if you have any special requests, please let Revd. Pat know as soon as possible on 01959 523185.

Service of Thanksgiving for Church Extension

This is to be held on Sunday 2nd September at 5.00pm, when we welcome as our preacher the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, the Ven. Clive Mansell. It will be the opportunity to thank all those who have enabled the extension to be built. If you would like a ticket for this service, which is expected to be well-attended, please contact the Parish Church Office now!

Vicarage Open House: Sparkles and Crackers

This is to be held on Wednesday 5th September from 8.00pm at the Vicarage and is designed for those unable to be with us in church on Sunday 9th September, Revd. Pat's last Sunday with us. It is an opportunity to meet up with good friends and to enjoy refreshment together. The invitation is to everyone reading this: do come if you can!

Kent Churches' Trust Sponsored Bicycle Ride

This annual event is to be held on Saturday 8th September and affords us all an opportunity to give to our local church while visiting other local churches, either by bike or on foot. If you would like to cycle in aid of St Bartholomew's, please get a sponsor form from Simon Wragg (01732 462953).

Baptism Enquiries

These are dealt with through the Parish Church Office (01959 523185). Children of those living in the parish (and occasionally beyond for various reasons) are baptised in the 9.30am morning service on the first Sunday in the month, and occasionally on other Sundays. Parents should be regular worshippers within the church family to which their child is to be welcomed in baptism. Explanation about baptism, including a helpful video, is offered at the time of an enquiry. We thank Angela Wragg and Julie Hill who continue to head up this important baptism preparation.

Home and Hospital Visits

Please let us know of anyone who would value a visit at home or in hospital by contacting either of our Pastoral Assistants, Susan Reid (01959 523234) or Margaret Lidbetter (01959 524831).

Oxford Benevolent Society

This Society exists to help those in particular need in the village, paying modest annual amounts to named individuals as well as occasionally being able to allocate payment in an emergency situation. If you have an enquiry, please contact in the first instance Joan Marchant on 01959 524609.

Handel's *Messiah*

Come and sing Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday 13th October! As part of the continuing celebrations for the opening of the Church Centre, there will be a performance of this much-loved work in church at 7.00pm, in which we hope as many as possible will take part. Tickets for performers and audience will be available at £6 from Kevin or Sylvia Grafton (01732 452117) or from the Church Office. We should be grateful if performers would book in advance so that we have some idea of numbers. There will be a rehearsal on the day at 3.00pm, and refreshments will be available. Kevin Grafton will be conducting and Michael Bell will provide organ accompaniment. The edition used will be the Novello edition edited by Watkins Shaw (not Prout or any other edition, please), and copies will be available to hire for a small fee on the day, but please let us know when booking, if you want to borrow a copy. And bring your friends to listen!

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR 2007

A few years ago I wrote in my Fair Report, 'The first essential for a successful fair is good weather, and here we could not have been more blessed – plenty of sun, a gentle breeze and a temperature which was warm without ever becoming unbearable'. Last year I referred to 'a gloriously sunny day', but 2007 was rather different. At 9.00am, with rain teeming down and black clouds all around, we seriously considered decamping to the Church and Village Halls, both booked in reserve. The last time we moved the Fair to the halls was ten years ago and we still made a good profit, but the circumstances then were different. It had rained all day on the Friday and the ground was waterlogged; we were able to make a decision overnight, set up the halls and let people know of the change in reasonable time. This year all the tables and equipment were already at Castle House, we had no lorry or manpower to take them back, and very little time to inform the stallholders or the public. Mercifully, the weather relented to some extent and we made the decision to stay put. The rain had not finished with us – a thirty minute downpour at 2.30pm threatened serious disruption – but after this it stayed away.

Fortunately most of the paying customers were already in the gardens by 2.30pm, and we estimate that numbers were only about 200 down on last year. Apart from the Plants who carried on selling throughout, the best results were not surprisingly achieved by stalls located in the marquees. The Cakes sold out halfway through the afternoon and, although Sylvia Grafton felt that some people in her tent were more concerned with sheltering than buying, the Craft Stall still made over £100 more than last year. Many of the stallholders got extremely wet and the Teas probably suffered more than anybody; it really was not an afternoon for sitting out and listening to the Bartholomew Wind Band with a cup of tea. Despite everything, the Teas took nearly £250 and the band played on. At the end of the day we had made a profit of £4,385, which reflected great credit on everybody, workers and our loyal public alike.

And so to our thanks. First and foremost, we are enormously grateful to Mark and Irene Roy for again allowing us the use of their beautiful grounds – the Fair really would not be the same anywhere else. Then the stallholders and their assistants (both wet and dry), those running sideshows and games (mostly very wet), the gatemen, car park attendant, accountants, tea- and cake-makers, washers up, musicians, programme sellers, and the removal squad – our gratitude goes to them all. There was a wonderful spirit of co-operation throughout, so many people noticing where help was needed and simply getting on with the job.

Finally, the Fair Committee. We are extremely fortunate to have such a conscientious, hard-working and versatile committee: Peter Venables, Secretary, erector of notice boards and lorry driver; Deborah Vigis, sponsorship (she doubled the income this year as well as obtaining many prizes), liaison with the Primary School and Fishing Game; Sue Stephenson, publicity, transport organiser and Plants; Christeen Malan, Bouncy Castle, Art Competitions and Children's Tombola; Susan Reid, Programmes organizer and cake-maker; Andrew Hill, removals and Children's Games (new this year) and, last but not least, Margie Torry. Margie takes on the very important job of recruiting and organising the stall holders, and this year she also took responsibility for the Toys, Children's Books and White Elephant. She did wonderfully well, but volunteers to take over at least one of these would be welcome. It has been a pleasure to work with them and, what is more, they are all willing to carry on next year.

The prizewinners in the Children's Art Competition were as follows:

Under 7:	First Prize: Chiara Parisotti	Second Prize: Ewan Livingston
7 to 11:	First Prize: Matthew Livingston	Second Prize: James Vigis

Colin Fleetwood



ROUNDABOUT

OTFORD EVENING WI. We had an extra visitor named Eli at our July meeting. Eli is an alpaca owned by our speaker, Tina O'Donnell, and his implacable stare, through the window, certainly surprised two young footballers outside! Eli roamed round the hall quite happily during his owner's talk, from which we learnt that camelids spit when stressed (Eli didn't, he just whimpered), have single babies after a gestation period of 11½ months, live for 15-20 years, are herd animals, eat grass and don't like rain as their coat doesn't contain lanolin.

Audrey Pearce won the Rose Bowl for the favourite flower and over £30 was raised for ACWW. Our carbon challenge tip for the month was, 'If it's not dirty wash it at 30'.

Next month we shall see some of Stoney Parsons' lovely stained glass so do feel free to join us at 7.30pm on 9th August if you are interested.

If you are soon planning to clear your garages, sheds and lofts why not book a table at our Boot Fair on 22nd September, and see your unwanted items turned into 'Cash in the Attic'? Ring Diana on 522981 for details.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The Society's visit on July 4th to Danson House, Bexleyheath, proved very interesting. This charming Palladian villa dating from 1766 has only recently been beautifully restored by Bexley Borough Council with assistance from English Heritage and the National Lottery. It was built by the eminent Georgian architect, Sir Robert Taylor, for an evidently very wealthy City merchant. Its restoration was urgent, for not only was it affected by rot and about to collapse, but a plastering contractor brought in in the 1990s absconded with a range of magnificent Georgian marble fireplaces. These were recovered only just in time, from a container awaiting export on Tilbury dockside.

On Saturday 1st September the Society has a full-day outing to Broadstairs in East Kent by coach, departing Otford Pond at 9.00am. Included is a tour of the old town and port, and a visit to Bleak House, Charles Dickens's home. The curators are Lee Ault and her husband – Lee Ault gave an interesting lecture and demonstration of Victorian fashions at one of last winter's meetings. There are numerous cafés, restaurants and pubs in the town. The total cost per head is £20.25. Please book with Cliff or Elizabeth Ward, tel. 522384.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. After the summer break, the Society's programme resumes with a lecture on Tuesday September 4th by Gordon Darby on 'A Vegetable Grower's Year'. The Autumn Flower and Craft Show follows on September 8th. Details from Janet Finney – 01959 523760.

OTFORD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL have 'lost' two 6ft Go-Pak tables from the Main Hall. If anyone has borrowed these and not yet returned them, could they please do so as a matter of urgency. These tables cost around £120 each and if these missing two have to be replaced this will, inevitably, be reflected in the charges for hiring the Hall. The Hall is usually locked but if a resident wants to return these tables and is embarrassed about having forgotten to do so, please call the Hall bookings line on **01959 525181** and we will arrange for the Hall to be opened at a convenient time. We don't need to know your name!!!

Sunday 23rd September, 10.00am, **HOSPICE IN THE WEALD'S 10km and 1km RUNS**, Lower Cricket Ground, Tunbridge Wells.

Following the success of our first 10km in 2006, we are repeating this event and including a 1km fun run for Juniors/Mums/Dads/Grandparents etc. The runs will start and end at the Lower Cricket Ground and the 10km run will be a challenging course through Broadwater Forest. Dame Kelly Holmes will fire the starting gun.

Entry fees: £8 for affiliated club members, £10 for pre-registered individuals, £12 for registration on the day and £3 for juniors etc on the 1km.

For further information contact **Fiona Parry on 01892 820508.**



A TRIAL IN OTFORD CHURCH

On August 2nd 1511, Alice Hilles, aged 20, from Tenterden and Margaret Baker, wife of William Baker, from Cranbrook, were tried in Otford Church by Archbishop Warham. What were their crimes? Both ladies had been caught reading the Bible in English; this would have been the translation made by John Wyclif. They also denied that at Mass, the bread was miraculously changed into the Body of Christ. There were a further 12 charges against them but the two mentioned above headed the list. They both pleaded guilty to their 'crimes' and were told by the Archbishop to attend their Parish Churches on the following Sunday, in rags, carrying a faggot; the faggot was a piece of firewood, and it was a way of saying 'I deserve to be burnt at the Stake, but the Archbishop forgave me'.

In all, there were 53 people who were tried by Archbishop Warham in the 1511-1512 trials, which were recorded in great detail. The majority of them took place in Knole House. They show that Lollardy was thriving in Kent. The Lollards were Christians who followed the ideas and teaching set out by John Wyclif; they believed that the main duty of a minister was to preach and Bible study was a priority. In many ways they anticipated the Reformation. Some of the trials at Knole must have caused quite a stir, as we will see.

Brian Rayner

THE SEASONS: SUMMER

Everywhere pattern;
design without a designer?
I gather a bird's feather
which looks at me in
silence and tells all.

In every member of
its species the same eye
will be found in the same
barbules, saying nothing,
informing us who it is.

It is the summer of
the plumage. Like fruit
ripening, ready to fall,
the feather brightens towards
harvest and lets go.

There is an August
within us, aeons
of preparation for a few
kingfisher days. We fly
the diameter of a circle.

She was the colour
of corn. Fine wheat
was her texture. Somewhere
within her, palpitating,
was the heart's poppy.

R.S. Thomas: 'Mass for Hard Times': Bloodaxe: 1992

IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs Gladys Ada Elizabeth Lampon** who died on 29th June aged 94. Her funeral was held at the Parish Church on 10th July, followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells and interment in the Church's Memorial Garden. Gladys was born in the City of London, the eldest of five children. After leaving school she worked in accountancy and served in the WVS in the war. She lived with her late husband, Arthur, in Sidcup and later Otford, and they shared many hobbies, especially extensive travel. Gladys was a fundraiser for the Hospice in the Weald and the Royal British Legion and often helped others with transport and other practical needs. She was a member of Otford Afternoon WI for 28 years, involving herself in all aspects of the Institute and serving on the Committee for most of those years. She was District Sports and Leisure Representative and ran trips to many places of interest, as well as organising events such as scrabble, croquet and darts. She was a keen member of the WI drama group and loved holidays at Denman College and further afield. Gladys loved dogs and enjoyed dog-sitting for neighbours: her other great interest was gardening.



Registers



Baptisms (Our Welcome)

1st July Ellis William **Coles**
8th July Elliott de Warrenne Allgood **Boult**

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

14th July Nicholas Edward **Ott** and Andrea **Crowden**

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

10th July Gladys Ada Elizabeth **Lampon** – aged 94 (Cremation)

Church Offerings in June

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses £471.62
Freewill Offerings £4,573.00