

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	Thanksgiving Service	-
SECOND	CW HC	<b>10.30am</b> Morning Worship - Music Group -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Hall -	-
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, 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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# SEPTEMBER 2007

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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  
(Mr and Mrs Tutt)

- 2.30pm** Baptism of Xiaoli Mei Elizabeth Annie Robson  
**5.00pm** Thanksgiving Service for Church Centre  
 (Archdeacon of Tonbridge, Ven. Clive Mansell)
- 6.00pm** FROGS (Church Hall)
- 4 – 8.15am Morning Prayer (in Church) each Tuesday  
 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 5 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Hall)  
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 8.00pm Sparkles and Crackers (Vicarage)
- 6 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 8 – 10.00am-6.00pm Kent Churches’ Trust Sponsored Bike Ride  
 2.00pm Wedding of Mark Philip Holmes and Claire Helen Salmond
- 9 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00am** Holy Communion (CW)  
**10.30am** Holy Communion (CW)  
**12 noon-2.00pm** Farewell Reception for Revd. Pat Hopkins (Village Hall)  
**5.00pm** CU@5 (Church Centre)  
**There will be no 6.30pm service today**
- 10 – 7.45pm CAMEO: Coffee & Discussion (50 Well Road)
- 12 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 13 – Material for the October magazine by today, please, to David Matthews,**  
**‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ**  
**matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 15 – 9.30am Churchyard Working Party
- 16 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00am** Holy Communion (CW)  
**9.30am** Morning Worship (CW)  
**5.00pm** CU@5 (Church Centre)  
**6.30pm** Evensong  
**8.00pm** Ministry Team (Church Centre)
- 18 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 19 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist Hall)  
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 22 – 2.00pm Wedding of Mark Robin Cutler and Alexandra Grace Hart  
 (Canon Derek Carpenter)
- 23 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity: Poverty and Hope Sunday**  
**8.00am** Holy Communion (BCP)  
**9.30am** Holy Communion (CW)  
**11.30am** PCC meeting (Church Centre)  
**5.00pm** CU@5 (Church Centre)
- 24 – 7.45pm Focus group (50 Well Road)
- 26 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 27 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 30 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00am** Holy Communion (CW)  
**9.30am** Mattins  
**5.00pm** CU@5 (Church Centre)  
**6.30pm** Contemplative service

*see page 10 for early October dates*

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# EDITORIAL

## **Looking Forward to Retirement**

How do you react when someone tells you of their imminent retirement from work? With delight as you picture the golden days of relaxation they will enjoy? With surprise in that the person doesn't look old enough to retire? With dismay because such an event will mean changes in your own life?

I began work at the age of sixteen as a junior secretary in London, progressing later to teaching Religious Education (and Secretarial Subjects) and then receiving a call to parish ministry, first as deaconess, then deacon and later priest. During my working life, women have been given the opportunity to continue working until the age of sixty-five, and priests may continue in post until the age of seventy.

We are all different. Many people relish the opportunity to continue working until they are quite elderly. Others value the opportunity to cease paid employment and to offer their gifts in the voluntary sector, helping with different charities, working with schools or the elderly. God guides each of us in different ways, and not least in the 'hunch' which grows or diminishes as we contemplate a particular course of action. He can guide through a series of events which begin to answer the question 'what now?' And there is a sense in which God can call us in retirement to experience what it was like in Eden before the Fall and before our world became distorted through Man's ignoring God, before the mandate to 'painful toil'.

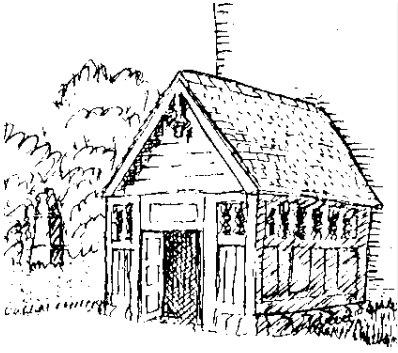
Retirement need not mean inactivity! It does give us the opportunity to reassess our priorities for the years of life we have left. It gives us the chance to stir up the gifts neglected and to discover new ones. As God calls us to weekly Sabbath rest, so he calls us also to the same time of blessing in retirement as we come to the end of paid or unpaid work.

The completion of the Church Centre is in many of our lives, and not least in mine, an obvious punctuation mark. The journey to reach this point has been long and often hard, and now we can celebrate in the light of God's faithfulness. A new vicar will come to Otford to dream dreams and see them fulfilled just as I have been privileged to experience. I hope you will welcome and support that person, enabling them and their family to truly feel part of a loving Christian church family. For myself, I have no doubt that opportunities for Christian service will arise in Norfolk. Within the context of the Sabbath rest of which speak, I may be enabled to take these up, continuing in a different kind of ministry. When we let go of certain responsibilities, it doesn't mean that God's call ceases!

I am grateful to you for your support and encouragement over the last nearly eleven years and wish you every blessing for the years ahead. Words of a Christian hymn come to me at such a time:

*'We'll praise Him for all that is past,  
and we'll trust Him for all that's to come!'*

*(Rev.) Pat Hopkins*



## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

### From the Churchwardens

When the interregnum commences following Pat's retirement on September 9th, we and the PCC are anxious to ensure that services and parish life continues much as usual. If you have matters or concerns that you would previously have referred to the Vicar, please do not hesitate to contact either us or the Deputy Wardens, Sally Wöstmann or David Matthews (contact details on the 'Who's Who' page). In addition, the church office, which moves to the Church Centre this

month, will be open from 10.30 to 12.30 on Mondays to Fridays for general enquiries and contacts.

In liaison with our patron, Westminster Abbey, and the Diocese, we are continuing to move forward in our preparations for the selection and appointment of a new incumbent. This month the PCC will approve a Parish Profile, which will be sent to possible applicants, and appoint two of its number to assist with selection and interviewing. We hope very much that a new Vicar will arrive in the first half of next year. *It is still not too later to let us have your views about our church life and what you would like to find in a new vicar.*

Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt

### The Church Centre

#### *Open for Viewing*

Our new Church Centre and Church Office will be open for use from Monday 3rd September 2007. You are invited to join us for coffee/tea and view the facilities from 6.30 to 8.30pm on Monday 3rd September to Friday 7th September. Pop in with your friends and neighbours to see what your support has achieved.

#### *The Church Office*

From Monday 3rd September the Church Office will operate from the new Centre. 10.30am to 12.30pm on Monday to Friday.

#### *Entry to the Church*

From Sunday 2nd September entry to the Church will be via the new Centre door which is automatic, opening outwards. The door into the church from the new lobby is power assisted, opening outwards.

The South door will be open for entry from the car park at service times only.

#### *Health and Safety*

The Church Centre is compliant with Health and Safety at Work regulations, Fire Regulations and Disabled Discrimination Regulations. Users will be required to have a Duty of Care person named and in charge. Training for Duty of Care Persons, including Churchwardens, Deputies and Sidespersons on duty for services, will be required.

### Thanksgiving Service for the Church Centre

This service will be held on Sunday 2nd September at 5pm. It is an opportunity for us to thank God and all those whom He has inspired to enable the Church Centre to be completed. Our preacher is the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, the Ven. Clive Mansell, and we look forward to welcoming many to this service, including Canon Antony Caesar, who has written an anthem for this special occasion, entitled 'Except the Lord build the House, their labour is but lost that build it'.

### **Vicar's Retirement**

Rev. Pat will be conducting her last services with us on Sunday 9th September at 8 and 9.30am: both services of Holy Communion, the latter particularly suitable for both adults and children. This will be followed at 12 midday by a Farewell Reception in the Village Hall. All are welcome. Rev. Pat will be moving from Otford on 11th September. Her new address is 'Hill Cottage', Broomhill, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9PF (no telephone as yet!).

If you are unable to join us on the 9th, you may like to come to 'Sparkles and Crackers' on Wednesday 5th September at 8pm in The Vicarage: a personal opportunity to say 'goodbye'.

### **Morning Prayer**

This is said during term-time on Tuesdays at 8.15am in church. All are most welcome to join us.

### **FROGS**

This group for those in the first years of secondary school recommences its monthly programme on Sunday 2nd September at 6pm in the Church Hall. For further details please ring Margie Torry on 01959 524463.

### **'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 and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 5th and 19th September, from 9.30 to 11.30am.

### **Reader Ministry**

Please continue to pray for those who will be busy this autumn, remembering particularly our Readers and retired clergy. Brian Raynor is cutting back on the preaching he undertakes for us at the Parish Church but will continue to be a valued member of the Ministry Team, overseeing our homegroups, and enabling us to learn more about local history through his prolific writing. We are grateful to him and Janet for their continuing ministry among us.

### **CU@5 Informal Service**

This popular weekly service recommences on Sunday 9th September at 5pm in the Church Centre. Bill Lattimer will be heading up the organisation of the autumn programme, and we thank all those who contribute to the life of this service. Do go along if you haven't been already!

### **Kent Churches' Trust Sponsored Bike Ride**

If you would like to cycle for the Trust and for your local church, please take a yellow sponsor form from the back of the church. We thank Simon Wragg for overseeing this event.

### **5th Sunday in the Month**

Do join us on Sunday 30th September, especially for the 9.30am service of Matins and for the 6.30pm Contemplative Service, which gives opportunity for quiet reflection. This latter service will be led by Margaret Lidbetter and by Kate Lacey from our Choir.

### **Churchyard Working Party**

Could you spare some time in order to help out at the last two churchyard working parties of the year, to be held on Saturday 15th September and 13th October, between 9.30am and 12.30pm? You don't have to be an experienced gardener (though that would be welcome!) as long as you are prepared to help a friendly team clear and tidy in the churchyard. Just turn up!

### Meeting with the Methodists

Members from St Bartholomew's Church and the Methodist Church are meeting together in the new Church Centre on Wednesday 10th October at 2.30pm for fellowship and refreshments. Bobbie Fairclough will be giving a short talk about her work as a member of the Independent Monitoring Board of Maidstone Prison. Please make a note of this date. Everyone will be made most welcome. (Margaret Lidbetter)

### Home Groups

Over the past few years, Vicar Pat has worked hard at encouraging us to become members of a Church Home Group. As a result, nearly 40 members of our congregation are appreciating the advantages of being part of one. Home Groups provide an opportunity to meet in a small group (about 6-10 people) to find out together what the Bible has to teach us, and to discuss how we can apply its teaching to our everyday lives. (Nothing too intellectual or theological.)

If you are not yet a member of one of these groups, now is a good time to think about joining one, as September is a time when most groups start a new pattern of studies. Most groups meet fortnightly – but on different days, at different times, in different parts of the parish. These details, together with the restarting dates, the group leader and in some cases the proposed topics to be discussed, are all in the table below.

If you wish to join a group, please get in touch with Brian Raynor (523327) or, even better, contact the leader of the group you might wish to join.

Leader	Contact Number	Start Date	Topic (if known)
Brian Raynor	523327	18th September	Ruth
David Casiot	522588	6th September	John's Gospel
Mags Southgate	524720	27th September	Tba
Bill Lattimer	522058	11th September	Colossians
Margaret Lidbetter	524831	3rd September	Tba

### St Bartholomew's Prayer Chain

Although our Prayer Chain has been in existence for many years, we thought there may be some who have no idea what it is or that it is for use by all. A Prayer Chain is simply a list of people who have volunteered to pray when the need arises. Usually either the Vicar, or the Church Office, receives a prayer request and this is then passed down the chain. Those who are on the chain pray by themselves once they have passed on the request. This means that if you ask for prayer you can be sure that there will be about 20 people praying for you that day. All requests are treated with as much confidentiality as requested by the person asking for prayer. Sometimes we are not even given a name. Sometimes the request is urgent; at others we are asked to pray at a particular time.

We would like to encourage people to use the Prayer Chain. If you would like to, for whatever reason, please call the Church Office with your request and either Susan or Clive will then activate the chain. Please be assured that we will take your request seriously and in confidence but with complete assurance that our Father in heaven hears and responds to our prayers.

Jesus said, '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. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.' (Matthew 5:6-8).

Mags Southgate and Anne Fleetwood



# ROUNDABOUT

**OTFORD PLAYERS.** Auditions for the play 'My Friend Miss Flint' will take place on Friday 7th September 2007 and Tuesday 11th September 2007 in the Methodist Hall at 8pm. The play will be performed on March 13th, 14th and 15th 2008 in the Village Memorial Hall.

The play is a comedy written by Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham and concerns the financial problems of a TV presenter, the Inland Revenue and a non-existent public relations consultant and the efforts of characters trying to help and those that aren't! The play will be directed by Barbara Hine.

More performance details will be given at a later date. Christine Masson 01959 522637

**OPEN GARDEN.** Pam Hadrill's garden at 'Little Oast' will be open again for charity under the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 9th September from 2-5pm. Home-made teas and plants will be for sale. 'Little Oast' is at the end of Private Drive, alongside the river.

**W.I. OAST.** Thursday 20th September – Dabble morning: come along and try your hand at a craft dabble.

**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** It was good to have Una McKeand, a former member, with us at our August meeting. Members were confronted with an unusual competition – a display of photographs of committee members' grandchildren: 'Who belonged to Who?' – not easy!

Future events for our diaries include an International Evening on 3rd November, the first meeting of the craft group on 4th October when we shall (try to) knit a shopping bag out of a plastic supermarket bag – that should be a laugh – and a visit to the Craft Exhibition in Brighton in February 2008 when the Textile Treasures of the W.I. will be on display. With two discussion groups already flourishing in the institute, a third is about to be formed as an 'overflow'.

Our speaker was Stoney Parsons, a creative glass designer, who showed slides of some of her beautiful work. Windows at a hospital's multi-faith room and a window depicting a cascade in lovely shades of blue in a Reading hospital showed how well her work fitted in with their particular locations and in her commissions for private homes she had the difficult task of meeting with both the owner's wishes and the ambience of the house itself. She uses only hand-blown glass and irises, peacocks and flowers all came to life in her slides.

On 22nd September we shall be holding our Boot Fair and a few stalls are still free at £9 each. There will be hot or cold drinks and home-made cakes on sale to keep customers and stall holders sustained throughout the morning and posters will soon be on display round the village with details. Ring Diana on 522981 to reserve a table, but please don't delay.

'Ellen Terry, her life and loves' is the subject at our meeting on 13th September. We start at 7.30pm and you would be made very welcome.

Brenda Young 01732 885356

**OTFORD-PRECIGNE.** A glass of wine and some French cheese – un verre de vin et du fromage français – no, you don't have to speak French, but do come and hear more about Otford's twin village near Le Mans in France and future plans in the Club Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 26th September, 8pm-10pm. Tickets at £3 from Jane Lawrey (01959 522360).

**OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY.** On Tuesday 4th September at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall, Gordon Darby will speak on 'A Vegetable Grower's Year' – the personal view of an experienced allotment holder.

Then on 8th September, also in the Memorial Hall, is the Autumn Flower and Craft Show. This is from 2.15 to 4.15pm, with refreshments available until 4pm. Admission is 50p, under 16s free. There will be classes for vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, cookery and juniors.

**'OTFORD REMEMBERED 1907: THE HARVEST – A CELEBRATION'**, to be held in the Otford Memorial Hall on Saturday 15th September at 6.30pm. Tickets are £8.00, children half-price, with supper included, from Ken Gunderson: 01959 522709.

**WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: SEVENOAKS & DISTRICT BRANCH  
2007-2008**

Our 10 and 20 week courses will start in the week beginning 24th September, with further details in our brochure. This is obtainable from your local library, if you have not already received a copy. Remember that you may attend the first session BEFORE enrolling under our 'Try Before you Buy' Policy.

A 20-week literature course, tutored by Christine Bett and entitled 'Unwilling to School', will be held in the Club Room, Otford Village Hall, on Mondays, 10-12 noon, but not starting until October 15th.

There will also be a Day School in the same room on Saturday 24th November 2007 from 2.00 to 6.00pm. 'Early Photography – Anna Atkins of Halstead' will be tutored by Martyn Berry.

Further details are available from:

Joyce Allen, Branch Secretary, on 01959 522915. Email: johnallen.otford@tiscali.co.uk

or

Dorothy Palmer, Assistant Branch Secretary: 01959 522936.

**SPOTLIGHT  
ON**

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Chairman: Mr John Allen**

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

The speed and number of vehicles on our roads worries many residents – as well as the parking problems. The village car park is a matter for the parish council and thus possibly on the parish portion of council tax, but controlling speeds is a matter for the Kent Highways Department with whom the parish council is in regular contact. They have the same problems over most of Kent, and making motorists (most of us!) drive at speeds that most perceive as safe seems impossible. Some call for more signs, restrictions and crossings, but most casualties in Otford have been on the road with most signs and warnings, and the roads through the village with least signs have, thankfully, seen fewer or no crashes or deaths.

I was reminded of this on reading a recent speech to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 'calling on local authorities, highways designers and developers to question long-held assumptions about safety that are not based on solid evidence'. The Director of CABA said that systems installed after 'accidents and (for) perceived risk (could) result in increased traffic speed and create an illusion of predictability and actually increase accident rates'.

These are just two points from a speech you can read on the net, and I mention it solely to invite consideration of her points: has traffic speed management reduced casualties in Otford? would more of the same help?

Whatever perceptions we have, statistics show a 23% reduction in serious injuries and deaths in crashes on roads in the Sevenoaks district compared with 2000.

In July, the drake on our pond was injured with a pellet lodged in his back; a local vet removed it and treated him (without charge) and again we have two white ducks swimming around.

Yet more graffiti appeared in various places and there was a very unpleasant occurrence in the toilets. Please, if you see anything suspicious in Otford note the details and report it.

Palace Park Wood will be ten years old later this year! It has grown remarkably well in this short time and is interesting for the plants, seeds and berries that are supporting wildlife – which you may be lucky enough to see. It is Otford's woodland; entrance is free!

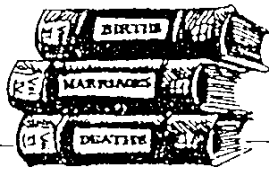
JGA

**SOME EARLY OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 1 – 2.30pm FEBA meeting at 41 Parkhill  
7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 2 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)  
8.00pm Ecumenical meeting (38 Warham Road)
- 3 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Church Hall)  
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)



## Registers



**Baptisms (Our Welcome)**

- 5th August Susannah Elizabeth **Brown**
- 5th August George Stanley **Booth**
- 5th August Martha Jane **Booth**

**Weddings (Our Congratulations)**

- 21st July Mark Roberto **Spagnoli** and Clare Elizabeth **Worgan**
- 28th July Ross James **Tappin** and Anne **Lai**

**Church Offerings in July**

- Open Collections for charities and Church expenses ..... £1,177.73
- Freewill Offerings ..... £5,022.00

## CHANGING GARDENS

No Garden Too Big, No Garden Too Small!!

### Phil Buckingham

Email: phil\_buckingham@hotmail.com  
Mobile: 07932339115



Lawn mowing, Hedge cutting, Pruning, Weeding, Edging, Garden clearance, Power washing (Tennis Courts & Patio's). Quotes and References available.