

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Centre -	BCP Evensong - Choir -
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Centre -	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Centre -	Evensong - Choir
FOURTH	BCP HC	Morning Worship with Communion - Choir	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Centre -	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Choir	<b>CU@5</b> - Church Centre -	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 Centre  
except on first and second Sunday when in Church

**SUNDAY CLUB** 3-7+yrs, 9.30 a.m. in Church Centre  
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 the Parish Church Office.

## 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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# OCTOBER 2007

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 2 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**  
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) (Revd. Denis Mihill)

- 7 – **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**
- 8 – 7.45pm Coffee and Discussion (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 10 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. John Goulding)  
2.30pm Meeting with the Methodists (Speaker: Bobbie Fairclough: Church Centre)  
8.00pm Deanery Synod (Church Centre)
- 11 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 13 – 9.30am United Prayer Meeting (Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford)  
9.30am Churchyard Working Party  
3.00pm Rehearsal for Come and Sing Handel's Messiah  
7.00pm Performance of Handel's Messiah (in Church)
- Material for the November magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 14 – **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity: Feba Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. John Goulding)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship (CW) (Speaker: Jon Hargreaves, Feba)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Jon Hargreaves: Church Centre)**  
**6.30pm Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. Hugh Thomas)**
- 15 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 16 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 17 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)  
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Maurice Hewett)
- 21 – **The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. Joe Whiting)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**
- 22 – 7.45pm Focus: Topical (Twitton Oast)
- 24 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 26-28- Ashburnham Weekend with Methodist Church members
- 27 – **British Summer Time ends: Put clocks BACK one hour**
- 28 – **The Last Sunday after Trinity: Bible Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Denis Mihill)**  
**9.30am Holy Communion (CW) (Speaker: Leigh Smith, Bible Society)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**
- 30 – 7.45pm CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 31 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. David Casiot)

**Some early November dates**

- 4 – **The Fourth Sunday before Advent: All Saints**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. John Goulding)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship with children (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**

*See page 5 for more early November dates*

# EDITORIAL

*Before her retirement as Vicar of Otford, the Revd. Pat Hopkins left the following editorial as her response to some of those who had brought her their pain and questions.*

I came across this the other day, and thought it might be helpful to those going through challenging times.

## **‘Welcome to Holland**

When you are going to have a baby, it is as though you are planning a holiday in Italy. You are excited. You get all kinds of guide books and you learn a few phrases of Italian so that you can find your way around. When the time comes for departure, you pack your suitcase and travel to the airport for the flight to Italy. Only when you land and the stewardess says “Welcome to Holland!” do you look at one another in disbelief and shock and say “Holland? What are you talking about? I booked for Italy!” Then they explain that there has been a change of plan, and you have landed in Holland, where you have to stay. Your reaction is natural: “But I don’t know anything about Holland! I don’t want to stay!”

But you do. You go out and buy some guide books. You learn new phrases, and you meet people you never knew existed. The important thing is that you are not in a filthy, plague-infested slum of pestilence and famine. You are simply in a different place from the one you had planned. It is slower-paced and less flashy than Italy. But after you have been there for a while and you have a chance to catch your breath, you begin to discover that Holland has windmills, Holland has tulips, Holland even has Rembrandts!

Of course, everyone else you know is busy coming and going to Italy. They are all boasting about what a marvellous time they had there. And for the rest of your life you will say, “Yes. That’s what I planned!” The pain of that will never ever go away. You have to accept the pain because the loss of that dream, the loss of the plan, is a very, very significant loss. But if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn’t get to Italy, you will never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things about Holland.’

The words above are taken from an address to the American National Down’s Syndrome Congress by its Executive Director, Diane Cnitcher. It may be meaningful to any parent whose child has been born with Down’s Syndrome, cystic fibrosis, or any other kind of unexpected condition. It can apply also to those, of any age, who face bad news concerning their health. Its words may relate to the experiences of those who are full-time carers.

Paul was able to write these words in Philippians chapter 4, in the light of his Christian faith: ‘I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.’

May God give each one of us the grace to receive his guidance and the courage to prosper in each part of our journey through life.

*(Revd.) Pat Hopkins*

*Some more early November dates for your diary*

- 5 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 7 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. John Goulding)
- 10 – 10-12 noon Christmas Market (Church Hall)**
- 11 – Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday**
  - 8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Denis Mihill)**
  - 10.00am Special Remembrance Day Service**
  - 10.55am Service at the War Memorial**
  - 5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**
  - 6.30pm Holy Communion (CW) (Canon Dr. Jane Hedges, Westminster Abbey)**

## FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

### From the Churchwardens: A Double Thanksgiving

On September 2nd, Archdeacon Clive Mansell joined members of the parish, donors, builders, and architects to give thanks for the building of the Church Centre, which had been opened by Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali on 22nd July. During the service, the anthem 'Except the Lord Build the House' (Psalm 127), written for the occasion by Canon Anthony Caesar, was given its first performance.

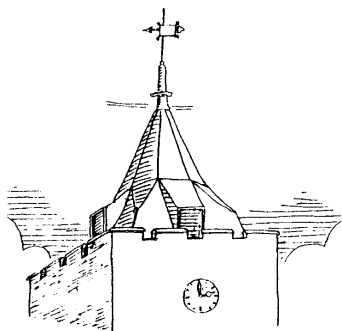
On Sunday September 9th, about 200 members of the congregation joined with Pat Hopkins in a very moving service as she led her final Parish Communion as Vicar of Otford, with her own choice of hymns. In her last sermon she introduced us to her new home in East Runton, a village with its own duck pond!

Many from Church and Village attended a reception in the Village Hall on the same day, a thanksgiving for Pat's ministry and our farewell to her. Colin Fleetwood spoke about some of the elements of her appointment and praised her for her God-centredness and for her courage deriving from her faith in taking on such a demanding post. He reminded us of her compassion and ability to offer comfort and succour to those in need, of her pastoral care, of her skill in taking baptisms and funerals and her gift to posterity of the Church Centre, which she helped to drive through to its recent completion.

Pat, who particularly enjoyed giving gifts, particularly roses, was presented with three rose bushes for her new garden. A cheque representing the many donations received will be sent to her at the end of September, which she has said she will use towards landscaping work for the garden.

### Thank you!

Revd. Pat would like to say a big 'thank you' for all the wonderful cards, letters and gifts received on her retirement. Special thanks are due to all who contributed to the most generous cheque, the final total of which is awaited. Thank you to all those who contributed to the farewell reception, to Colin Fleetwood for his very kind words, for the beautiful roses, and to Penny Beacom for the delicious cake. It was lovely to have Mavis Crook playing for the morning service and such a blessing to hear the bells' quarter peal in the afternoon. In case you don't have Pat's address, it is Hill Cottage, Broomhill, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9PF.



### **Ecumenical Meeting**

Representatives from the Roman Catholic, Methodist and our own church meet regularly to review past events and to plan for new ones. Their next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd October: please feed in any ideas to representatives Susan Reid and Margaret Lidbetter.

We hope you will come along and share in the united churches' prayer meeting, to be held on Saturday 13th October at 9.30am in Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

### **'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 Wednesday 3rd and 17th October, from 9.30 to 11.30am.

### **Harvest**

This falls on Sunday 7th October. The Family Service at 9.30am on that day includes the opportunity for children who would like to, to bring tinned goods for distribution to the Dunloe Centre of St Saviour's Priory in East London.

Moirra Jones, SSM, writes: 'The Dunloe Centre continues to flourish – if that is the appropriate description of ministering to the homeless and destitute, trapped by the failures of our society or by their own weaknesses. The help we can give is limited, of course, but without your help we wouldn't be functioning at all. So we, and all our clients, say a very big THANK YOU to you all for your most generous response.'

The Priory particularly request the following: tins of tuna and other fish, meat to heat, baked beans or spaghetti in sauce, macaroni cheese, soup, custard, milk pudding, tinned vegetables; packets of tea-bags, cup-a-soup, long grain rice, pasta, biscuits, instant potatoes and instant custard; jars of jam and pasta sauce, plus toiletries including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, deodorant and tissues. (No clothes this year, please.)

We thank parents and children from Russell House School who will also be bringing Harvest contributions to their Harvest service and then to the church during the previous week. Monetary donations for the 'Send a Cow' project, supported last year, will be invited at the services. There will be a service of Festal Evensong at 6.30pm on that day.

### **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)

### **Churchyard Working Party**

A reminder that the final churchyard working party of the year will take place on Saturday 13th October, between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Any support will be most welcome.

### **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!

#### **FEBA Sunday**

You may know that one of the Missionary Societies we support is the Far East Broadcasting Association, particularly the Stout family in Cyprus. We look forward to welcoming from FEBA Jon Hargreaves, our former Mission Partner, as speaker on Sunday 14th October at the 9.30am and **CU@5** services: do join us if you can.

#### **Bible Sunday**

This falls on Sunday 28th October, and we look forward to welcoming Leigh Smith from the Bible Society to our 9.30am service on that day. If you would like regular Bible reading notes, please speak to Dawn Hallam or Margaret Lidbetter.

#### **All Saintstide**

This is celebrated on Sunday 4th November, and the services at 8.00am and 6.30pm will include the names of those who have died in the parish within the last year. If you would like other names to be added to this list, please speak to Mrs Susan Reid.

#### **Tom Housden**

We congratulate Tom Housden on the setting-up of his new business, TCH Computing, which provides PC maintenance and support. Tom offers help with computers, from diagnosing and troubleshooting faults, to giving one-to-one tuition, and promising a full computer check-up with a detailed report. You can reach Tom on 01959 522361.

#### **Christmas Market: Saturday 10th November 10am-12 noon**

The Christmas Market will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 10th November. Bring your friends and enjoy a chat over coffee and a cake! There will be the usual plants, crafts, toys and cakes. Try your luck at the competitions. Entry is free.

The stall-holders would be grateful for any contributions. Please contact Sally Aylward on 01732 450850.

#### **Conference for Women**

Joyce Ambrose writes about a conference for women organised by '*Know your Bible*' in UK on Monday 15th October from 9.45am to 2.30pm at the Undercroft of St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks. The speaker, Angela Mills, making a much-requested return visit to Sevenoaks, will talk on 'Dealing with Reality: Facing Life Issues'. Angela's talks always have a very practical content in addition to Bible truths. The cost is £10, including lunch, payable on the day but, for catering purposes, please book your place with Elizabeth-Ann Horsford on 01732 460919. For further details contact Joyce on 01959 223782.



**OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY.** On Tuesday October 2nd, at 8pm in the Village Hall, Bob Ogley will speak on 'The Wind of Change – twenty years on' – a look back at the night of the hurricane in 1987. Admission (including refreshments) is 50p to members, £1 non-members.

**OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.** Broadstairs, which we visited on September 1st, proved to be a charming, old-fashioned seaside resort with a yellow sandy beach in a little bay backed by chalk cliffs. The town is proud of its Dickens connections. He never actually lived there but had a favourite hotel which he loved to visit from time to time, while putting some of the town's characters into his novels. There is a big house there called Bleak House, which seems to have had little to do either with Dickens himself or with *his* Bleak House, which is in Hertfordshire.

The first evening meeting of the society's winter programme is on Wednesday October 17th in the Village Hall at 8pm, when Mike Martin will speak on 'The History of the Victoria Cross'. The hall will be open from 7.30pm for enrolment.

**W.I. OAST.** Thursday 18th October – Winter Warmers. Jackie will be demonstrating some new soup recipes made with seasonal local produce, for us to sample.

**AGE CONCERN.** Country Style is holding a coffee morning and autumn/winter ladies' fashion sale on behalf of Age Concern. It will be held at Darenth Valley Golf Course, Station Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, on Tuesday 16th October from 10am until 3pm. Admission £2.00 to include coffee and biscuits. Delicious lunch available from the Golf Club. So please do come and treat yourself to a leisurely day at this lovely venue and enjoy the innovative shopping experience for affordable, quality, well known, colour co-ordinated fashions for all occasions, in sizes 10 to 20, plus a lovely selection of scarves and jewellery. There will also be a Tombola. Please do bring your friends and help us support this very worthy local charity. For further details please telephone Val Garner on 01825 7441431.

**IN AID OF DORTON HOUSE, SEVENOAKS,** The Royal London Society for the Blind will present LD Frazier in concert at The Barn, Oxted, on Thursday 25th October 2007, doors open 7pm. He sings and plays his way through the story of gospel music from the spirituals of slavery to the crossovers with blues and jazz. Tickets at £10 for adults and £5 for under-18 are available from Tim Ewer at the RLSB on 01732 592503 until 7th October and thereafter from Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON**

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Chairman: Mr John Allen**

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

The council covers a considerable variety of opportunities/problems; to illustrate some recent activities:

We were invited to the launch of a new website (DisabledGo.Info) for the benefit of the disabled. It will assist them to find places designed for easy entry. I am pleased to say this aspect was taken into account when School House was converted for council use.

Many will have noticed that for a time there was only one duck on the pond. The old drake had at least two major injuries (and afterwards enjoyed periods of care with a resident) but had increasing difficulty in walking, although he swam well. He made a final journey to the vets at the instigation of a resident, and a Muscovy drake has been found for the council to take his place. Fish have also 'arrived', but without invitation and are the wrong species!

The parish council looks after the pond; it provides daily duck food and a resident cares for them. If you think there are problems with the pond or its inhabitants or wish to help, please contact the parish clerk.

The parish council provides annual prizes for the Best Kept Front Garden in the village. This is run by the Otford Gardeners' Society, who each year twice inspect every (visible) front garden in Otford and select those colourful and attractive – usually about twenty – and independent judges choose the three best. Thanks are due to the few who help to make the village attractive, or opened their gardens for charity.

Our public toilets (bequeathed by the district council) are not in a satisfactory condition and we are trying to restore them. So far eight builders/decorators have expressed interest but not responded to our specification for works. The toilets may have to be closed.

There have been several meetings in Otford on aspects of road safety and, while researching information on the subject, I found a government document that gave the dramatic difference between a person being hit by a vehicle at 30mph or at 35mph. At the lower speed there is an 80% chance of survival but at 35mph it is only 50% – and it seems difficult in many vehicles to hold the speed at 30mph. It may be slight consolation that other countries in Europe have a casualty rate double or treble the UK, but we may take some comfort that in Kent the accident rate has dropped by nearly a quarter this century.

JGA

### **WILLIAM BAKER (RASHLY) CHALLENGES ARCHBISHOP WARHAM**

In August I described the trial of Margaret Baker in Otford Church by Archbishop Warham; she pleaded guilty to the 'sin' of not believing that, at Mass, when the bread and wine were consecrated, they miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Christ. When Margaret's husband, William, was tried he dared to challenge the Archbishop, commenting that in the Bible it says 'God made man', but nowhere does it say that 'man could make God'. These trials were purposely open to the public, as they were intended to put the 'fear of God' (or even the Archbishop) into the minds of the common people. One can imagine the silence that followed William Baker's affrontary! Robert Reynolds, who, like William, came from Cranbrook, was another who, on the same day dared to speak up before the Archbishop. Robert said that for him, the bread was not the actual body of Christ but only a symbol to remind us of what Christ did for us. He then added: 'We know that Christ's body is in heaven and his Word is here on earth.' (I take this as a reference to the Bible.) It is interesting to note that Thomas Cranmer includes the same argument in the Prayer Book '... the bread and wine remain still in their very natural substance and therefore may not be adored (this is idolatory ...); the natural Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ are in Heaven, and not here; it being against the truth of Christ's natural Body to be at one time in more places than one.'

William Baker and Robert Reynolds may have spoken out rashly but the outcome of their boldness was far reaching. Next time, we consider the inn-keeper's son, whose curiosity was aroused.

Brian Rayner

**THE SEASONS: AUTUMN**

Happy the leaves  
 burnishing their own  
 downfall. Life dances  
 upon life's grave.  
 It is we who inject  
 sadness into the migrant's  
 cry. We are so long  
 in dying – time granted  
 to discover a purpose  
 in our decay? Could  
 we be cut open,  
 would there be more than

the saw's wound, all  
 humanity's rings widening  
 only towards ageing?  
 To creep in for shelter  
 under the bone's tree  
 is to be charred by time's  
 lightning stroke. The leaves  
 fall variously as do thoughts  
 to reveal the bareness  
 of the mind's landscape  
 through which we must press on  
 towards the openness of its horizons.

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



*Registers*



- Baptisms (Our Welcome)**  
 1st September Beau **Denham-Howard**  
 2nd September Xiaoli Mei Elizabeth Annie **Robson**
- Wedding Blessing (Our Congratulations)**  
 1st September Peter Henry **Howard** and Joanne Patricia **Denham**
- Wedding (Our Congratulations)**  
 8th September Mark Philip **Holmes** and Claire Helen **Salmond**
- Funeral (Our Sympathy)**  
 14th September May Muriel **Kent** – aged 93 (Cremation)
- Church Offerings in August**  
 Open Collections for charities and Church expenses ..... £226.51  
 Freewill Offerings ..... £4,469.00

**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.