

# 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	10.00am Remembrance Sunday Services	<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**

Mrs Ambrose, Mr Beacom, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Cole, Mrs Davison, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Garner, Mrs Greener, Mrs Groom, Mr Housden, Mrs Hubbard, Mrs Hubert, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jeremiah, Mrs Jones, Mrs Keeling, Mrs Lattimer, Mrs Lawrey, Mrs Malan, Mrs Marchant, Mrs Martin, Mrs Mills, Mrs Packer, Mrs Parker, Mrs Raynor, Mrs Redding, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Roffey, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Torry, Mrs Wills, Mrs Worssam, Mrs Wragg, Mrs Yates, Mrs Young.

# NOVEMBER 2007

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**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**

- 5 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 6 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**  
2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 7 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. John Goulding)
- 8 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 10 – **10-12 noon Christmas Market (Church Hall)**  
7.30pm Concert given by the Sackville Singers (in Church)
- 11 – **The Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Denis Mihill)**  
**10.00am 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)**
- 12 – 8.00pm Finance Committee ('Lorien', St Michael's Drive)
- 13 – 8.00pm Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 14 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Methodist Church Hall)
- Material for the December magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Donald Crowther)
- 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 18 – **The Second Sunday before Advent**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Joe Whiting)**  
**9.30am Morning Worship (CW)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.30pm Evensong**
- 19 – 7.45pm Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8.00pm Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 20 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 8.00pm Homegroup Leaders' meeting (51 Knighton Road)
- 21 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
- 22 – 8.00pm Homegroup (14 Knighton Road)
- 25 – **The Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)**  
**9.30am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Casiot)**  
**5.00pm CU@5 (Church Centre)**
- 27 – 8.00pm Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 28 – 9.30am 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Some early December dates**

- 2 – **Advent Sunday**  
**8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. John Goulding)**  
**9.30am Matins**  
**3.30pm Christingle**  
**6.00pm FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**There will be No Evening Service at 6.30pm**
- 5 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. John Goulding)
- 7 – 7.30pm Tree of Light Service on The Green, followed by Carols

★                      ★                      ★

# EDITORIAL

Dear Friends

I was delighted to be at St Bartholomew's Church for two services at the end of the summer. I look forward to being with you again shortly before Christmas and, in the meantime, to being involved in the process for seeking a new Vicar of Otford.

November is now very much a month of 'Remembrance'.

Most poignantly, of course, we have Remembrance Sunday and the recently re-invigorated commemoration of Armistice Day on 11th November itself. Current events in Iraq and Afghanistan have added to these occasions fresh relevance and sorrow and, perhaps, a renewed awareness of the work undertaken by charities such as the Royal British Legion to assist the casualties of conflict or the families of the casualties of conflict.

The month of November begins with two other occasions of Remembrance, focussed around the days known as All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1st and 2nd respectively).

The Christian faith believes that death need be no ultimate divider between the generations. Jesus rose from the dead and stands with arms outstretched in the doorway of the human experience of death. Just as others beyond that doorway have in the past placed their hands (as it were) in faith and trust in his, so we in our earthly lives have our opportunity to place our hands (as it were) in faith and trust in his and he holds us together as one family unbroken by death. (That is part of the significance of the phrase in the Apostles' Creed about 'the Communion of Saints'.)

I personally value this month for these opportunities which it gives to remember those whose Christian faith in the past has been inspirational and, indeed, perhaps, in my own particular life, influential. These may be saints and heroes of faith known to us through the pages of Scripture or through the accounts of history. They may be those individuals from within my own lifetime whose example, teaching and prayers as, perhaps, Sunday School leaders, Bible class leaders, clergy, friends, family, etc have helped me to find and follow the way of Christian faith.

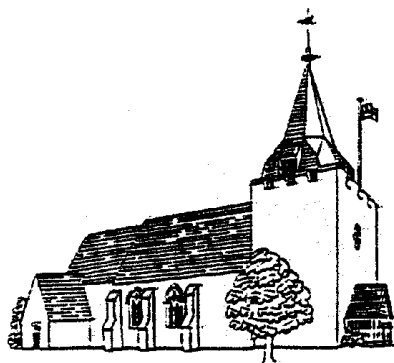
In September I made a brief visit to our Link Diocese of Mpwapwa in Tanzania. It was a visit which left me with many very striking impressions. One of those was of the reverence and gratitude which they felt towards those who had brought the Christian faith to their land in times past and who enabled that faith to spread amongst their people. They were deeply indebted to the Christian missionaries who played their part in the story. They were deeply indebted to the first influential Christian leaders from amongst their own community who spread the faith abroad and whose efforts, in part, have resulted in some of the vibrant and growing congregations which I encountered during my visit.

In this month of Remembrance, when we will take the chance to remember with solemnity and gratitude those whose lives were lost in war in the service of others, I hope that we may take also the opportunity for the joyful and grateful remembrance of those, with whom we are, in the risen Christ, forever united, and whose lives were spent in part in sharing the Christian message in such a way that it touched our land or touched our lives for good.

Yours sincerely

*Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge*

**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



**From the Churchwardens**

The interregnum is now in full swing and we are seeking to ensure that services and parish life continue 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 is

open from 10.30am until 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, for general enquiries.

The Church Centre has now been open for two months and many people are appreciating the facilities this provides. Do let us or members of the PCC have any comments or ideas you may have concerning its use. Hopefully, by now most of the outstanding snagging items have been dealt with and we have almost seen the last of the builders! For the last two months we have also been welcoming the children to the 9.30am service. Do please let us, or members of the Ministry Team, know what you think of the new arrangements.

Our search for a new incumbent is underway in association with our patron, Westminster Abbey, and the Diocese. Advertisements appeared in the Church Times in October and, hopefully, by the time you read this, applications will have been received! At its meeting in September, the PCC approved a Parish Profile, copies of which are displayed on the church notice boards. The PCC also appointed the Churchwardens as the parish representatives to work with the Archdeacon, Clive Mansell, and Canon Dr. Jane Hedges of Westminster Abbey, in the short listing, interviewing and selection of a new Vicar. It is hoped that interviewing can take place at the end of November and an appointment announced as soon as possible thereafter. We still hope very much that a new Vicar will arrive in the first half of next year. Canon Jane Hedges will be joining us again on Remembrance Sunday for both **CU@5** and to preach and celebrate at our evening Communion Service. *Do try to be there to meet and welcome her.*

Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt

**A message from Revd. Pat, 'Vicar in Retirement'**, who sends a big 'thank you' for the farewell gift of well over £3,000 received from the parish.

She writes: 'I have been truly overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The money will be used to landscape the back garden, to enable it to be on one level and to contain a lawn. I still feel as though I am on holiday and I'm enjoying some later mornings and rediscovering evenings at home. Walks on the beach and time to entertain have been extra special.

Thank you so much for your good wishes. I continue to remember you in prayer and have been so pleased to receive such good news of a thriving church family enjoying its new Church Centre.'

**Harvest**

Thank you to all those who gave to the 'Send a Cow' project which provides animals, training and food for those in the poorest countries in Africa. At the time of writing we do not have a firm figure, but a sum in excess of £550 was raised for this project. Many thanks also to Russell House School children for their magnificent response appeal for tinned and dried goods for St Saviour's Priory Dunloe Centre, for those who are poor and homeless in East London.

### **Remembering those who have died in 2007**

The 8am and 6.30pm services on Sunday 4th November will include the remembrance of those who have died this year and prayer for those facing bereavement.

### **Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District**

The Annual Open Meeting will take place on Thursday 8th November at 7.30 for 8.00pm at Sevenoaks URC Church Hall, St John's Hill. The evening will include a question time with a panel of local 'experts' including Rob Marsh (of SAYT and Tonbridge YMCA), Merle Bigden (from the Council), Gillian Shepherd-Coates (Age Concern) and others. This event is open to ALL and not just to church leaders.

Lis Lidbetter

### **Come to our Christmas Market!**

This year the market will take place in the Church Hall on Saturday 10th November

10am to 12 noon. Entry is free.

Bring your friends and enjoy a chat over coffee and cake!

Try your luck at the competitions!



Enjoy the range of stalls: Christmas gifts, crafts, toys and cakes.

**The Sackville Singers** will be presenting a performance entitled 'Except the Lord Build the House', on Saturday 10th November at 7.30pm in St Bart's Church, in aid of the Otford-based charity, 'Hospice of Hope'. This programme contains verse and song, both sacred and light-hearted, paying homage to Edward Elgar, born 150 years ago. It will also feature the anthem by Anthony Caesar, composed to mark the opening of our Church Centre. Tickets costing £10 are available from Hospices of Hope Shop at 28a High Street on 01959 524322 or from the office at 14a High Street on 01959 525110.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

This falls on Sunday 11th November and the traditional service begins at 10am in Church, followed at 10.55am by the service at the War Memorial on the Green. Traffic will be halted during the two-minute silence at 11am.

### **Cameo**

To celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the existence of CAMEO, a Wine and Nibbles Evening is being held on Monday 12th November, 7.45pm, at 17 Leonard Avenue.

This is an open invitation to all those who would like to join us for an evening's fellowship.

### **'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 church 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 in the New Hall at Otford Methodist Church fortnightly, and the next meetings are 14th and 28th November, from 9.30 to 11.30am.

### **Advent**

This falls on Sunday 2nd December. Following the 8am service of Holy Communion on that day, there will be a 9.30am service of Matins. The candlelit **Christingle Service** will be held at 3.30pm, when the speaker will be Dawn Hallam. There will be no other services on that day.

**CU@5** will restart in January. On the second Sunday in December at 6.30pm, we will welcome our Rural Dean, the Revd. Brenda Hurd, who will preach and celebrate.

During Advent, we shall again be operating the South American 'Pasada' scheme, whereby different families play host to a set of nativity figures, which then return to Church for display on Christmas Eve, alongside the traditional Christmas crib.

### **Tree of Light Service**

This falls on Friday 7th December and there will be a service on The Green at 7.30pm, followed by carol singing round the Christmas Tree. All are welcome and labels remembering those who have died may be obtained from the Parish Office in the High Street, or Hospice in the Weald, for which organisation donations are invited.

### **Christmas Choir Concert**

This is to be held on Sunday 16th December at 7.30pm. There will be a said service of Holy Communion at 6pm on that day. Tickets will cost £5.

### **Christmas Services**

Full details of all the services will be included in the December magazine but, in addition to those already mentioned, there will be a service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 23rd December and on Christmas Eve a Crib Service and the Midnight Communion, at which the preacher and celebrant will be Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge.



### **THE INN-KEEPER'S SON, WHOSE CURIOSITY WAS AROUSED**

Just opposite the entrance to Knole was a Tavern, called The Three Cats. In 1511, the Inn-keeper was Richard Frith. The site for the inn was at 13 and 15 High Street; No. 13 is now known as the Old Post Office and No. 15 is a private residence. The building dates from the early 15th century. A few weeks ago, Janet and I spent nearly half-an-hour in No. 15, courtesy of the present owners. As I sat in the large lounge with its oak beams and grand fire-place, it was not hard to picture what that room must have looked like back in 1511, as the locals, together with visitors, discussed excitedly what had been going on that day up at Knole.

"Did you see the look on the Archbishop's face when that chap said, 'I have read in the Bible that God made man, but nowhere have I read that man could make God'?" said one man.

"I felt sorry for other chap, because it looks as though he is going to be burnt at the stake," said another.

As the inn was busy, Richard's son, John, was no doubt helping his father. John was an exceptionally bright young lad, who was soon to move from Sevenoaks School to Eton College. For one who, a few years later, was renowned for his logical and mathematical ability, that statement 'God made man, but man can't make God', must surely have stimulated John Frith's intellectual curiosity. What happened when John Frith left Eton, we will consider next time.

Brian Raynor



**THE OTFORD SCOUT GROUP** will hold a Bonfire and Fireworks evening on Saturday 3rd November from 6.30 to 9pm in the Chalk Pit. The cost will be £4 per person (including a burger or sausage) while children under 5 are free. Please support the Scout Group and have a really enjoyable evening. Tickets are on sale from P.W. Copus (Butchers), Otford Dry Cleaners and The Crown.

**HOSPICE IN THE WEALD** will hold a Christmas Market on Monday 5th November between 11am and 4pm at the Hospice, Maidstone Road, Pembury. Stalls will offer food, toys, jewellery, gifts for the home and garden, silk scarves and fashion items. Refreshments will be available in the morning and at lunch and tea time. Admission is free.

**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** Many institutes in West Kent are 'linked' with a similar institute in East Kent and at the start of the October meeting members were welcomed with the offer of a glass of sherry. This was the very acceptable gift from our East Kent friends when we met them in the summer.

The profit made from the recent Boot Sale in September will give us a healthy start to the year when paying for hall hire, speakers' fees, etc. Our sincere thanks to all those who supported it – we hope to have another next year so watch this space!

Our Annual Meeting followed the proceedings of the monthly meeting and we heard an excellent report from our secretary and a clear and well-presented financial statement from our treasurer. President Diana Jerimiah thanked the committee members for their hard work during the year; Barbara Roberts has stood down but she welcomed on board Jeane Barsby and Eve Wiltshire. Diana was re-elected as our president and so begins another W.I. year.

'Aromatherapy' is the subject at our November meeting which begins at 7.30pm on the 8th in the OVMH. Visitors are always welcome so why don't you come along with a friend to join us?

Brenda Young

**OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I.** Tuesday 13th November at 2pm in the Village Hall: Mrs Allinson will talk on 'Life in a Victorian Workhouse'. For more details, please contact the Secretary on 01959 522736.

**W.I. OAST.** Thursday 15th November – Annual Meeting. This is your opportunity to volunteer to join the committee and bring in some new and fresh ideas.

**THE OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH** is holding a Christmas Bazaar in the new hall at 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 24th November. There will be a variety of stalls and you can enjoy a cup of coffee whilst having your car washed. Jean Gunderson

**GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST BOX.** This year will be the **25th** year of the Guide Christmas Post when Guides and Brownies will deliver Christmas cards in Otford village. The stamps have been designed this year by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and all the proceeds will be divided between **Hospice in the Weald** and **Valance School Children's Wish List**. The Post Box will be in Otford Library between Monday 26th November and Tuesday 18th December inclusive during opening hours. A second Box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday from 9am to 12 noon *between the same dates*. Stamps will be **20p** per card and *all* the money will go to the chosen charities. Please support us by posting early and make this 25th year a great success!

**OTFORD SHOPS' OPENING:** Sunday 2nd December between 11am and 4pm, when shops in the Village will be open for business. Street entertainers, a raffle, Father Christmas, Morris dancers and carol singing will all be part of this exciting day.

**OTFORD-PRECIGNE TWINNING.** There will be a Quiz Evening with a French flavour on Friday 16th November in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall at 8pm. Please apply for tickets at £5 per head to include ploughman's supper to Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 and bring your own bottle and glasses.

There will also be a Power Point presentation by two teenagers who recently visited Precigne, near Le Mans, France, and an opportunity to see photographs of the visit to Precigne by adults in May. We do hope you will support this international venture to ensure its success in bringing together young people in particular.

**OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.** On Wednesday 21st November at 8pm in the Village Hall there will be a talk by Paul Bennett on 'The Latest Archaeology in Libya'. Paul Bennett, a professional archaeologist, has been for many years the Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, whose large-scale excavations both inside and outside the walls have led to re-interpretation of the city's history. In addition, for several years Paul has been responsible for major excavations in Libya on behalf of the Libyan Government. During the Roman period Libya was regarded as the breadbasket of Rome. He will be talking about this on 21st November. Visitors to the meeting will be welcome at £1.

## SPOTLIGHT

ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The parish council has been asked to publicise the opportunity for members of the public to become Special Constables. The only requirement mentioned is that they have to be over 18 years old. If you are interested in performing this worthwhile duty, please contact the parish office for more information. It seems that the hours of duty are flexible.

This is also the time of the year when we are asked to consider our Police Community Support Officer, who also covers the parishes of Dunton Green and Shoreham, and assists the police in other ways if there is special need. These three parishes contribute to half the costs involved. There is no doubt that this arrangement has worked well with many people here, particularly some young people through the football matches arranged, both with the police and between teams of young people from the three villages.

We also have a Community Warden, supplied by Kent County Council, who is based in School House and covers Otford and Shoreham parishes.

All contribute in many different ways and also help to provide a uniformed presence that – I am told – used to be provided by a village policeman.

The recently introduced Twinning Group continues to arrange exchange visits between Precigne in France and Otford and is keen to involve others. Special mention must be made of several young people from both countries who have already benefited through exchange visits, and opportunities are likely to occur in future for others and their families. If you would like to visit this French village or know of a young person who would enjoy such an exchange, the Twinning Group will be arranging events, or you can ask in the parish office.

I wonder if I could explain the policing system in Otford to a Frenchman?

JGA

## IN MEMORY

We offer our condolences to the family of **Martin Harford Garner**, who died on 6th September, aged 57 years. A service of Thanksgiving for his Life was held in church on 1st October, followed by burial at Otford Cemetery. Martin leaves his wife, Rosemary, three children, Michelle, Rachel and Christopher, and his mother, Helen.

Martin was born in Canterbury, the only child of Helen and Charles. He went to St Ninian's School before emigrating to Australia, where he continued his education. The family returned to England and Martin's education continued at boarding school in Pitlochry, Perthshire, and then at King's School, Ely, where he enjoyed rugby and cricket. The family then moved to Petts Wood, where he met and married Rosemary and entered a career as sales representative for packaging to companies in the south of England. Martin and Rosemary moved to Otford, where their three children were born. They would have been married for thirty years next February, most of which were spent actively involved in the village and St Bartholomew's Church.



*Registers*



22nd September     **Wedding (Our Congratulations)**  
Mark Robin Cutler and Alexandra Grace Hart

1st October         **Funeral (Our Sympathy)**  
Martin Harford Garner

**Church Offerings in September**  
Open Collections for charities and Church expenses ..... £495.99  
Freewill Offerings ..... £4,521.00

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