

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	CU@5 - Church Centre -	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship - Music Group -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Holy Communion - Choir -	CU@5 - Church Centre -	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Said	CU@5 - Church Centre -	-

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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JANUARY 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 – No service of Holy Communion at 10.00am

6 – **Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Lock)

9.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion (CW)
(Revd. David Casiot)

5.00pm **CU@5** and Holy Communion (Church Centre)
(Revd. David Casiot)

- 6.00pm **FROGS (Church Hall)**
6.30pm **Evensong**
- 8 – **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays each week at 8.15am**
9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 12 – 9.30am Churchyard meeting (Church Centre)
- 13 – **Baptism of Christ: The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Joe Whiting)**
9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Centre)**
6.30pm **Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Nigel Bourne, Vicar of Chalk)**
- Material for the February magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, ‘Beech Coppice’, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TQ matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 15 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
16 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. David Casiot)
8.00pm PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 20 – **The Third Sunday of Epiphany: Septuagesima (BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. David Casiot)**
9.30am **Morning Worship (CW)**
5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Centre)**
6.30pm **Evensong (Canon Dr. Brian Stevenson, Vicar of West Malling with Offham)**
- 21 – 8.00pm Mission Committee (‘Beech Coppice’)
22 – **8.00pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford**
- 23 – 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. John Goulding)
8.00pm Deanery Synod (Kemsing)
- 24 – 9.15pm Otford Guild of Bellringers’ Annual General Meeting (in Church)
25 – 10.00am Pastoral meeting (Church Centre)
- 27 – **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany: Sexagesima (BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Brenda Hurd)**
9.30am **Holy Communion (CW) (Canon Gordon Oliver)**
5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Centre)**
- 29 – 2.30pm Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
30 – 9.30am ‘First Steps’ (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Dennis Mihill)

Some early February dates:

- 2 – 7.30pm Bartholomew Wind Band Concert (in Church)
3 – **The Sunday next before Lent: Quinquagesima (BCP)**
8.00am **Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Denis Mihill)**
9.30am **Morning Worship with children and Holy Communion (CW) (Revd. Canon Dr. Jane Hedges, Westminster Abbey)**
5.00pm **CU@5 (Church Centre)**
6.00pm **FROGS (Church Hall)**
6.30pm **Evensong**
- 5 – **Shrove Tuesday**
6 – **Ash Wednesday**
10.00am **Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. Chris Miles)**
8.00pm **Holy Communion (CW) (Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge)**

EDITORIAL

Greetings from the Rural Dean !

‘As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.’
(Colossians 3:12)

It’s time to look back over the past year. Has it been a good year? Or has it been one you would prefer to forget, an *annus horribilis*, as the Queen once put it? Life deals us good and bad: what is most important is how we deal with those times – the good and the bad.

The build up to Christmas has come and gone and I trust we have all spent joyous moments with family and friends. At the beginning of the New Year we must hold on to those memories that felt so good during the festive season and carry them with us throughout the year. It’s not easy when the days are so much shorter, the weather cold and the outlook seems dreary, but God has given us imaginations, so that we can hold on to our memories and treasure them.

The New Year is a time when we get all sorts of strange people predicting what the future year will bring. From some it is absolute nonsense and rubbish. Others read the signs of the times and predict the obvious. They are like the prophets of Old Testament times who explained to the people that if they carried on down the road they were going then the inevitable would happen. They could see it for themselves if they only opened their eyes and took time to think about it. Perhaps that is God’s message for us this year – take time to stop and contemplate where you have been, where you seem to be heading and what you can do about it, to make things come together for your good.

The uncrowned King Edward VIII, recalling his boyhood as Prince of Wales, said: My father (King George V) was a strict disciplinarian. Sometimes, when I had done something wrong, he would admonish me, saying, “My dear boy, you must always remember who you are”.

Like King George V, Paul also tells us to remember who we are – God’s chosen ones. The significance of these three words is that they originally belonged to the Jews, God’s chosen people, and Paul takes them and uses them about the Gentiles. The word Gentiles embraces all those who were not Jews, and that means you and me as well. God’s love and grace have now gone out to the ends of the earth.

Have you made New Year resolutions? How long before you break them? May I suggest that instead of setting ourselves impossible tasks that we will be unable to keep that we take this passage to heart. Let us in this New Year firstly, ‘Remember who we are – God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved’.

Every blessing for the New Year.

With love from Brenda

I said to the man, who stood at the Gate of the Year, ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Visitors in January 2008

13th January at 6.30pm: the celebrant and preacher will be the Revd. Nigel Bourne from Chalk, the parish to which our domestic away giving from our 'Building On' appeal was sent in order to help with their building of a church and community centre.

20th January at 6.30pm: the preacher will be Canon Brian Stevenson, who has been Vicar of West Malling with Offham since 1981.

27th January at 9.30am: the preacher and celebrant will be Canon Gordon Oliver, the Bishop's Officer for Ministry and Training since 2000.

We are grateful to these and all who are helping us during the Interregnum: please support them.

Bring a Phone to Church Day

If you receive a new mobile phone for Christmas and don't have a use for your old one, then on Sunday 5th January there will be a box at the back of the church to deposit any mobile phones you may have for recycling, in order to raise further funds for the Building On Project. Phones should have their chargers attached and sim cards removed please. Even phones that are not fully functioning are suitable.

'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 Otford Methodist New Hall fortnightly, and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 9th, 16th and 30th January, from 9.30 to 11.30am.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The traditional service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford, on Tuesday 22nd January at 8.00pm.

Otford Guild of Bellringers

We thank our Ringers for the committed work they put in over the year. Their AGM will be held on Thursday 24th January at 9.15pm in church, following ringing practice.

'Bartholomew' Concert. The Bartholomew Wind Band, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will perform in Church on Saturday 2nd February at 7.30pm, together with their guests, the Plumstead Recorder Consort. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will cost £5.00 and proceeds will be divided between 'Hospice in the Weald' and church funds.



Lent 2008



Lent at St Bart's begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th February, with services of Holy Communion in the Church at 10.00am (BCP) and 8.00pm (CW).

'Uncomfortable Places, Uncomfortable Questions'

During Lent 2008, we will hold a series of five Lent meetings, on Tuesdays February 12th, 19th and 26th and March 4th and 11th, in the Church Centre. Each evening will start with refreshments and then run from 8.00pm to 9.15pm approx. with prayers, readings, a talk and discussion, ending with Compline.

Four members of the congregation, Bobbie Fairclough, Andrew Hill, David Reid and Stella Shee, together with Maureen Hill, Director of the Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, will talk in response to the title about issues raised by their faith and their work: prison visiting, the police, banking, medicine and counselling respectively. Please put these dates in your diaries now and make every effort to support our speakers.

Services at the end of Lent will include an 8.00pm Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and, on Good Friday, a 9.30am Family Service. The Three Hour Service, starting at noon on Good Friday, will be led by The Venerable John Cox, Director of Education in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, formerly Archdeacon of Sudbury, who will take 'Uncomfortable Words' (the source of the heading for the Lent meetings) as the title for his meditations on the cross.

Handcrafted cards. Handcrafted cards for all occasions will be on sale in the Church Centre at every service on the first Sunday of each month. All proceeds will be shared between the Children's Society and the church. If you have a special request, please let me know. Thank you.

Sylvia Grafton – 01732 452117

Home Groups

Someone wrote recently, "Home Groups are crucial in a growing church, enabling people to get to know one another in an informal setting and to help them grow in the Christian faith. This 'safe place' enables them to ask questions and examine possible answers." St Bartholomew's has a number of Home Groups, details of which can be found displayed at the back of the church and in the Church Centre; these details include the day and the time when they meet and the leader. All groups meet fortnightly, and last for about an hour – plus coffee/tea and biscuits! Why not join one – now is a good time as the new year starts. Ask any of the leaders about these groups and they will be pleased to help you, or phone Brian Raynor (01959 523327).

Mission Matters. At its 14th November meeting, the PCC approved the pattern of giving for 2007:

1. International Church Missionary Society
Far Eastern Broadcasting Association
The Bible Society
Crosslinks (Gladys Maingi)
Mission Aviation Fellowship
2. National Scripture Union (including the Sheringham Beach Mission)
The Children's Society
3. Local Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust
Sevenoaks District Council of Churches literacy project

Each year we plan to give at least 10% of our unrestricted income to these partners.

CHURCH DATES FOR 2008

Saturday 12th January	Annual Churchyard Meeting
Wednesday 16th January	PCC meeting
Tuesday 22nd January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service. RC Church
Thursday 24th January	Oxford Guild of Bellringers' AGM
Saturday 2nd February	'Bartholomew' Concert
Tuesday 5th February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 6th February	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 2nd March	Mothering Sunday
Wednesday 5th March	PCC meeting
Friday 7th March	Women's World Day of Prayer (St Bartholomew's Church)
Saturday 15th March	Church Spring cleaning from 9.00am
Sunday 16th March	Palm Sunday ecumenical procession
Thursday 20th March	Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion 8.00pm)
Friday 21st March	Good Friday
Sunday 23rd March	Easter Day
Saturday 5th-Thursday 10th April	Parish Visit to Spring Harvest
Tuesday 15th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thursday 1st May	Ascension Day (Holy Communion 8.00pm)
Wednesday 7th May	PCC meeting
Sunday 11th May	Christian Aid Week begins
Sunday 11th May	Pentecost/Whit Sunday
Sunday 18th May	Trinity Sunday
Sunday 18th May	Civic Service
Monday 26th May	Village Fete/Bank Holiday
Sunday 8th June	Deanery Children's Fun Day (Wrotham Primary School, 12 noon-4.00pm)
Saturday 21st June	St Bartholomew's Church Fair
Wednesday 2nd July	PCC meeting
Sunday 6th July	Sunday Club/OTT Prizegiving
Sunday 24th August	St Bartholomew
Wednesday 10th September	PCC meeting
Saturday 13th September	Sponsored Bike Ride
Sunday 5th October	Harvest and Poverty and Hope Appeal
Sunday 12th October	Deanery Evensong at St Martin's, Eynsford
Sunday 26th October	Bible Sunday
Saturday 8th November	Christmas Market
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Sunday
Wednesday 12th November	PCC meeting
Sunday 30th December	Advent Sunday
Sunday 7th December	Christingle
Sunday 14th December	Choir Christmas Concert
Sunday 21st December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve 'Midnight' Communion
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day



ROUNDABOUT

OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. Throughout last year our institute enjoyed a variety of talks and other activities. Our first meeting of 2008 is on 8th January when we meet in the Village Hall at 2.00pm, when our speaker will talk on Tai Chi. If you are interested in learning more about our institute please call 522736 or come as a visitor to our next meeting.
Joyce Allen

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. At the Society's November meeting Paul Bennett, Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, spoke on 'The Latest Archaeology in Libya', describing the results of excavations which he had helped to direct at the invitation of the Libyan Government at a site close to Benghazi, where the ancient seaport of Euesperides, founded by colonists from Corinth in Greece, had flourished between 600 and 250 BC. There are no spectacular ruins as in Leptis Magna or Corinth, as the city had been built mainly of mud bricks. So the site is unlikely to get on the tourist trail, the more so as it is under threat from the developers of car parks, ring roads and supermarkets for the rapidly expanding modern Benghazi.

What pleased the archaeologists was to find that the ruins revealed successive layers of mud-brick debris containing lots of pottery, mostly everyday wares previously neglected by art-historians (who have favoured more decorative 'Grecian urns'). The pottery came with coins by which it could be dated, more closely than in mainland Greece itself. The prosperity of the city had been built up on the production and export of cloth dyed with a much-prized purple dye extracted from whelk-like sea shells of the genus *Murex*. The city was abandoned and moved to a new site in 250 BC, mainly because its last ruler had got on the wrong side of the real ruler of Libya, Ptolemy III, the Macedonian King of Egypt. Altogether a quite interesting story from a little-known period of ancient history.

The next meeting of the Historical Society is on Wednesday 16th January at 8pm in the Village Hall, when Ed Thompson will describe how 'All Roads Lead to Otford'.
Bernard Worssam

OTFORD OAST W.I. would like to wish you all a Very Happy New Year. On 17th January, Otford Oast W.I. will be welcoming Mary Forlenza, 'a VERY funny lady', to talk to us about Great Lovers. This promises to be a hilarious morning – do come and join us, ladies. The meeting is in OVMH and starts at 9.30am, we run a crèche, and your first visit to the Oast W.I. is free. We look forward to seeing you.
Patsy Groom

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

During the month of December a great variety of things have been done or are underway:

Christmas lights have been put on the village shops, the Tree of Light and the Christmas tree; *graffiti* on close-boarded fences on a footpath has been painted over by our Community Warden, PCSO and assistant clerk, and seven young people have been visited by the police for various graffiti offences and some arrested. *The roof of School*

House that had lead removed has been repaired and *the public toilets* have had the electrical system renewed and many small but important plumbing items repaired or replaced; both systems were also altered slightly to make it easier to do minor repairs in future.

Much time has also been spent dealing with and correcting details of the sale of KCC land in the parish. The need to raise funds resulted in disposal of many of the odd pieces of land held by the County Council, and this was done via consultants, initially without plans of sufficient detail to exclude Highway and private land.

Planning decisions are non-controversial in the great majority of cases, but where they are, the scales often seemed to be weighed against the parish council. Government requires decisions within a certain period and this can mean the Development Control Committee that makes them receives recommendations before the parish council has even been asked to comment. In larger development proposals the stated details of the transport situation, which are known in detail by parishes, can be largely wrong, and applications can be put forward without any local consultation, although stating this has been done. The structure of decision making does not fit well with maintaining the quality of the environment or ensuring the well-being of residents, both, of course, stated government aims.

2008 will undoubtedly see many more small changes, repairs and improvements, but the pressure on School House and the Heritage Centre has grown more than was expected in the last ten years and it is necessary to seek ways of adjusting to the needs of Otford.

Also, new this year, the power to issue *Fixed Penalty Notices* has been given to PCSOs. They can issue them to those depositing litter, fly-posting, graffiti or allowing dog fouling.

For all of these the penalty is £50 if paid in ten days, although for the first three offences it is £80 if not paid within this time. I am sure very few in the village do these things casually, but some of us can be forgetful ...

JGA

IN MEMORY

We offer our condolences to the family of **Frank Ernest Buckle**, late of Tudor Crescent, who died on 1st November at King's College Hospital, London, aged 84 years. A funeral service was held in St Bartholomew's Church on 20th November, which was taken by a family friend, Mr Michael Parry, followed by burial at Greatness Cemetery. Frank leaves his wife, Shirley, to whom he had been married for 35 years.

Frank was born in Greenwich and was the eldest of three brothers. He left school at the age of 16, starting work as a Clerical Officer with the London County Council, the day after the Second World War broke out. His main job was organizing the evacuation of children within London. At the age of 19 he was called up and served in Kenya, Ceylon and India, working in communications. After the war Frank returned to work with the L.C.C., which eventually became the G.L.C. (where he met Shirley) until his retirement. He and Shirley loved to travel and took every opportunity to see parts of the world whenever they could. Frank was a quiet man with a great sense of humour, a gentle gentleman who will be sadly missed.

We offer our condolences to the family of **Kathleen Bertha, known as Kitty, Runting**, who died in Gloucester House Nursing Home on Saturday 10th November 2007, just six weeks before her 100th birthday. Her funeral took place at St Bartholomew's on Monday 26th November at 2.00pm, followed by a private cremation.

Kitty was a quiet, considerate and friendly person, with a ready smile, above all dedicated to making a home for her family. She married Everett Runting at St Mary Magdalene Church, Peckham, and the couple spent their early married life in Forest Hill

and Crofton Park, before the family moved to Otford. Kitty's love of and support for her husband in later years ensured his prolonged, happy and fulfilled life, despite his poor health.

She was an enthusiastic member of the Otford Afternoon W.I. and a regular worshipper at St Bart's, latterly attending the Wednesday morning Holy Communion services, until she left her home in Well Road to become a resident at The Dynes in Kemsing.

She was a wonderful seamstress and made numerous ruffs, collars and surplices for choir members, as well as toys and cakes to be sold at church events.



Registers



Funerals (Our Sympathy)

20th November Frank Ernest **Buckle** (aged 84) – Buried at Greatness Cemetery
 26th November Kathleen Bertha **Runting** (aged 99) – Cremation

Church Offerings in November

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses..... £1,383.09
 Freewill Offerings..... £4,120.00

KEMSING WATER SOFTENERS

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