

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Family Worship with children - Choir -	<u>cu@5</u>	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Choir -	<u>cu@5</u>	CW HC - Choir
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	<u>cu@5</u>	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Holy Communion - Choir -	<u>cu@5</u>	-
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins - Choir	<u>cu@5</u>	-

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP** every Sunday after Evening Service **Sundays**  
in Church Centre

**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 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 Vicar: 01959 523185.

Vicar's Rest Day: Monday

## SIDESMEN and WOMEN

Messrs Bailey, Beasley, Brackett, Crawley, Dunning, Finley, Fleetwood, Grogan, Howie, Johnson, Lattimer, Lea, Matthews, Sherwood, Vigis, Wickham, Wood, Worssam, Wragg, Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Beasley, Mrs. Crawley, Mrs Dunning, Mrs Fleetwood, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Kelsey, Mrs Marchant, Mrs J. Matthews, Mrs Mills, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs Richardson, Mrs. Twallin and Mrs Wood.

## PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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# JUNE 2008

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - The Second Sunday after Trinity  
**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30 a.m. Morning Worship with children and baptism of  
 Toby Joe Lenaghan (CW)**  
**5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)**  
**6.30 p.m. Evensong**

- 2 - 8.00 p.m. Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 3 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.15 a.m. and Fridays at 9.00 a.m.**
- 4 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist New Hall)  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. John Goulding)
- 5 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup (51 Knighton Road)
- 8 - **The Third Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**  
**5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
- 10 - 8.00 p.m. Home Group (Holmesdale, The Green)
- 11 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 13 - **Material for the July magazine by today, please, to the Parish Office, Church Centre; tel. 01959 523185; e-mail to [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)**
- 14 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 15 - **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**  
**5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
**6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 17 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 18 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist Church New Hall)  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Dennis Mihill)
- 19 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup (31 Well Road)
- 21 - **2.00 p.m. St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (Castle House)**
- 22 - **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00 p.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**  
**9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
**5.00 p.m. cu@5(Church Centre)**
- 24 - 8.00 p.m. Home Group (Holmesdale, The Green)
- 25 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 29 - **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
**9.30 a.m. Matins**  
**5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**

**Some early July dates**

- 1 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.15 a.m. and Fridays at 9.00 a.m.**  
2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 2 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist new Hall)  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00 p.m. PCC Meeting (Church Centre)



# EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I want to begin my first article for the magazine by saying a very big thank you to everyone who has made us feel so welcome here in Otford. We are very grateful for the kindness that has been shown to us in so many ways, including decorating the Vicarage before we moved in, the gifts of flowers and food, the many messages of encouragement in the cards we have received, and the offers of practical help. We are now feeling very much at home in the village.

A special occasion for me was the service of institution and induction. This was a wonderful service with ceremony and celebration, solemnity and joy. In the course of the service I made some significant pledges, and as I begin my ministry in the village I would like to highlight three of them.

To the representatives of the Civic Authorities I said: "I greet you in the name of the Lord and look forward to working with you in seeking all that is good for this community." For the past one thousand years, the Church has been at the heart of village life. It has played an active role in the welfare of the community, in the education of the young, in the care of the elderly, in addressing common concerns, in bringing people together to work for the good of all. The annual cycle of village life has been underpinned by the Christian calendar with celebrations of the major Christian festivals. I look forward to continuing this tradition, working along the parish council, the schools, the various voluntary organisations and societies, the PCSO and Community Warden, and all who are seeking to build up our common life. The traditional name for a village priest is "parson", that is, the "person" who lives in the community he or she serves, and who shares in its life, in its joys and its challenges.

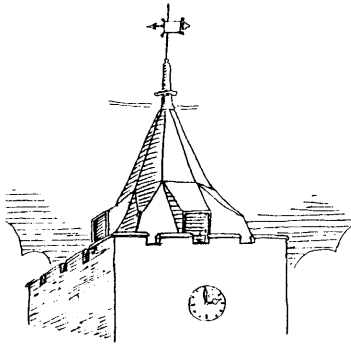
To the representatives of the local churches I said: "Brothers and sisters in Christ, I promise to work with you for the unity and care of all God's people." Otford is blessed with very good relations between the churches, and this is something I will continue to uphold. The New Testament contains many passages, including both the words of Jesus and the teaching of St. Paul, which stress the importance of Christians working together. This has been my consistent experience. When I worked for the Hong Kong Christian Council I saw how the churches could be much more effective in society when they spoke with a united voice on issues such as education, housing policy, work amongst young people, and human rights. When I trained for ordination I was part of a federation of theological colleges and we were enriched by one another's traditions. In parish ministry I have always valued the support and encouragement of ecumenical colleagues, and I look forward to sharing the in various ways that the churches in Otford work together.

To all who were gathered at the institution and induction service I said, "We are to make new disciples of Christ, to build up one another in the faith, and celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant." At the top of the St. Bart's weekly newsletter are the words, "We are to be disciples: called, prepared and sent out." My goal is for our Church to be centre of discipleship, fulfilling Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations. A life of discipleship encompasses worship, study of the scriptures, a commitment to service, and bearing witness to God's love in all we say and do. We are called to live a distinctive lifestyle with our priorities determined by our allegiance to Christ. This is a challenge that God invites us all to accept, and we can do this through supporting one another in fellowship and through God's gifts to us of scripture and sacrament.

I look forward to all that the coming months and years may hold.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam



**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, the Churchwardens, Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt, accompanied by the Vicar, attended the Archdeacon's Visitation at St.John's, Hildenborough, at which the Wardens were sworn into office for another year by the Archdeacon, in the presence of the Registrar.

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR  
SATURDAY 21st JUNE  
At 2.00pm  
In the grounds of  
CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD**

By kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy, St Bartholomew's Fair is once again being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House.

The Committee will be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of church, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so they can be sorted and priced. Alternatively, arrangements can be made for them to be collected. In particular, this applies to the following:

**Bottles:** Linda and Bert Dunning. Tel. 524182

**Books:** Colin Fleetwood. Tel. 523582

**Toys:** Margie Torry. Tel 524463

**Sweets, Small Toys or items suitable for Children's Prizes:**

Christine Malan. Tel. 522654 or Deborah Vigis. Tel. 523331

**Craft items:** Sylvia Grafton. Tel. 01732 452117

**Plants:** Sue Stephenson. Tel. 523789

**White Elephant:** Heather Stanley. Tel. 523194

**DVDs CDs and Videos:** Chris Humphrey. Tel. 525877

**Food Hall: Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves:** Anne Fleetwood. Tel 523582

There will be the usual Children's Art Competition – Theme: 'Under the Sea', and a Single Rose Competition open to all.

Anybody willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood, and assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. We shall be meeting at the Church Hall at about 6pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June to collect tables, chairs and other equipment to be taken to Castle House, and clearing away starts immediately after the Fair.

### CU@5 Service

This popular informal service, held weekly in the Church Centre at 5pm, has recommenced and will run through to 29<sup>th</sup> June. The theme of this session is 'Tough Questions'. Do come along if you haven't been before – and if you have, bring your friends!

### MISSION MATTERS

Thanks to David Casiot and Mags Southgate for organising the mission-centred cu@5 service on 27<sup>th</sup> April, which involved displays by our mission partners and others involved in mission and our Church. A quiz based on two questions per display encouraged the congregation to move about and look closely at the presentations, before returning to their pews and the service.



We have heard from Gladys Maingi, our Crosslinks BEST scheme (bursaries enabling strategic training) that, having concluded her four-year training at Uganda Christian University in Mukono, she has taken her final examinations and is hoping to hear good news about the results so that she can graduate in June. She sends very grateful thanks to our Church for all the support she and her family have received through prayer and finance.

Dawn Hallam reports that there is a shortage of accommodation for the ever-growing S.U. Beach Mission at Sheringham but that the opportunity has arisen for the purchase of the house next door, though this could cost £350,000.00. She asks for fervent prayer for wisdom for the trustees in the making of this decision and some idea of how the money might be raised.



Mags Southgate reports that MAF has two 'planes ready to fly into Myanmar with relief personnel and supplies whenever government permission is received.



David Casiot reports that the situation in Kenya and in Kibera slum, near where our C.M.S. link-family live and work, remains difficult and prayer is requested still for the country and Colin and Anita Smith and their two daughters.

As you might have seen from the notices, Ruth Barclay reports that Jon Hargreaves is working to develop FEBA Radio broadcasts in Nepal and that prayer is still needed that his health may be fully restored. Also, the next FEBA information and prayer meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 41, Park Hill Road.



Later in the year, the Mission Committee will need to decide on two more mission partners to whom we will send financial support in December. Please pray for guidance on this choice.

Finally, two dates for your diary: we plan to hold FEBA Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> September and Bible Sunday on 26<sup>th</sup> October this year.

David Matthews

**Contributors to the July magazine are asked to note that, because of holiday dates, they should send copy direct to the Church Office ([st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)) and not to the Editor.**

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The Seasons: Spring

The spirit sang on the bone  
to the blood that was in  
me, and many as flowers  
thought seeded and grew  
words in the mind's garden-  
the promise of language!  
I was the poet coming  
to it for its nectar. I fed  
full on the ambivalences of honey.  
I built high in my branches,  
augury of a serene summer.  
Love fledged and was no migrant  
but resident and identified  
by the unreasonableness of its music.

*from 'Mass for Hard Times' by Edward Thomas*

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**OTFORD GARDENER'S SOCIETY** will meet on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 8 p.m. when Jackie will talk on 'Hardy Geraniums'. In addition, there will be a selection of nursery-grown plants for sale. Meetings take place in Otford Village Hall Memorial Hall. Admission costs 50p for members and £1.00 for non-members, with refreshments included. For further details, please contact the Secretary, Janet Finney, on 01959 523760 or e-mail [gardeners@otford.net](mailto:gardeners@otford.net) or visit the website on [www.otford.info/gardeners](http://www.otford.info/gardeners).

**CANTATE SUMMER CONCERT** will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June at St. Mary Platt Church, when the choir will explore and demonstrate that melodic music is very much part of contemporary musical language. Central to the programme are four pieces by Nimrod Borenstein: his three Psalm Settings will be joined by a setting of Shakespeare's words, 'To be or not to be', which will receive its world premiere in this concert in the composer's presence. Other works are by Pärt, Jyrki Linjama, William Harris, Britten, Charles Wood, Rutter and Bax. ([www.cantate-choir.info/](http://www.cantate-choir.info/))

**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** At our May meeting, we were brought up-to-date with the arrangements in hand for the visit of our East-Kent link institute members to our village later in the month. We meet up each year, either in their part of the county or ours, and good friendships have been made over the years.

Then it was down to business as we sat back and were given by Mary Laundon and Barbara Hine the pros and cons of the two Resolutions to be discussed at the AGM in Liverpool in June. There was some lively discussion before a vote was taken on how

members wanted the delegate to vote. A light-hearted anagrams quiz gave our grey cells a change of direction and Linda Richfield's group were the winners with 11 correct answers out of 16.

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the OVMH and our speaker will be a representative from Waitrose, telling us about Food & Drink. If this subject interests you do come along and join us for the evening – you will be made very welcome and – there might be some samples!!  
Brenda Young

**OTFORD OAST W.I.** will meet on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. at Otford Village Memorial Hall when Dr. Suzanne Henwood, NLP (neuro-linguistic programming) Master Practitioner will tell us how to help our children learn to spell more effectively and confidently. This is a change from the billed talk on jewellery-mending because of 'circumstances beyond our control.' There is a free crèche. The first visit is free, the second costs £3.00 and annual membership £27.00.

Patsy Groom 01959 524156

**OTFORD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL** is urgently looking for a new **Hall Manager** to replace Michael who is now leaving after 10+ year's service. The role involves general maintenance work and liaison with hirers and assisting in the day-to-day running of the Hall. The new Manager would be required to attend the Hall for a couple of hours each morning – Monday to Friday - and to assist with clearing up and locking up after weekend evening social events – currently around nine or ten this year. There will also be occasions when the Hall will need to be opened at other times but we do try to keep these to a minimum. This position would, ideally, suit someone who has taken early retirement and is looking for some part-time work. An attractive salary package is available to the right applicant. For further details or a brief chat please call me, Ron Dullage, Chairman on 01959 522007.

**New Exhibition at the Otford Heritage Centre** How many children have asked you: "What's an oast house for?"

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May there will be a new exhibition at the village Heritage Centre (in the Old School House) titled "**From Poke to Pocket**".

It tells the story of how hops, the mainstay crop of our village for centuries, were dried, pressed and stored for market in the village oast houses.

Old vs. new photos of the all the Otford oast houses will be on display as well as old-and-new parish maps showing the location of the old hop gardens.

Centre of the exhibition will be a doll's house-style model of a working oasthouse where children and adults can look inside to see how the whole 'Poke to Pocket' process took place.

The Heritage Centre is open week-days from 9.30am - 1.00pm; and weekends from 2.30 – 4.30pm

The exhibition will run for two months.

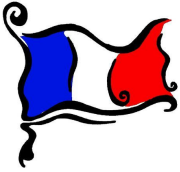
## **SPOTLIGHT ON**

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Chairman: Mr John Allen**

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

**Induction Service** Last month the Chairman of the Council was pleased to be included as the civic representative in the service for the Induction of the new Vicar of Otford, the Revd. Richard Worssam. It enabled the Chairman to both welcome him and say that he and the Council would look forward to working together with the Vicar to serve the community of Otford.



**Twinning Visit** The Chairman also welcomed a group from Précigné, our twin village in France on May 10th. Our French friends came for a long weekend and had a full and well-organised programme that included a formal civic welcome in the Heritage Centre, attended by some councillors, the Twinning Committee and helpers. It is two years since the council was approached by M. Salagnac to consider forming a link, and since then an Otford committee has been formed and worked hard and successfully to

enable several visits to and from France. A party from Otford went last year and this was the return group visit.

The Chairman said in his welcome that he had followed up the initial invitation because it was an excellent opportunity to enlarge the opportunities for everyone in Otford, especially children, who would have a real sense of belonging to the European Union.

The French visitors presented Otford with a large, splendid ink drawing of the hospital chapel in Précigné, by a local artist, and two fine pieces of china - a dish and plate from a nearby pottery. All will be displayed in the Heritage Centre in due course.

Plans are being made for a return visit from Otford next year, possibly in May or June. The invitation extends to all, and families are very welcome.

**Our Roads** Among the very many things the council does is constantly liaise with the County Highways Department about the problems that arise on our roads. On average over a year about five new items need attention each month. The introduction of computer spreadsheets usually simplifies the process, although phone calls are made to explain some difficulties. Things such as places where people can trip usually receive speedy attention. Others, such as street trees and shrubbery do not, and can and have dragged on for two years or so. The basic problem is, unsurprisingly, finance, but a reorganisation process that has lasted well over a year also creates difficulties.

The Highways Department is kept informed by the police of crashes involving injuries and deaths, and the causes of them so that appropriate action can be taken.

JGA

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### Seeking God

In seeking God you would be wrong  
if you thought you could reach Him.  
Your arms are too short, your eyes are too dim, your heart and understanding too small.

To seek God  
means first of all  
to let yourself be found by Him.  
He is your God, not because He is yours  
but because you are His.

To choose God  
is to realise that you are known and loved  
in a way surpassing anything men can imagine,  
loved before anyone had thought of you  
or spoken your name.

From 'Rule for a new brother,' Taizé.

*Thanks to Stella Shee for providing this and other devotional extracts during the Interregnum.*

## IN MEMORY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Claire Lee who died on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Claire spent the first years of her life in Mottingham. When she was seven years old her family moved to Otford and she attended Russell House School, before going to Tonbridge Grammar School. She gained a place at Cambridge where she read law. Upon graduating, Claire spent a year at Law School in York. After spending some months in Australia, Claire joined the city law firm, Freshfields where she did her articles. After a brief spell with another law firm she moved to the Royal Mail.

Claire met her husband, Dan, through mutual friends, and she and Dan got married in September 2001 in St. Bartholomew's Church. Claire and Dan were blessed with two children, Alice and Edward.

It was while she was pregnant with Edward that Claire received the news that she had breast cancer. She faced up to this disease with great courage, and continued to devote herself to her family.

Her faith meant a great deal to her. In her address to her family and friends, recorded for her funeral, she said, "Since I have been diagnosed with cancer, I have become convinced of the power of the spirit." Although she felt times of pain, loneliness and despair, she also found comfort in the words of Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come. My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth."

Claire was one who lived life to the full, and she urged her family and friends to make the most of each day and never to give up, whatever comes our way. Her life was an inspiration to all who knew her, and her memory will be cherished by all who loved her.



## *Registers*



### **Baptisms (Our Welcome)**

25<sup>th</sup> May Samuel James **Reid**  
1<sup>st</sup> June Toby Joe **Lenaghan**

### **Funerals (Our Sympathy)**

21<sup>st</sup> April William Frederick **Nolde** (aged 86) - Burial in Churchyard  
8<sup>th</sup> May Claire Elizabeth **Lee** (aged 36) - Burial at Greatness

### **Church Offerings in April**

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses ..... £611.29  
Freewill Offerings .....£ 6748.00