

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Morning Worship	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship	CW HC
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW HC	Evensong
FIFTH	CW HC	Matins	Taize

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.

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

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 Richardson, Mrs Roffey, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Torry, Mrs Wickenden, Mrs Wills, Mrs Worssam, Mrs Wragg, Mrs Yates, Mrs Young.

AUGUST 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3 - **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Morning Worship with children (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 4 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 5 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at 8.15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9.00 a.m.**
- 6 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Dennis Mihill)
- 9 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
12 noon Wedding of Simon Hodge and Emma Snook

- 10 - **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 11 - 7.45 p.m. Coffee & chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Revd. George McCormack)
Material for the September magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.
matthews.dg@lineone.net
- 17 - **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 20 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 24 - **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity: St. Bartholomew**
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 27 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 31 - **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30 a.m. Matins
 6.30 p.m. Taizé

Some early September dates

- 2 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at 8.15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9.00 a.m.**
- 3 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 6 - **Material for the October magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.**
matthews.dg@lineone.net
- 7 - **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship with children
 5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
 6.00 p.m. **FROGS** (Church Hall)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 10 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
 8.00 p.m. PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 14 - The Revd Mark Taylor Assistant Director of FEBA Africa will speak at 9.30 and CU@5 services.



Vicar's Viewpoint

This month the focus of much of the world's attention will be on the Olympic Games being held in Beijing. Athletes from every continent will be striving to achieve their best possible performance in the hope of winning a gold medal. To do so requires great perseverance and endurance.

I am reminded of the film *Chariots of Fire* in which Harold Abrahams, a champion sprinter, had just suffered his first ever defeat. After the race he sat alone, pouting on the benches. When his girlfriend tried to encourage him, he burst out, "If I can't win, I won't run!" To which she wisely replied, "If you don't run, you can't win." He had to learn the lessons of perseverance and endurance, being prepared to overcome setbacks. He went on to win the 1924 Olympic gold medal in the 100 m sprint.

Perseverance and endurance are two qualities that are required not only by top athletes. Samuel Johnson put it this way: "Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance." This principle can be illustrated in the lives of many well-known people. For example, after Fred Astaire's first screen test in 1933, the memo from the testing director of MGM read, "Can't act! Slightly bald! Can dance a little!" But this didn't deter Fred Astaire. He showed great endurance in developing his skills until he became a household name for his dancing. Charles Darwin, the great evolutionary biologist, was told by his father, "You care for nothing but shooting, dogs and rat catching." In his autobiography Darwin wrote, "I was considered by all my masters and by my father to be a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard in intellect." And yet his theory of evolution went on to change the whole course of scientific study of the natural world.

I have selected two famous people, but perseverance and endurance are required by us all. Just consider these questions: Do you hit a ball the first time you bat? Do you swim the first time you are immersed in water? What happens the first time you try to walk?

What is true of life in general is also true of faith. The writer of the book of Hebrews encouraged his readers with the words:

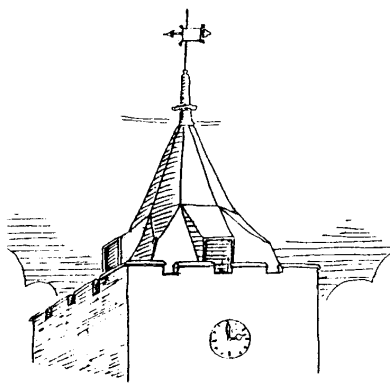
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

St. Paul also used the analogy of a race: "This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

So as we watch the top-class athletes over the next few weeks, let's remember that they got there through great perseverance and endurance, and may we find that an inspiration for developing our own spiritual lives, to achieve the potential that God has set within all of us. And if we protest that we are not in the same league as top class athletes, it's worth remembering Charles Spurgeon's comment: "By perseverance the snail reached the ark!"

Your friend and Vicar,
Richard Worssam

**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



Patronal Festival

We shall be celebrating our Patronal Festival and remembering St. Bartholomew at the services on Sunday 24th of August.

CU@5

This popular informal service, held weekly in the Church Centre at 5pm, is taking a break and will recommence on Sunday 14th September. Do come along if you haven't been before – and if you have, do bring your friends!

The Friends of Kent Churches will hold a sponsored ride and walk on Saturday 13th September between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Simon Wragg would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to take part by either cycling or walking. Potential sponsors will also be most welcome. If anyone could man the desk for an hour or two they can be sponsored as well. Please see Simon in Church or telephone him on 01732 462953.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR 2008

6.30pm on Friday evening and Castle House is at peace. Only the presence of a large marquee in the immaculate garden suggests that something out of the ordinary is afoot. Five minutes later the sounds of an approaching lorry are heard, the gates are opened, and the gardens are invaded by a motley crowd of all shapes and sizes, aged anywhere between ten and seventy something. They carry trestles, tables, chairs, freezers, tents, bunting and all manner of equipment sourced from the Primary School, the Church Hall, the Memorial Hall, the Cheswicks' store in Rye Lane, the Village store, the Vicarage garage and, for the first time this year, the Church Centre. The tents are erected, virtually everything else stacked in the marquee, and the crowd departs.



8.30am on Saturday and it is drizzling. Gradually, however, the fairground takes shape and by 11.00am the rain has stopped and preparations are in full swing. Stallholders appear laden with plants, bottles, books, cakes, preserves, soft drinks, tools, toys, craft and needlework, footballs, coconuts, unwanted gifts, raffle and tombola prizes and white elephants. Soon after 1.00pm almost everything is ready and a strange calm descends. The Treasurer goes round distributing floats, the queue begins to form outside the gates and the Vicar addresses the stallholders, thanking them for their efforts and wishing them every success.

2.00pm and the gates are opened. Undeterred by a damp morning and the cloudy skies the crowds pour in – something over 1,500 people, enough to fill the Church six times over. Cakes, Plants and the White Elephant stall are the immediate attractions, but gradually the other stalls, the Children's Games and Bouncy Castle come into their own. Strawberries and ice creams are consumed, footballs kicked, coconuts won and books

browsed over. Although not ideal the weather is fine enough for the tables beyond the house to fill as visitors enjoy tea, cakes and the music of the Bartholomew Wind Band.

4.30pm and the Raffle has been drawn, the prizewinners announced and the visitors are drifting away. Then the great clear-up begins. By 6.30 when the Treasurers and Churchwardens emerge from the dining room, converted for the day into a counting house, the gardens are empty. The marquee still stands in the background but, apart from some scuffing of the grass, there is nothing to show that a major fundraising event has taken place.

And so the day ended, financially a great success with a net £5,400 raised for Church funds. Plants, Craft, Cakes and Programmes stood out, each producing well over £500, but the value of a particular stall, game or sideshow should not be measured solely by the amount of money raised. All contributed in their various ways and helped create the warm and friendly atmosphere of a genuine old-fashioned English Country Fair. This year we welcomed a new regime for the White Elephant stall, an enterprising YPF stall selling unwanted presents and the return of the Wheel of Fortune.

We are especially fortunate that so much of what we sell is donated, the only expenses being the hire of the marquee, the Public Address system and the Bouncy Castle. Stallholders and helpers give generously of their time and expertise and we are immensely grateful to them all, as also to the programme-sellers and those involved with the setting up and clearing away. In addition, our gratitude goes to our sponsors and those who lend us their equipment. Above all, we have to thank Mark and Irene Roy for so generously allowing us the use of their beautiful house and gardens which make such an ideal setting for the Fair. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Fair Committee who are cheerful, versatile, efficient and a pleasure to work with.

The Rose Competition was won by Janet Hunt, and the winners of the Children's Art Competition were as follows:-

Under 7	First Prize: John Whitehead	Second Prize: Lauren Wood
7 to 11.	First Prize: Matthew Livingston	Second Prize: James Vigis.

Colin Fleetwood

With thanks to Graham Watkins for the following extract from his response to this year's Fair

Longest Day, June 21 2008

Eagerly we waited breath bated for June 21st 2008.

Sadly, I feel irate, along came rain which for
A fete, I hate; St.Bart's, bless their hearts have
One which this afternoon starts, such a pity as
Dedicated volunteers all play their parts.
After all, it is Summer, and the sun should shine
To make it a stunner.

.....

With or without a raincoat
This splendid event bad weather can't prevent.

....

p.s. The weatherman did his mistake
Redress, and relent, a dry, wry day sent.
All the same sunshine was absent!

Celebrating 60 Years of The National Health Service.

Otford Church was represented at a service held in Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 6th July 2008 to affirm and support everyone within the diocese who works or has worked for the NHS. The event was organised by The Diocesan Council for Health and Healing and was led by the Dean of Rochester Cathedral. It was a moving service which provided an opportunity for those attending to reflect on the achievements of the NHS over the past 60 years and the contribution of the many individuals who strive to provide the very best of care within the organisation.

Anne Stevens.



OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. Members listened to a highly amusing and interesting talk at their July meeting by Brian D'Arcy on being a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London. He assured us that there are no ghosts there!! For our August meeting, on 12th August, at 2 p.m. in the Village hall, we are holding an auction, arranged by some of our members. At the beginning of this month we are off to Chichester to see 'The Music Man' and tickets are still available. If you are interested in learning more about our W.I., please call 01959 522915.

Joyce Allen

OTFORD EVENING W.I. Visitors from other institutes, as well as our ever-friendly WIA Liz McDermott, joined us at our July meeting to hear Mrs. Jennifer Papadopoulos talk on "Thirty Years a Magistrate". The position of magistrate started in the reign of Edward III when the barons decided to administer justice in the name of the king. Following the Sex Discrimination Act of 1919, women were allowed to sit on the bench and on a jury.

She said it was an interesting and worthwhile job and many hours of training had to be taken before you first sat on the bench, first as a "winger", i.e. to the right or left of the chairman, where you were not allowed to speak but could pass notes on the case being heard to the chairman. Mrs. Papadopoulos recounted several amusing stories and one or two sad ones before answering lots of questions. Chris. Masson gave an appreciative vote of thanks. There were a dozen entries for the Best Flower and Brenda Ash won the Cup for her lovely rose.

We next meet on Thursday 14th August, when we will hear Sue Hollings talk on "My Life as a Couture Dressmaker" – should be interesting so please come along at 7.30pm to the Memorial Hall if you too would like to hear about life behind the scenes of a large, prestigious fashionhouse. You will recognize many faces and be made very welcome.

Brenda Young

ANYONE FOR TENNIS.....

..... Have you been inspired by Wimbledon recently? Otford Tennis Club are holding coaching sessions for adults on Saturday mornings throughout the summer holidays. Sessions are booked in 3 week blocks as follows:

July 12th; 19th & 26th;
Aug 2nd; 9th & 16th;
Aug 23rd; 30th & Sept 6th;
from 8.30 - 10.00am. Interested? Then go to www.otfordtennis.org.uk and follow the links to coaching to download an application form.
We look forward to welcoming you to the club.'

Julian Ward 01959 523557

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

I return to the matter of Highways again because the department's reorganisation is virtually complete and we have met with a Highways Officer and Nick Chard, our County Councillor, to go over the many problems that concern the parish council, Otford Society and residents. We also have the channels of communication for the parish council clearly defined.

We now await responses on the matters raised, and there will be further meetings between the parish council and Highways staff to familiarise them with Otford's needs and wishes.

Residents can, if they wish, raise road problems with the parish council and, if they are of long-standing, the council will explain the situation. If they are new and of urgent need for action they will be passed on immediately, otherwise the council will raise them with the Highways Authority as part of the regular monthly communications.

The new geological display in the Heritage Centre (small, but very informative) shows the slopes that define the valley in which Otford lies, and one can see the places where water will come to the surface - the spring line - and the water bubbling out near the end of Park Lane is just such a spring. At one time it ran in a pipe but this has broken and awaits repair - and the Highways Department has been told about it.

The pond had a considerable amount of accumulated silt removed two years ago (with a lot of rubbish that had been thrown in - some now interesting because of its age) and the state of the wall was closely examined. There was a considerable amount of extraneous and unsuitable stone and brick used in the wall at some time and it had been had been penetrated by willow tree roots in places. This year it is intended to re-build it completely with ragstone, with a root-resistant membrane behind and capped with a layer of bricks for safety.

When completed it should not require further work for many years, and suitable fish can be added. Unwanted pet fish are unsuitable for such a natural environment!

JGA

NOTE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Will contributors please note that material for the **September magazine** is due by the **13th August** as usual. However, material for the **October magazine** should be with the editor by **6th September** because of holiday arrangements.

Thank you.

The Trial and Martyrdom of John Frith

In June 1533, John Frith was tried by three Bishops – London, Winchester and Lincoln. They asked Frith two questions:

Do you believe in Purgatory?

Do you believe, that at the Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ?

To both questions, John Frith answered “no”. . Frith had written extensively on both topics and had found no justification for either, in the Scriptures or in the writings of the Church Fathers.

Concerning Purgatory, verses such as “the blood of Jesus purifies us from *all* sin” precludes the need for any further cleansing.

On the Eucharist, one of Frith’s most interesting arguments is based on the Passover meal, at which the bread represented that last hasty meal eaten before the Children of Israel escaped from slavery in Egypt; the wine represented the blood of the lamb that was put on the sides and the top of the door frame; when the Angel of Death saw that blood, he passed over that household, and they escaped the judgement of God. Frith stresses that faith was an important ingredient of that meal. As soon as the meal was over, they fled from Egypt; run-a-way slaves had no rights; they were going to have to trust God to protect them. Soon they would be in the desert, which was a complete contrast from the lush plains of the Nile Delta; they were going to have to trust God to provide for them. But God promised to go with them, and they believed Him. At the Last Supper, Jesus, adapting the Passover Meal, said that the bread represented His Body, given for them, and the wine represented His Blood poured out for them. Incidentally, Ambrose, Jerome, Bede and other Church Fathers use the word “represent”. John Frith continues to build on the parallels between the two meals by stressing that the Lord’s Supper should be for us an act of faith, as it is at the Cross that we start on our Christian journey as forgiven sinners trusting in God for His protection and provision, knowing that His Spirit is with us. It is worth noting that God’s protection, His provision and the promise of His presence, were the basic elements of Jesus’ discourse to the Disciples after the Last Supper.

For upholding these Biblical truths, John Frith was burnt at the stake on July 4th 1533. He was not yet 30 years old.

Brian Raynor

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IN MEMORY

PATRICIA WAITES

Pat was born on 7th August 1926, the youngest in a family of three sisters. Her father was a dentist, and the family lived in Abbey Wood. After leaving school, Pat worked for a while as a shop assistant before joining the Civil Service when in her 20s. In this capacity she worked as a librarian within the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Pat came to Otford from Eltham in 1969, and she joined the ranks of the commuters, taking the train up to Victoria each day.

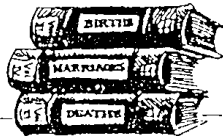
Pat was somewhat shy by nature and during her active career she largely kept herself to herself, enjoying her home and garden in Leonard Avenue, and her cats who kept her company.

In the early 1980s Pat experienced two major events in her life. She developed ovarian cancer, and she had to have both chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which succeeded in putting the cancer into remission and restoring her to health. She also attended an Open

Air service on The Green at which the evangelist Daniel Cozens spoke. His words touched her heart and she came to faith and this decision changed the course of her life. Pat retired from the Civil Service in 1985 and she devoted her retirement to Christian service. She was confirmed in 1986, and she became actively involved in many aspects of the life of the Church and the village. She was a member of the Mothers' Union; she served on the Parochial Church Council; she was a member of a homegroup; she was on the rota for locking and unlocking the church; she arranged flowers, especially by the south porch; she helped on the churchyard working parties, at the Christmas market, and as a sidesperson at church services. In the wider community she helped in groups at both ends of the age spectrum – at parent and toddler group, "First Steps", and at the luncheon club for the elderly in the village hall. Pat was also an assistant at the Otford Heritage Centre. Pat was famous for her baking, especially for her biscuits which she would give out at First Steps, where she was known as "Auntie Pat", and also at PCC meetings. Pat was artistic – she was good at drawing sketches, and also making things such as knitted outfits for dolls which she would sell at the Church Fair. Her embroidery skills are also evident in St. Bartholomew's Church, for she worked on both of the two new frontals for the communion table. Pat died peacefully on 10th June and she will be missed by all who knew her. May the example of her life and faith continue to serve as an inspiration to us that we may give ourselves in love and service to God and to our family, friends and community.



Registers



- Baptism (Our Welcome)**
- 13th July Cody Anthony **Hodge**
- Weddings (Our Congratulations)**
- 12th July Nicholas Andrew **Dawes** and Emma Louise **Gibbon**
 19th July Marc William **Smith** and Katie Jane **Pockett**
- Funerals (Our Sympathy)**
- 24th June Helen Adelaide Anderson **Clay** (aged 96) - Cremation
 8th July Sibyl Irene **Cronk** (aged 80) - Cremation

Church Offerings in February

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£ 386.12
Freewill Offerings	£ 4954.00