

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Church Family Worship - Choir -	<i>cu@5</i>	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship - Choir -	<i>cu@5</i>	CW Holy Communion
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	<i>cu@5</i>	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion - Choir -	cu@5	Evensong
FIFTH	CW HC	Morning Worship	<i>cu@5</i>	Advent Carol Service

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

Sunday Mornings

SUNDAY CLUB (for ages 3-14) with three groups:

Junior (3-7); Middle (8-11); Senior (12-14)

all meet in the Church Centre during the 9.30am service, except on the first Sunday when in Church

CRÈCHE: 0-2 years

Sunday Evenings

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

Second, third and fourth Sundays in the Church Centre at 6.30pm

FROGS

11-14 years, first Sunday of month 6 p.m. in Church Hall

Weekdays

HOLY COMMUNION

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 off-duty day: Monday

NOVEMBER 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

2 - All Saints' Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)

9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship and baptism of Daniel Richard Thorburn

11.30 a.m. Baptism of Frederick James Maurice Thompson

5.00 p.m. *cu@5* (Church Centre)

6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)

6.30 p.m. Evensong

3 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

4 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)

8.00 p.m. "Living Stones" - Talk 3 in the Church Centre: The Oxford Movement and the Modern Liturgical and Ecumenical Movements. The Vicar

- 5 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 6 - 8.00 p.m. Readers' Team (10 Flowerfield)
- 9 - **The Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Remembrance Day Service
10.55 a.m. Service at the War Memorial
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10 - 7.45 p.m. Coffee & Chat (1 The Butts)
8.00 p.m. Finance Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 12 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Coffee in the Church Centre
- 13 - **Magazine material by today, please, to David Matthews, "Beech Coppice", London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks. matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 12 - 8.00 p.m. PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 16 - **The Second Sunday before Advent**
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 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
8.00 p.m. Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 18 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 19 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 22 - **10-12 noon Christmas Market (Church Centre)**
- 23 - **Christ the King**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Re-authorisation of Donna Worssam as Pastoral Assistant (Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge)
- 24 - 7.45 p.m. Focus Evening (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 26 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Coffee in the Church Centre
- 30 - **The First Sunday of Advent**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
3.00 p.m. W.I. Carol Service (in Church)
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Advent Carol Service

Some early December dates

- 2 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 3 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Coffee in the Church Centre
- 7 - **The Second Sunday of Advent**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship and baptism of Phoebe Grace Thompson
5.00 p.m. Christingle
6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Centre)

Vicar's Viewpoint

Mahatma Gandhi was once travelling on a train to Madras. A journalist working with one of the major Madras newspapers discovered that Gandhi was on this train and tried to get to see him. He wanted to interview him with the question, "What message would you like to give to the readers of my newspaper in Madras and beyond?" To the journalist's disappointment it happened to be Gandhi's day for observing silence, so he was unable to interview him. However, Gandhi did respond with a simple written note, "My life is my message."

St. Paul, whose writings fill half of the New Testament, was also keenly aware of the importance of his life matching his words. Towards the end of his life he wrote to his close friends in the Philippian Church, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, *or seen in me* – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (*My italics* -Philippians 4:9)

Jesus, also, was able to point to his own lifestyle as proof of the truth of his message. When John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied by pointing to his ministry with deeds of compassion alongside the message of hope. (Luke 7:20-23)

I would invite each of us to pause and ask of ourselves, "What message am I communicating through the way I live my life?" We may feel that we don't have much of a message to communicate but, whether we like it or not, our lives speak volumes. Those around us will pick up and remember such messages, just as we do when we encounter others.

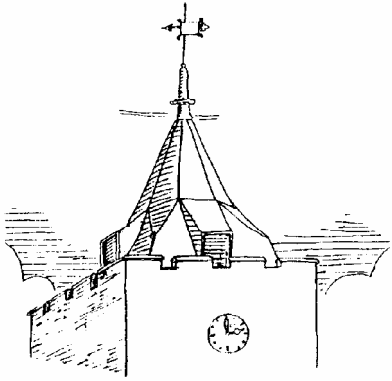
In this month of November there are two important occasions when we think of the example of others and draw inspiration from them. The first occasion is All Saints' Day, which is always celebrated on 1st November. On this day we give thanks for men and women down the ages whose lives have demonstrated God's compassion, strength and wisdom. Through their deeds as much as their words they have borne witness to the transforming power of God's love.

The second event is observed in the ceremonies for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. We remember those who were prepared to risk their lives in the fight against tyranny and oppression and who, in so doing, paid the ultimate price. In the sacrifice of their lives they proclaimed the importance of freedom, truth and justice and all that we hold dear in our nation.

If we stop and think about it, what sort of message do we wish to communicate through our own lives? Could we, with integrity, follow the examples of St. Paul and of Jesus and point to our deeds and actions? What will we need to do, or how will our lifestyle need to change if we want to ensure that our heartfelt values are clearly communicated? For one thing is sure, Gandhi's comment applies to us all: "My life is my message."

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Harvest

Thank you to all those who gave to the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal. A sum in excess of £500 was raised for this appeal. Many thanks also to Russell House School children for tinned and dried goods which were sent to St. Saviour's Priory for those who are poor and homeless in East London.

Remembrance Sunday

This falls on Sunday, 9th November and the traditional service begins at 10.00 a.m. in Church, followed at 10.55 a.m. by the service at the War Memorial on The Green. Traffic will be halted during the two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District

The Annual Open Meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th November at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. at the URC Church Hall at St. John's Hill. Come and hear what our local churches are doing. Join in a discussion on the future direction of CTSD and for updates on the work of the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, Christian Aid, the Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, Befrienders and Debt Advice Ministry, Hope '08 and more. Help to build up and encourage the body of Christ as we work **together** as salt and light in our community. **Everyone Welcome.**

The Christmas Market

This will take place in the Church Centre on **Saturday November 22nd from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.**

Stalls will include: gifts and gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; novelty cakes; winter woollies (scarves, gloves and hats). A super Christmas Raffle is also planned.

There will be "Pick a present from the tree" for children, and while we appreciate that Santa Claus is extra busy, he has promised to send a deputy! Coffee, tea and soft drinks, together with Christmas biscuits, Stollen and mince pies, will be on sale for you to enjoy while you chat with friends. I am very grateful for the offers of help so far received; now the urgent need is for items with which to stock the stalls. All contributions will be most gratefully received and may be left at the Church Office, at any church service, at 'Burway', Sevenoaks Road or at 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks. With any queries or offers of help, please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

We require:

Gifts (new or unused) for adults and children;

Christmas wrapping paper, ribbon, tags, gift boxes;

Christmas decorations – table, tree, hanging and novelty;

Candles – decorated, or plain which we can decorate;

Hats, gloves, scarves – new – all sizes, single or in sets – please label with age or size;

Cakes – please see Susan Reid, who will be delighted to receive your offerings.

Most of all, we want you to come and enjoy a happy time with your church family, joining together in support of our church work.

Sylvia Grafton

Advent

This falls on Sunday 30th November. Following the 8.00 a.m. service of Holy Communion on that day there will be a 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship and an Advent Carol Service at 6.30 p.m. The candlelit Christingle Service will be held at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th December.

Mary and Joseph Visit Otford

At the end of the morning service on the first Sunday of Advent, 30th November, the wooden crib figures of Mary and Joseph will be given to Alec and Amy Harris and their parents Najen and Mervyn to take home with them. The figures will stay at their home overnight before moving on to another home the next day and will move from house to house until they arrive in church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

The idea of the Nativity travellers originated in Mexico and is called Posada. During Advent everyone is invited to celebrate with expectation, the whole purpose and meaning of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We hope that people will make room for Jesus in their hearts and homes as Christmas approaches.

If you would like to be part of the journey of Mary and Joseph and willing to give them a home for the night please contact Joan Beacom 01959 524304.

Tree of Light Service

This will be held on Friday 12th December and there will be a service on The Green at 7.30 p.m. 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, 14th December at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will cost £5. There will be a said service of Holy Communion at 5.00 p.m. on that day.



Over £1,900 raised for Leukaemia Research.

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored 'Team Ellis' in their walk with Sir Ian 'Beefy' Botham.

The walk took place last month in and around the grounds of Penshurst Place on a day when the sun actually shone. 'Beefy' set a blistering pace of 4.5 miles an hour which is faster than one might imagine! We, along with sporting greats such as Matt Dawson, Jamie Redknapp and Nasser Hussain, did our best to keep up with him. He finished this leg of his walk in an

hour. Team Ellis finished in about 1 hour and 15 minutes. There was a great atmosphere on a great day for a great cause. Thank you for your support.

Team Ellis.



OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. For last month's meeting, we welcomed Mr. Newman, who earlier had asked members to supply him with the names of their favourite flowers so that he could talk to us about them. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Our Annual Meeting is on 11th November, 2.00 p. m. in the Village Hall, preceded by a light lunch,

when we elect a new committee, who will have a busy year ahead as our institute reaches the great age of 90 and so we are planning celebrations during next year. If you are interested in hearing more about our institute do please contact 522736.

OTFORD OAST W.I. The meeting, on Thursday 13th November from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. at Otford Village Memorial Hall, is entitled 'AGM and Sales Tables.' This is your opportunity to volunteer to join the committee. Let's keep our W.I. full of fresh ideas and enthusiasm. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, the second costs £3.00 and annual membership costs £27.00. Patsy Groom 01959 524156

OTFORD EVENING W.I. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Otford memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. At our annual meeting in October, Diana Jeremiah was re-elected as President and our committee members were elected for 2009. Our speaker at the 13th November meeting will be Mrs. Kenwynne Barber, who will take us across the North Pole on one of the many marathons she has undertaken to raise money for cancer and children's charities. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome despite the chilly subject.

GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST BOX. The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between Tuesday 25th November and Tuesday 16th December inclusive during opening hours. A second Box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered over the weekend 20th -21st December and all the proceeds will be divided between Demelza House Children's Hospice and Kent Air Ambulance Trust. Stamps will be 20p per card and all money will go to the chosen charities. Please support us by posting early. The Brownies, their leaders and helpers will continue to organize and run the Christmas Post for the village this year with the Guides, who we hope will be able to meet again in the near future.

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. The Society will hold a Quiz and Fun Night, a social evening to round off the gardening year, beginning at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd December in Otford Village Memorial Hall (free parking). For details of this and all events, please contact the Society Secretary, Janet Finney, on 01959 523760, or e-mail gardeners@otford.net or visit the website on www.otford.info/gardeners.

SPOTLIGHT



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Work on the pond, unfortunately, was continued this year after permission had expired, and a fresh application has had to be made to do the work on this listed building. As most people will know, the pond was emptied in 2006 of perhaps a hundred years of silt and stones that had fallen from the wall and the repaired wall was pressure cleaned to reveal its parlous state and the necessity for rebuilding to a stronger standard, to withstand traffic vibration, pressure from willow tree roots and visitors standing on the edge! The work also revealed the nature of the carved rock-like base and the clay surround that had been made for the pond. The wall was simply the final layer for the pond to exist. The old eroded clay base was replaced with puddled clay (to make it watertight), and a membrane to protect against punctures by fish and things thrown in the pond, and any tree roots that penetrated the hard base.

Work on the wall should have continued within the permitted period in 2007, but a bricklayer skilled in building with ragstone could not be found and it had to be postponed

until this year. Now, we must wait for forms to be filled, decisions made, and the weather and day-length to be suitable for building to continue.

In the meantime the damage done to the area by the car that "travelled" over the west side of the pond and willow tree will be repaired (probably costing over a thousand pounds), and the ducks will be allowed back to the large area they enjoy, but with a shallow and safe - for the existing structure - depth of water.

We have a new PCSO, Sue Harewood, following the departure of Dave Birchall. Dave cared for Otford and Shoreham (and Dunton Green as well for a period), but because of the lack of officers, Sue Harewood has been allotted Otford, Shoreham, Kemsing and Seal by the police authorities. This means she will have little time for work on foot and will inspect the whole area by car most of the time. She intends to travel round the whole area each day she is on duty.

If there are problems you would like to bring to her attention, the message can be passed on by the parish office. It is hoped to have a PCSO for Otford and fewer other villages eventually, when one can be trained.

Mr Chris Hennis of the "Play Place" organisation has started working each week with young people in the Hale Lane Sports Ground Pavilion, supported financially by various sources, including the parish council. This organisation is also working in Kemsing and Westerham, where it is much enjoyed by the young people. A youth worker funded by the County Council is also working with young people in the west of the village each week.

Work on School House Committee Room to insulate and decorate it is due to start on Wednesday 15th October, probably lasting two weeks. This should help reduce our fuel bills and bring this much used facility up to scratch.

JGA

IN MEMORY

MRS. MAC

(Nellie Beatrice McWilliams)

Mrs. Mac was born on 12th September 1930 in North Woolwich. She met her husband, Sydney, whilst working as a shop assistant in the local Co-Op. They got married in 1952 and moved to Blackfen. Here they started a family, with their two daughters, Janice and Gillian.

They moved to Otford in 1966 when they bought the Grocers' Shop (Knight Bros). They also ran a car hire firm (Orange Penant), and in later years they developed the grocers' business into the Willow Tea Rooms.

Mrs. Mac soon became a well-known figure in the village. She regarded her customers as personal friends and, in some cases, as extended family. Mrs. Mac hardly took any time off, although she did enjoy the occasions she visited her family, which grew to include her two daughters and their husbands and her grandson.

Whilst Mrs. Mac was not one who sought the limelight, she touched many people in Otford with her friendship and care, and she will be missed by her many friends and customers.

KEN DICKINSON

Ken was born 86 years ago at Radcliffe in Lancashire. He was only 17 when the Second World War broke out and he saw active service in the Royal Navy, serving on Russian convoys. Twice the ship he was on was sunk by German submarines. Ken was the leading telegraphist in charge of communications on the *Mounsey* and was always immensely proud of his prowess in Morse Code.

Ken met his wife Joan during his wartime service and they were married in 1948 in New Waltham. He worked for the Co-Op in Manchester, discovering a flair for design, going

on to college to study typography and graphic design. In turn, this led to him lecture at a college in Bury.

Ken's work with the Co-Op developed into national advertising campaigns, and it was this which brought him to London. Ken and Joan moved to Bexleyheath in 1950, their daughter, Judith, was born in 1953 and the family moved to Otford in 1960. He initially worked for McCann Erickson and then became creative director of Pembertons, overseeing creative media advertising. From the late 1960's he went into photo type-setting but then retired when he sold his business to an advertising agency.

Ken had a real passion for cricket, whether playing for Bexleyheath or watching at Lords and the Oval. Ken was also particularly interested in gardening. He was famous for his garden parties. Ken and Joan also enjoyed travel, in particular going on cruises, but also returning regularly to the Lake District.

Joan died in 1998 and it was in her memory that Ken commissioned the four new bells for St. Bartholomew's Church, bringing the total peal to six, for which the church and the village remain very grateful.

In his later years, Ken came to a firm faith. He loved coming to St. Bart's to listen to the bells, and also to worship, especially in the prayerful setting of Evensong. He also found a great source of strength in the Christian ministry of Burrswood as he faced up to cancer.

Ken had great drive and energy and a very dry sense of humour. He was a loyal friend and a generous benefactor. He was proud of what he achieved in his work but his greatest joy was in his family, with his wife Joan, his daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Dave, and his grandchildren, Vicky and James. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

STEVE McEWAN

Steve was born in Plumstead in 1960, and he grew up in the Bexleyheath & Abbey Wood area of south east London. He attended Erith Grammar School and continued his studies at London University, where he studied Biochemistry and Physiology, and Oxford, where he gained a doctorate.

Steve then trained at Price Waterhouse to become a Chartered Accountant. It was here that he met his wife, Andrea 17 years ago and they got married at St. Mary's, Bexley. Their son, Sam, has just finished at Russell House School.

Steve devoted himself to the Anthony Nolan Trust, which he joined in 1994 as its financial controller. He contributed to its development in many ways, and in 2003 he was made its chief executive, a post which he held until his untimely death from a motorbike accident. During these years he made a significant contribution to the treatment of leukaemia, bone marrow transplantation and the setting up of a cord blood bank. He was motivated by the knowledge that the work of the Anthony Nolan Trust would lead to the saving of more lives.

At home he enjoyed music: he played the double bass and bass guitar, and he also played in a band known as The Passengers.

Steve and his family moved to Otford in 1999 and there are many happy family memories over these years. Steve's death is a tragedy that cut short his life when he was in his prime, and he will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues.

PETER JEREMIAH

Peter was born in 1934 and spent his early days in Kemsing, before the family moved first to Otford and then to Wrotham. He attended Winchester House Preparatory School and then Sevenoaks School, where he enjoyed sports, especially rugby.

On leaving school in 1951, Peter did his National Service, training at *HMS Indefatigable*, and then serving aboard the destroyer, *HMS Obdurate*. After his National Service, He had a range of different jobs, including working with cotton importers and with Lloyds Bank, before his career became more settled when he was employed by what was then the London County Council. He worked in various departments, including the General, Roads, Finance Management and Property Divisions.

Peter married Diana in 1965 and, within a few months of their wedding, they moved into Park Hill Road where they stayed. They soon started their family, which grew to include their children Alison, Mary and William, and two grandchildren, Felicity and Sebastian. Peter loved sailing, in particular on the Norfolk Broads, which he visited every year from the age five, and also enjoyed gardening, especially growing his own vegetables. In retirement, he joined the U3A and was a member of the walking group. He was also involved in the Otford Branch of the British Legion, organising the local poppy collection for 15 years. In addition, he was the Village Hall Manager for a period, co-ordinating the bookings, and doing the cleaning. He also delivered school meals from Otford to Shoreham. Peter was a member of St. Bartholomew's Church for many years and his memory will be treasured by all who knew him in both church and village.



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

21st September
28th September
5th October

Elizabeth Rose **Burden**
George Joseph **Pockett**
Hattie Roxburgh Wilton **Pope**

Deaths (Our Sympathy)

25th August
2nd September
10th September
15th September
15th September
18th September

Rose Lily **Leggett** (aged 81)
Nellie Beatrice **McWilliams** (aged 77)
Ken **Dickinson** (aged 86)
Stephen Joseph **McEwan** (aged 48)
Daisy Elizabeth Sheila **Waghorn** (aged 80)
Peter Roger **Jeremiah** (aged 74)

Church offerings in September

Open Collections for charities and Church Expenses.....	£1,148.19
Freewill offerings.....	£4,849.00

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