

## SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST (4 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	CW HC	Church Family Worship	-	Evensong
SECOND (11 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	CW HC	Morning Worship (CW)	CU@5 (Church Centre)	Holy Communion(CW)
THIRD (18 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	CW HC	Morning Worship (CW)	CU@5 (Church Centre)	Evensong
FOURTH (25 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	BCP HC	Holy Communion (CW)	CU@5 (Church Centre)	Evening Prayer (CW)

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 9.30 am service, except on first Sunday when in Church

**CRECHE:** 0-2 years (every Sunday)

### Sunday Evenings

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP** every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Centre at 6.30 pm (except the first Sunday)

**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

# JANUARY 2009

#### **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.**

- 4 - **Epiphany**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)**
  - 6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 5 - **7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)**

- 7 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 11 - The Baptism of Christ**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**
  - 11.00 a.m. Annual Churchyard Meeting (Church Centre)**
  - 5.00 p.m. [cu@5](mailto:cu@5) (Church Centre)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
- 12 - 7.45 p.m. Coffee and chat
- 13 - **Magazine material by today, please, to David Matthews, "Beech Coppice", London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. [matthews.dg@lineone.net](mailto:matthews.dg@lineone.net)**
- 14 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00 p.m. PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 18 - The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**
  - 11.30 a.m. Baptism of Tegan Finley**
  - 5.00 p.m. [cu@5](mailto:cu@5) (Church Centre)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 19 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 20 - 8.00 p.m. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service (Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church)
- 21 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 22 - 9.15 p.m. Otford Guild of Bellringers AGM
- 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**
  - 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 5.00 p.m. [cu@5](mailto:cu@5) (Church Centre)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 26 - 7.45 p.m. Focus evening (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 27 - 8.00 p.m. Mission Committee (Beech Coppice)
- 28 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 31 - 1.30 p.m. Wedding of Graham Williams and Yvonne Chappell

**Some early February dates**

- 1 - Candlemas**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
  - 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship with children (CW)**
  - 5.00 p.m. [cu@5](mailto:cu@5) (Church Centre)**
  - 6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 2 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 4 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 8.00 a.m. Ecumenical Committee (38 Warham Road)
- 7 - 7.30 p.m. 'Bartholomew' Wind Band concert (in Church)

# Vicar's Viewpoint

“The great paradox of our lives is that while we are often very concerned about what we do, or still can do, we are most likely to be remembered for who we were.”<sup>1</sup> This observation by Henri Nouwen seems very pertinent as we stand at the threshold of a New Year with all that it may hold. In our society there is great stress on “doing”. There is, indeed, much to be said for the qualities of hard work, perseverance, efficiency and dedication. Without such qualities we would be considerably worse off and nothing much would get done. However, by placing an emphasis on “doing” we mustn’t lose sight of the importance of “being”. Although our doing may bring achievement and success, it is our being which bears fruit that will last.

With our New Year Resolutions it is natural to focus on what we want to do and what we want to achieve. Although it has been wryly observed that a New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other, nonetheless they can have an impact on our lives; they can help us identify areas for improvement and re-order some priorities.

The beginning of the year is a special time for us to reflect on the path we hope to travel in the months that stretch out before us. So what will our priorities be? Unless we are clear about our priorities, it will be all too easy in the coming year to be pushed around by the pressures of daily life. We can easily end up letting the tyranny of the urgent overpower the priority of the importance. We can get caught up in unreflective busyness and “doing”. But is this really what we want to place at the top of our New Year Resolutions?

The truth of Henri Nouwen’s comment soon becomes apparent when we stop to think about it. If I reflect on the people who have had a real influence on my life, this has stemmed not from their credentials or achievements, but from the living memory of who they were or are and from their love, support and encouragement.

This is most clearly seen in the life of Jesus. When he died there was very little he could point to in his life by way of success or achievement, and yet the living memory of him has borne fruit in all succeeding generations, inspiring people to follow his example.

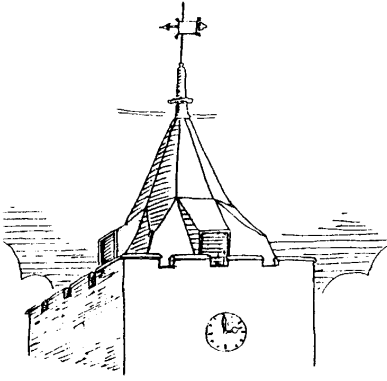
Helen Sharman, Britain’s first female astronaut, once commented that when she was in space, “the things we would actually talk about were our family and our friends, and that confirmed to me what was important in life...I know that without people my life wouldn’t zing anymore.”

Will this have any bearing on the priorities we will set for ourselves in the year ahead and any New Year Resolutions we may make?

Your friend and Vicar,  
Richard Worssam

1 p. 56 in “Our Greatest Gift” by Henri Nouwen (Hodder & Stoughton, 1994)

**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**



**'First Steps'**

This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and our own church and includes the opportunity for chat, refreshment, and also a short Bible story, with singing and activities for the children, including games and craft. It meets at the Methodist Church New Hall and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00 p.m.



**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 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 9.15 p.m. in the Church Centre, following ringing practice.

**Confirmation Group 2009**

The confirmation group will meet on Thursday evenings, from 7.15 pm to 8.30 pm in the Church Centre on the following dates: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Feb; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May. The confirmation itself will be at the morning service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Please let Richard know if you would like to join this group (523185)

**'Bartholomew' Concert.** The Bartholomew Wind Band, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will perform in Church on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will cost £5 and proceeds will be divided between Hospice in the Weald and Church funds.

**Special Tour of Westminster Abbey**

On Monday 16th February, we have the privilege of being hosted to a private tour of Westminster Abbey. This will be in the evening, beginning at 6.15 pm, after the Abbey has been closed to visitors. We will be taken around the Abbey and its various chapels and historic features will serve as a focus for thought and prayer, and there will be a reception to follow. Numbers are limited to 40, so please let the Parish Office (523185) know if you would like to come.



**Lent Course 2009**

The Vicar is planning a Lent course, to be called 'Pilgrims' Progress', when he will interview five people from the congregation, inviting them to share their favourite Christian books, poems and Bible verses, interwoven with

the story of their pilgrimage of faith. These meetings will be held on Tuesdays in March 2009: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March 2009.

#### **Team Ellis Final Total**

£2414 will be going to Leukaemia Research. A big thank you to all who sponsored us. It's a fantastic amount and everyone has been very generous indeed. We never thought we'd make the £2000 but....WE DID IT!

#### **Being a Disciple**

"We are to be disciples", appears at the top of our weekly notice sheet. One of the best ways to be a disciple, that is a "learner", is to join one of our homegroups. Details of when and where these groups meet, together with the topic being studied, can be found on the yellow notice at the back of the church. If you want further information, please contact a group leader (also on the yellow notice) or ask Brian Raynor or the Vicar.

#### **Mission Matters**

*We include extracts from an e-mail received by Andrew Hill from Rev'd. J. Kibobe of the 'World Wide Silver Lining' in response to the news of our gift to them, as reported in the Mission Newsletter:*

Dear Andrew,

I always say and tell people that God moves in mysterious ways to perform His wonders. I am so encouraged by the information of the WWSL being one of the charities to receive support from your Church. Glory to God!

It is true that there are thousands of street children here in Kenya and the situation was worsened by the last year's chaos after the elections, and we who are running projects to do with children are always having so many children at our door-steps every day but our resources are very limited and so we just can't help all that come to us.

Please, at the appointed time, give our appreciations to your church and let them know that their assistance to our work will go a long way in giving hope to the less fortunate children under our care and God will continue blessing you all there. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Yours ever, Jeremiah.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The other new recipient of our giving this year is the SAMS (South American Mission Society) Harvest Project. Bill Lattimer has provided us with further information.*

**The place** is Tarija, Bolivia's Mediterranean city, nearly 2,000 metres above sea-level, with a population approaching half a million, 60% of them under 24 years of age.

**The pioneers** are Walter and Sandra Barrientos, Walter trained for the priesthood, gained a PhD, worked as a parish priest in Cochabamba but then left the priesthood to work in a university, where he met Sandra, a psychologist and leader of short courses in the Christian faith. They married in 2000 and went to work in USA, helping in mission to Hispanic people. The call to become missionaries grew, leading to their return to Bolivia.



**The Adventure.** They started the mission at Jesus el Buen Pastor, which now has a congregation of over 70. A second church plant in 2007 led to an average of 180 people now attending the mission of La Santa Cruz: over half are children. Eleven leaders have been trained for the ministries at Jesus el Buen Pastor; volunteers teach the faith in English to children; young people meet every Saturday night; the church is making a contribution to a meeting place through

stewardship; a programme of evangelism takes the gospel across the city; and doctors from the church offer their services free.

**The Need.** However, the congregation of El Buen Pastor doesn't have a building: the Harvest Project aims is to erect a church on land owned by a local Christian, which will also be multi-purpose building on two floors which will include a private bilingual primary school.

Our giving will contribute to the building of this church.



You can **FORGET** "Make Poverty History", because Climate Change will make Poverty **PERMANENT**.

It was with these words that Daleep Mukarji, opened a Breakfast Briefing in London entitled "Climate Change – Going Beyond Talking the Talk".

**No other single issue presents such a clear and present danger to the future welfare of the world's poorest people,** and those who cause the least damage suffer the most.

Climate Change creates intense weather conditions such as floods and hurricanes, often leading to loss of lives and disease as well as loss of homes and livelihoods. Although extreme weather has always occurred, Climate change is causing it to become both more frequent and intense. When these unfortunate disasters occur, Christian Aid – through its partners world-wide – is usually amongst the first to be able to offer relief and practical support to those worst affected.

Climate Change is also a driver of poverty. Increasingly unreliable rainfall contributes to reduced harvests. Long-term changes in sea levels, temperature or rainfall can make it impossible to pursue traditional livelihood options at all. Christian Aid is working with communities across the world to help reduce the impact that such extreme weather has on them. For instance, their partner in Mali focuses on rural development and is helping the people to adapt to their changing environment. They provide plots of irrigated rice fields and teach community farming techniques, so that they are able to cope despite losing their traditional livelihoods.

Christian Aid and its partners are also helping to raise awareness of Climate Change. One example is in India, itself one of the fastest growing emitters of carbon. They are working with 10,000 children, who are encouraged to help their schools and communities make changes in their everyday behaviour, such as saving energy and using less water, which will reduce the adverse impacts of Climate Change.

The help, support and prayers that Christian Aid receives from the vast majority of churches throughout Sevenoaks and District is truly appreciated, **but it is always**

**possible to do more.** It is not only financial resource which is needed, but campaigning support as well. There is to be a major conference in Copenhagen next year, where the protocol reached will replace Kyoto. As the world's largest economic bloc, the European Union will have a major impact at this summit, and the deal struck will be the world's principal weapon against global warming. If you have access to the internet, please go to the Christian Aid website - [www.clicknow.org.uk](http://www.clicknow.org.uk) – and **lobby your MEP, as well as taking the Copenhagen pledge.** It can also be done by postcard and one thing is sure - this form of campaigning has been shown to have an impact on those concerned, and is something that we can all do so easily. Your Christian Aid representative, who works so very hard on your behalf on the Committee, will gladly do all he or she can to help, if there is anything at all that you would like to clarify.

On behalf of Christian Aid, its partners in over 50 countries in the world and many of the world's poorest communities, may I thank every one of you most sincerely for all that you do in whatever way that you do it, and I pray that you will continue to do.

**Together, we CAN make a difference.**

John Lane  
Chairman, Christian Aid Sevenoaks and District Committee



**OTFORD CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FESTIVAL.** Despite the threat of nasty wet weather, the day happily turned out cold but dry as the shops opened and people came in large numbers to enjoy all the fun of the day. The Parish Council says a huge thank you to all the shopkeepers and pubs who took part in this special day. We sincerely hope that it was successful day for you all. Lots of people enjoyed the opportunity to browse around and buy from our lovely shops, where some of the shopkeepers had also dressed in costume for the day, and enjoy the entertainment provided in the High Street with Ladies Morris Dancing, Otford Primary School children singing, Father Christmas and his big basket of sweets, Church Bells ringing, members of the Methodist Church giving away mince pies, the Otford Art Group in the Village Hall, Bobbo the clown doing his balloon magic and Rob, our fantastic fire juggler, who was also a very scary Jack Skellington from 'A Nightmare before Christmas'. Not just the kids he scared! Well done to everyone.

#### **Road Works**



The rearranged closure of Pilgrims Way West for works by EDF will commence on **Monday 5th January**. See signs for diversionary routes. The publicised road works at Bat & Ball will not start until these ones have finished!



**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. The first meeting in 2009 will be on **8th January**. The annual subscription of £29 will be due. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981

**OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I.** meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The first meeting in 2009 will take place on **Tuesday 13th January** when there will be a talk by Lt. Col. M. Martin on 'Memories of the Second World War'. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.



**SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD.** The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 31st January** when there will be an all day workshop and mini workshops on 'Beadwork' with Liz Thornton. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

\* \* \* \* \*

*We regret the errors in the last two editions of the magazine and include the material omitted from last month's pages 9-10, believing that the passage from Corinthians is as (nearly!) applicable to January as to December.*

### **1 Corinthians 13 - Christmas Style**

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family - I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family - I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family - It profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.



# Registers



### Baptism (Our Welcome)

2<sup>nd</sup> November  
2<sup>nd</sup> November

Daniel Richard **Thorburn**  
Frederick James Maurice **Thompson**

### Deaths (Our Sympathy)

5<sup>th</sup> October

Susan Janet **Lark** (aged 53)

### Church Offerings in October

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses .....	£ 242.18
Freewill Offerings .....	£ 5,236.00

\* \* \* \* \*



# Registers



### Baptism (Our Welcome)

7<sup>th</sup> December

Phoebe Grace **Thompson**

### Funerals (Our Sympathy)

13<sup>th</sup> November

Louisa Margaret **Hill** (aged 79)

### Church Offerings in November

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses .....	£ 674.69
Freewill Offerings .....	£ 4,423.00

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