

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Church Family Worship	<i>cu@5</i>	Choral Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	Morning Worship	<i>cu@5</i>	CW HC
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	<i>cu@5</i>	Choral Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Holy Communion (CW)	<i>cu@5</i>	Evening Prayer
FIFTH	-	-	-	-

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 a.m. service, except on first Sunday when in Church.

CRÈCHE: 0-2 years (every Sunday)

Sunday Evenings

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP every Sunday evening during term time in the

Church Centre at 6.30 p.m. (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 REST DAY: Monday

FEBRUARY 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - **Candlemas**
 - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 - 9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)
 - 5.00 p.m. *cu@5* (Church Centre)
 - 6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)
 - 6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 2 - Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
 - 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 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale')
- 4 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
 - 8.00 p.m. Ecumenical Committee (38 Warham Road)
 - 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod at Kemsing
- 5 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Church Centre)
- 7 - 7.30 p.m. 'Bartholomew' Wind Band concert (in Church)

- 8 - The Third Sunday before Lent**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW) (Preacher: Revd. Kath Pawlett)
9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW) (Preacher: Revd. Kath Pawlett)
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 9 - 2.30 p.m. FEBA meeting at 41, Park Hill Road
7.45 p.m. CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 11 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00 p.m. Standing Committee (Vicarage)
- 12 - 7.15 a.m. Confirmation Group (Church Centre)
8.30 p.m. Readers' Team (Vicarage)
- 13 - **Magazine material by today, please, to David Matthews, "Beech Coppice", London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 14 - 7.00 p.m. Valentine's Quiz (Church Hall)
- 15 - The Second Sunday before Lent**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
11.00 a.m. Fabric Committee (Church Centre)
5.30 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 16 - 6.15 p.m. Special tour of Westminster Abbey
7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 17 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale')
- 18 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 19 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 22 - Sunday next before Lent**
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
- 23 - 7.45 p.m. Focus group (50 Well Road)
8.00 p.m. Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 24 **Shrove Tuesday**
- 25 - **Ash Wednesday**
9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
8.00 p.m. Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (CW)
- 26 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Church Centre)
- 28 9.15 a.m. Wedding Preparation Morning (Church Centre)

Some early March dates

- 1 - The First Sunday of Lent**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship
5.00 p.m. 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 p.m. PCC meeting (Church Centre)
- 5 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Church Centre)

Vicar's Viewpoint

The practice of pilgrimage is embedded in the history and fabric of our village. Two of the principal roads running through Otford bear witness to this: Pilgrims Way East and West. In the Middle Ages, pilgrims would have journeyed through Otford on their way to the shrine of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury.

The image of pilgrimage has also been used throughout the centuries in the Christian tradition to describe our journey in faith. In the New Testament we find a depiction of the faithful as those who are journeying on earth with the prospect of the heavenly country to guide and sustain them. (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Perhaps the best known Christian classic with this theme is "Pilgrim's Progress", written by John Bunyan. It was first published in 1678 and since then it has become part of our English cultural heritage. It is a story which seems to have universal appeal. It describes emotions and experiences, virtues and vices which are common to us all. As we get caught up in the narrative, we may find ourselves identifying with the rich mix of fear and courage, of despair and hope. The various people that the principal character, Christian, encounters along the way are well-observed pen-portraits of characteristics that we may recognise in ourselves and others.

However, for all its universal appeal, *Pilgrim's Progress* was written from Bunyan's own distinct perspective, drawing on his own social context and personal experiences and reflecting his particular understanding of the Christian faith as influenced by the teaching of Calvin and the European Reformation.

For example, Bunyan drew from his own life experience in a variety of contexts: when Christian finds both welcome and encouragement in the House of the Interpreter, Bunyan was likely to be thinking of John Gifford, the minister of the Independent Congregation at Bedford who invited Bunyan to a join a group that met in his house; when Christian enjoys the company of Prudence, Piety and Charity at the House Beautiful, this carries echoes of Bunyan's own home life and his devout wife whom he describes in his autobiography; and when Bunyan used the imagery of spiritual warfare, this may be derived from a passage in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, but he may also have been drawing on his experience of serving in Cromwell's parliamentary army.

Bunyan was also influenced by other books that he had read. For example, while he was in Bedford Jail, Bunyan read Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, and his description of the jury who put Faithful to death, including Mr. Malice, Mr. Enmity and Mr. Cruelty, may have drawn on this in addition to his own experience of opposition and suffering. Above all, Bunyan drew on Scripture, and verses from the Bible are frequently quoted in dialogues between the various characters.

The same principle of a universal story with personal details applies today – for us all, our journeys through life may be described as a pilgrimage and share many features with those around us, and yet each of us has our own story to tell. The similarities between us, such as experiences of joy or times of doubt, mean that we can relate to and encourage one another; the differences between us are a source of fascination and interest.

(Continued on page 5)

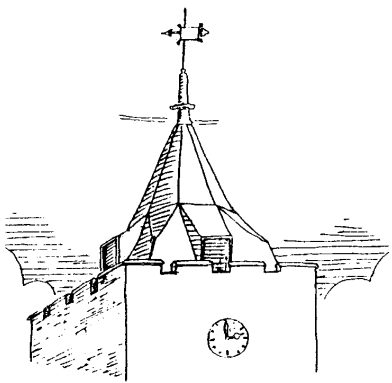
(Continued from page 4)

This year, on Tuesday evenings throughout the season of Lent, St. Bartholomew's Church has organised a series of five sessions in which five people, drawn from Anglican, Methodist, Catholic and Baptist backgrounds, will be sharing stories and insights from their own journeys of faith. Just as Bunyan's account of pilgrimage was influenced by his own life experiences, his family and friends, inspirational books and favourite Bible verses, so also the Lent series contributors will be telling us about the development of their faith and illustrating this with personal experiences from work and home, friendship that has supported them, books they have found helpful, Bible passages that have been particularly significant for them, and music they enjoy. This will be done in a "Desert Island Discs" style, with informal conversation mixed in with these other elements.

I warmly invite you to come along that you also may find inspiration and encouragement for your own journey of faith.

Your friend and Vicar,
Richard Worssam

The Lent Series will be held each Tuesday in March (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March) at 8 p.m. in the Church Centre and those being interviewed include Vicki Howie, Rod Shelton, Kath Pawlett and Dawn Hallam.



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

Concert by 'Bartholomew'

The wind ensemble, conducted by Jean Kelsey, will perform in Church on Saturday, 7th February at 7.30 p.m. with their guests Sevenoaks Handbell Ringers. Tickets £7 (£5) including refreshments, are available from Jean, 01732 462409, band members, or at the door. Proceeds for Hospice in the Weald and Church funds.

Valentine Quiz Evening

This will take place on Saturday 14th February at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. Tables of 8. Supper. The date of this annual quiz has been moved in the hope that more people will attend as it is not a school or work night. Any money raised will go to the Sheringham Beach Mission, which has the opportunity to buy the much-needed house next door to their present team headquarters & accommodation. Tickets and information from Janet Hunt 01959 523820.

The World Day of Prayer Service for 2009.

This service, prepared by women from Papua New Guinea, is to be held on Friday 6th March at 2 p.m. at Otford Roman Catholic Church. The theme will be, 'In Christ there are many members yet one body' and the speaker will be Mrs. Susan Ward. The Service will be followed by refreshments. EVERYONE is welcome to this ecumenical event.

Confirmation Group 2009

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

Churchyard Working Party

These will take place on the following Saturday mornings from about 9.30am.

7 th March	1 st August
4 th April	5 th September
2 nd May	3 rd October
6 th June	7 th November
4 th July	

Lent Course 2009

The Vicar is planning a Lent course, to be called 'Pilgrims' Progress', when he will interview five people from the congregation and the village, inviting them to share their favourite Christian books, music and Bible verses, interwoven with the story of their pilgrimage of faith. These meetings will be held on Tuesdays in March: 3rd, 10th, 17th 24th and 31st March at 8 pm in the Church Centre. Those being interviewed include Vickie Howie, Rod Shelton, Kath Pawlett and Dawn Hallam. (See Vicar's Viewpoint for more details.)

News

Hazel Maunsell, nee Collins, daughter of Marcus, is in Ethiopia with Crosslinks. Her husband Colin died in 2005. She continues with the work he began in 1961, translating Christian literature into Amharic for the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. After 47 years work, praise God that Colin's books are now being distributed in two of the three Orthodox theological colleges training clergy. Pray for Hazel as she writes chapter two of a book on the Sermon on the Mount.

The Durham University Mission is from Feb 13-21. Harry Shee and Claire Bliss are involved.

The new vicar of Kemsing arrives soon. He is James Oakley, creator of Edible Words website!

The Kuttners, who visited us in the summer, have left Zimbabwe as Bulawayo University is closed, supplies are short, clean water hard to find and cholera already in the town. They are in South Africa uncertain of their future but hopeful that we will pray often for the people of Zimbabwe and the churches there.

David Casiot

Advertising

This month our advertising has been renewed, and we have some old friends and some welcome new advertisers. Please would all our readers support our advertisers as much as they can and I am sure we wish them all success during the year.

Hilary Fothergill

Change of date

Please note that the date for Civic Service is now Sunday 14th June 2009.

Old Christmas and Easter Cards

If you have any old cards, please leave them at the back of Church or hand them to Sylvia Grafton, who will re-make them for The Children's Society.

Coffee Rota

If you can help to serve coffee after a morning service, please sign your name on the coffee rota to be found on the notice board next to the hatch in the Church Centre. Thank you.



GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST BOX. Thank you to all who supported the 2008 Guide Christmas Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This year the Brownie and Guide collection and delivery has raised a total of £343, which will be divided between the girls' chosen charities: Demelza House Children's Hospice and the Kent Air Ambulance Trust.



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY will hold a Cheese & Wine Evening on Tuesday Feb. 3rd, which will be a social event to meet up with friends old and new and see what we have planned for 2009. The next lecture will take place on Tuesday March 3rd when David Cheston, professional horticulturalist, will talk on 'The Kitchen Garden'. The

Spring Show will take place on Saturday March 28th.

For details of all events please contact the Society Secretary, Janet Finney on 01959 523760, or e-mail gardeners@otford.net or visit our website www.otford.info/gardeners.



OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. We meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Village Hall at 2 p.m. We have a great variety of speakers and other interesting activities: outings, study days, craft, home economics, discussions groups, etc. Subscription for the year is £29. Our January meeting was a talk on the Second World War and on February 10th our speaker gives us a view of "Ladies through the Eye of a Painter". In March we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary. For full details visit the Otford web site - www.otford.info and pick up the link to the W.I. Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - joyce.shaw@otford.net.

OTFORD OAST W.I. – 'a modern voice for women.' The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12th February from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when Sue Atkins will talk on positive parenting. Come and get some guidance and ideas on the most important job we do. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £3 and annual membership £29. Tea/coffee costs 50p. Bring a friend! Other regular activities include a book club, local walks and knitting.

Sue Isted 01959 523419

OTFORD EVENING W.I. 'Big Cat Research in Kent' was the title of the talk given by Neil Arnold at Otford Evening W.I.'s January meeting. He told us of sightings, with photographic evidence, of panthers and lynx in the Sevenoaks and surrounding areas with around 250 eye witness reports made each year. Slaughtered prey, such as deer and

sheep, have been found up in trees, which indicates that a panther is to blame. Country walks will never be the same again!
Several members will be attending National Federation's AGM in June at the Albert Hall and the number of members wishing to form a team of eight for the Federation Quiz competition was enough to make up three teams. If you would like to learn more about the vital work done by the Kent Air Ambulance, come along to our meeting on 12th February at 7.30pm in the OVMH. You will receive a friendly welcome. Brenda Young

CALLING ALL CHILDREN: come to the Ucan Craft Club at the Church Hall during the half-term week, starting 16th February. For more information call Claire on 01959 525582 to book your place.

'GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY WITH THE VICTORIANS' is the first of Chiddingstone Castle's 15 activity days for families in 2009, this one being held on Thursday 19th February between 11a.m. and 5 p.m. Wash, clean and cook in the Victorian kitchen. Make sugar mice, make your own silhouette portrait or curl your hair with rags. All day arts and crafts in activity rooms. Inter-active performance by Charlie the Shoe Shine Boy at 2 p.m. Organised games and races at 3 p.m. See the Japanese articulated animals among other collections and exhibitions. There is a Season Pass for all 15 days (£38.50 for 2 adults and 2 children) or pay at the door (family day pass £18.00, adults £6 and children £4). Details from www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk and 01892 872746.

SEVENOAKS SOROPTIMIST QUIZ EVENING will be held on Saturday 21st February 2009, 7.00 for 7.30 P.M. at The Kippington Centre. Tickets cost £15, to include a home cooked supper. There will be licensed bar and tables of 8. For further enquiries or to book contact Margaret Nicholson 01959 524147.



SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD. The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th February, when we will have a bring-and-share lunch, followed by a talk entitled The Ghost in the Looking Glass, by Lee Ault. Morning sessions begin at 10.00 a.m. and afternoons at 2.00 p.m., and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

An **INDOOR BOOT FAIR** will be held in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th March from 9am to 1pm. Anyone wishing to book a table at £8.00 per table please contact Claire 01959 525582 or Donna 01959 522236.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The parish precept (the portion of council tax that goes to the parish council) is due to rise by 2.5% in the next financial year. This is regrettably necessary because of rising costs, necessary work on the pond and the village car park, and repairs to the public toilets.

Otford parish councillors, in common with many other parish councillors, do not receive allowances but sometimes request expenses for necessary duties for Otford.

The Tree of Light. A few days before time came to switch them on it was found that all the wiring for the had been cut, and it was necessary to purchase new lights at short notice, hence the different colours of the lights compared with recent years.

Donation to the Otford Benevolent Society: the parish council made a donation to the society because of its shortfall in income during the last two years.
Water flow from Park Lane ceased after KCC Highways officer's rodded a land drain in December. We were informed that repeat blockage is possible because of the amount of material in the drain (position unknown). The parish council will try to find where this drain is so that we can deal with the problem quickly if it happens again.
The Village Design Statement is now completed and adopted as a supplementary planning document - meaning it will be taken into account when the Sevenoaks District Council Development Control Committee considers planning applications in this parish. It is available on the SDC website. Thanks are due to all those who contributed.
A Parish Plan is now being developed and all residents will be able to contribute to it.
The village car park should be resurfaced this year, and new white lines painted. This could be an opportunity to alter the parking pattern and possibly make a few more spaces. If you have not already done so, please look at the proposals, either in the parish office, or on the Otford website, and let the parish office have your comments as soon as possible.
Road works affecting the Bat and Ball junction to replace a gas main are forecast to last 6 or 9 months, causing delay and congestion. The necessary testing procedures involved means that it takes longer than other pipe replacement works. JGA

The following item was written by Mr D. R. Harris of Knighton Road and sent in response to the lead article in 'The Sign' in January's magazine, entitled 'Hull dull? No longer.'

Bombs on Hull 1941—1942

It is difficult to recall the exact date on which the BOC works in Hull were bombed and the nearest I can remember is that it would be was 1941, perhaps 1942. A part of my responsibilities was to visit all our works in the Yorkshire District to check that plant, labour and production were up to scratch. At Hull there were two works, in Main Street we had our dissolved acetylene works and in Lime Street there was oxygen production (from two small gas plants) and cylinder filling. The Lime St. works was on the bank of the River Hull; both works were in what we would 'built up areas.'

On the particular date, I had driven to Hull in the works car, a Hillman Minx FY0741, and booked in at the Paragon Hotel beside the railway station. That night there was a severe bombing raid and some 84 parachute bombs were dropped, as we learned later on, The windows of my room were blasted; but with the heavy blackout curtains and long curtains I was safe.

Next morning I went first to see the DA works. What a mess after a direct hit and its own contribution from exploding DA cylinders!! Then off to Lime St. where I found a similar state of chaos. However, all was not lost here. The oxygen plants and the oxygen compressors had survived amongst the debris; but the problem lay with the air purification part of the plant, it having received a direct hit and what was left lay in the river Hull. By mid-morning everyone was clamouring for oxygen and acetylene for salvage operations after the raid and damage; supplies were organised from Rotherham and Leeds.

Having checked that the oxygen compressors were in working order, I then set about trying to repair the oxygen gasholder which had a number of holes in it from blast debris. By now we were in day two, having worked through the night. To cut a long story short, on the third day, with our patched up equipment, we were able to start filling cylinders again. Everyone played their part splendidly in cleaning up, getting roofs repaired etc. A small LO storage tank had been brought over from Rotherham which supplied the gasholder.

I have to admit that, whilst I was jolly tired after three days and two nights on the trot, there was a great sense of achievement and duty done by all involved.

A Prayer for the current financial situation:

Lord God,
We live in disturbing days:

Across the world prices rise,
Debts increase,
Firms collapse,
Jobs are lost
And fragile security is under threat.

Loving God,
Meet us in our fear and hear our prayer:

Be a tower of strength
Amid the shifting sands
And a light in the darkness.

Help us to receive your gift of peace
And fix our hearts
Where true joys are to be found,
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Taken from www.cofe.anglican.org/debt



Registers



18th January

Baptism (Our Welcome)
Tegan Isabel Elizabeth Finley

Church Offerings in December

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£ 1,106.60
Freewill Offerings	£ 5,280.00