

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

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

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 off-duty day:** Monday

# March 2009

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1 - The First Sunday of Lent

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

**Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.**

2 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

3 - 8.00 p.m. **Parish Lent Series "Pilgrim's Progress" – David Runting**

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 (Vicarage)

- 6 - 2.00 p.m. Women's World Day of Prayer (Otford Roman Catholic Church)
- 7 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 8 - **The Second Sunday of Lent**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
  - 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
  - 5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
  - 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 9 - 7.45 p.m. Cameo (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 10 - 8.00 p.m. **Parish Lent Series "Pilgrim's Progress" – Vicki Howie**
- 11 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 12 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 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)**
- 15 - **The Third Sunday of Lent**
  - 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
- 16 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 17 - 8.00 p.m. **Parish Lent Series "Pilgrim's Progress" – Kath Pawlett**
- 18 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. Chris Reed) followed by coffee
- 19 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 21 - 9.00 a.m. PCC Discussion Morning (Church Centre)
- 22 - **The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**
  - 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. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 23 - 8.45 p.m. Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 24 - 8.00 p.m. **Parish Lent Series "Pilgrim's Progress" – Stan Miles**
- 25 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00 p.m. Standing Committee (Vicarage)
- 26 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 29 - **The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
  - 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
  - 11.30 a.m. Baptism of Sienna Gratwick
  - 5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
  - 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 30 - 7.45 p.m. Cameo group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 31 - 8.00 p.m. **Parish Lent Series "Pilgrim's Progress" – Dawn Hallam**

**Some early April dates**

- 1 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 2 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 4 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 5 - **Palm Sunday**
  - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
  - 10.45 a.m. **Palm Sunday Procession (commencing at Otford Methodist Church)**
  - 6.30 p.m. Evensong

# Vicar's Viewpoint

Dear Friends,

From my study window I am privileged to have a beautiful view of the vicarage garden, with the historic north-west tower of the Archbishop's Palace the other side of the garden fence and, in the distance, the outline of Star Hill. It is view which I love and it is constantly changing. In our early days here the trees were just coming into leaf and the front flower border was full of the vibrant reds and yellows of tulips. In the following months the view of the Archbishop's Palace and distant hillside became masked by the trees in their full regalia, their foliage enhanced by the earlier rainfall and later long summer days.

Today the sky is bright, but the gentle breezes of summer have been replaced by biting north winds, hustling the clouds and chivvying them along as a sheep dog rounds up the flock. The trees at the end of our drive stand finely etched against the sky, their branches bereft of leaves. The flowerbeds have little colour and lie waiting.

In this waiting there is promise – the promise of new life. As I write, we are still in grip of winter. Last night we had yet more snow after the heavy falls of the previous week. But signs of hope are already appearing. Daffodils are pushing up their leaves, and the snowdrops have just begun to appear, with the message that spring is on its way.

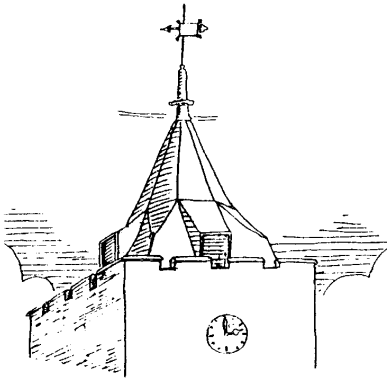
A medieval Christian prayer has the words, "Oh Lord, my heart lies open to you as the earth lies open to the seasons of the year." I would like to commend this prayer to you. It speaks of an openness to God, and a willingness to discern his presence through thick and through thin. There is a recognition that even when times seem bleak, God is still with us. In our Lent Programme (at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in March in the Church Centre) I will be holding a series of conversations with five people who will be sharing with us reflections on their growth in faith, through both good and also challenging times.

Jesus knew about different "seasons" in his life – times of popularity and mass appeal, being replaced by suspicion, misunderstanding and ultimate abandonment. But through all this his life was completely open to God. Then in the resurrection, which we celebrate so appropriately in the Spring, God brought forth glorious new life.

May our hearts lie open to God as the earth lies open to the seasons of the year for God is still at work, as surely as Easter follows Lent, even if spring does yet feel a long way off.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam



**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

**Parish Lent Series**

“Where ‘Pilgrims’ Progress’  
meets ‘Desert Island Discs’”

In this series, five people, in conversation with the Vicar, will be sharing with us aspects of their journey of faith, and also some of their favourite music, authors and passages from the Bible.

Tuesday 3rd March	David Runting
Tuesday 10th March	Vicki Howie
Tuesday 17th March	Kath Pawlett
Tuesday 24th March	Stan Miles
Tuesday 31st March	Dawn Hallam

Do come along and find encouragement for your own journey of faith.

The meetings will be held in the Church Centre, starting at 8 p.m.

**Women’s World Day of Prayer.** The Service for 2009, prepared by women from Papua New Guinea, is to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00 p.m. at Otford Roman Catholic Church. The theme of the Service is “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.

The first **Churchyard Working Party of 2009** will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30 a.m. Please come and join in the fun!

**Mothering Sunday** falls on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Posies will be offered to ladies in the congregation.

**Palm Sunday.** This is on Sunday 5th April and there will be the usual united churches’ Procession, beginning at Otford Methodist Church at 10.45 a.m. and ending with an act of worship on The Green, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre. Palm crosses will be available at all services on that day.

**The Mission Committee** will carry out the three-year review of policy and practice later in the year. If any member of the congregation has views on who should or should not be our partners and benefit from our giving over the next three years, we would be very happy to hear from you. The list of our partners is posted at the back of the church and more detailed information had been provided through the newsletter. There is a Mission Update in this edition of the magazine. Please pass on any responses to the Vicar, Churchwardens or members of the Mission Committee before 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009.  
David Matthews

**There have been some further amendments and additions to our advertising, so please take another look, and it would be great if we could support the advertisers who support our publication. Thank you. Hilary Fothergill**

### **Celebrating 150 years of the parish magazine — unless you know better!**

On 13th January 2009, the Church of England launched a new section of its website in celebration of 150 years of the parish magazine.

The Church estimates that the combined readership of its parish magazines exceeds that of several national newspapers, taken together.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, says on the new web-site: “A good parish magazine is a wonderful resource that places the local church at the heart of the community it serves.”

No-one is quite sure exactly when the modern parish magazine was born, but despite claims for Frome’s The Old Church Porch (first published 1854), it is generally thought that Erskine Clarke’s Parish Magazine of January 1859 probably marks the real start of the genre. If any readers know better, they are asked to contact the Church of England Web-Master right away!

“These much-maligned publications could be the secret weapon of ‘the mission-shaped church’”, says Peter Crumpler, the Archbishops’ Council’s Director of Communications. He goes on to suggest four key actions to give parish magazines a future:

- Look good;
- Be a vital part of your church’s mission;
- Know your readership — and encourage them to take part;
- Work with the church’s other communications channels.

The new site is at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/diocesesparishes/parishmags/>

### **MISSION UPDATE**

#### **1. International**

*CMS (David Casiot):* the latest newsletter of December 2008 from the Smith family referred to the positive impact of President Obama’s election, to the ordination of three graduates from the Centre of Urban Mission, to Kenya’s working through the implications of the post-election period and to Anita, recovering from a knee damaged in a fall. Prayers pointers included:

- For Sheila, as she prepares for exams.
- For Anita, particularly with a lot of travelling ahead of her, and for healing for her knee
- For Kenya, in the continued process of seeking national healing from the events of last year.

*The Bible Society (Andrew Hill):* The Bible Society had sent an urgent prayer request for the people of Gaza and its work there, particularly for

- Respect for human life in the area
- Bible Society staff in Palestine and Israel, working to meet humanitarian and Scriptural needs;
- God’s wisdom for staff of the Bible Societies in the region as they bring the Bible’s message of hope during difficult times.

Their plans include providing Gaza families with work coupons, working with the appropriate authorities to get medical supplies to Gaza’s hospitals, providing post-war food, clothing and shelter for hundreds of families, distributing copies of the Psalms in South Israel and to soldiers, and publishing and distributing 100,000 copies of a booklet, ‘God is our Refuge.’

*MAF (Mags Southgate):* MAF sends grateful thanks for the ‘wonderful’ response to the Emergency Fuel Appeal last year, though the drop in fuel price here is not reflected in the

cost of aviation fuel in countries like Chad. "Our pilots continue to deliver supplies, food, medical aid and the Gospel to remote areas of Chad – the dead heart of Africa - as unrest and violence threaten to sweep across the country once again."

## 2. National

*Scripture Union (Dawn Hallam):*

- The New Year house party went well, taking place in an hotel, as schools were unavailable. However, the leader's wife, Jacky, collapsed at home with a brain aneurism, and she and John, and their three children, need our prayers.
- Prayer is requested for the summer team's preparation for the Sheringham Beach Mission.
- An appeal was launched at the beginning of December 2008 for the purchase of the house next to the one used by the Sheringham Beach Mission team. The long-term aim is to raise £350,000 for the purchase. The short term aim is to reach £30,000, which is in reach. St. Bart's supported this via the Quiz Night on 14<sup>th</sup> February, when £500 was raised.

## 3. Local

*Sevenoaks' Christian Counselling Service (Robert Hunt).* News from the January 2009 Newsletter.

- Stephen Scott, the Chairman of Directors, talks of their commitment to Continuing Professional Development in the form of an in-house programme for the staff and, increasingly, for a wider public.
- Catherine Rodger has been appointed to the counselling team from October 2008 as a child and family therapist, with a background in the NHS in Child and Adolescent Services over the last ten years. She says: "I see family therapy as a way of opening up channels of communication in a safe therapeutic space."
- Circle Dancing – a new way of raising money for SCCS – will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at St. Mary's Parish Centre, Kippington Road from 3-6 p.m. Cost is £9.00. Contact no. 01732 450118.

*Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (Liz Cole)* is pleased to announce:

- The arrival of the newly-appointed youth worker, Philip Taylor, half-time at SAYT and at Kemsing, to work alongside Judith Cork.
- The appointment of a new Treasurer, Christopher Stiven.



**OTFORD GARDENER'S SOCIETY** The next lecture will take place on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, when David Cheston, professional horticulturalist, will talk on 'The Kitchen Garden'. The Spring Show will take place on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>: Spring flowers, photography, flower arrangements, cookery and junior classes.

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

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.

**OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I.** will meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 2 pm, when we will celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The talk is entitled 'Why the Show Must Go On' and will give an account of the pleasures and pitfalls of the amateur stage. For full details visit the Otford web site - [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) and pick up the link to the WI. Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - [joyce.shaw@otford.net](mailto:joyce.shaw@otford.net).

**'REHEARSING SHAKESPEARE OR VERY TRAGICAL MIRTH'** is the title of a WEA day school, during which the mechanicals' play-within-a-play' from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will be rehearsed and studied as a way into the whole play and into Shakespeare's art and craft. Led by David Matthews, the day school will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Otford Methodist Hall. The fee is £16. Details and forms from: David Matthews (01732 462485 [matthews.dg@lineone.net](mailto:matthews.dg@lineone.net)) or Joyce Allen (01959 522915 [johnallen.Otford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnallen.Otford@tiscali.co.uk)).

**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** The Kent Air Ambulance Trust stands high on the list of charities of a great many people living in this county and we had a good attendance at our February meeting when David Manz came to show slides and tell us more about the Trust. He was an enthusiastic speaker, pointing out that it costs well over 1 million pounds p.a. to run the service and every donation, however small, is appreciated and put to good use. Apparently the most dangerous sport to which they are called out is golf (no, not rugby as we all thought!)

Jean Allen will be demonstrating the art of making bead jewelry at the next meeting of the Craft Group and the winner of the raffle was Joan Beacom who was delighted to take home the azalea pot plant. Later Joan told us how much she had enjoyed her first visit to the WI's Denman College after winning our Institute's bursary. Her chosen course was "Drawing for the Terrified" and she showed us two of the drawings she had done.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 March when we will hear more about Canterbury Cathedral from speaker Karen Gambrell. Interested? Then come along at 7.30pm and join us in the Club Room for what promises to be an enjoyable evening or ring Diana on 522981 for more details. Brenda Young

**OTFORD OAST W.I.** - 'a modern voice for women.' The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when local policeman, PC Hibbins, will talk on drugs awareness. 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. Patsy Groom 01959 524156

**CANTATE SING MESSIAH!** To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, Cantate, directed by Robin Walker, will perform the oratorio, with period instrument ensemble Vivace! and first-class soloists on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. Tickets cost £12 (inc. refreshments) and are available from the Sevenoaks Bookshop at 147, High Street and from the Cantate box office on 01732 770570.

**KNOW YOUR BIBLE.** You are warmly invited to the next conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 at St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. The speaker is Helen Cooke and her theme is 'God's Message for Us Today', based on studies in Isaiah. The three sessions begin at 9.45 a.m. and finish at 3 p.m. The cost, £10, includes lunch and coffee, and is payable on the day. To register, ring Elizabeth-Ann Horsford on 01732 460919 or Sally Munro on 01732 460945. If I can help, ring me on 01959 523782. Joyce Ambrose.

**SEVENOAKS BRANCH OF THE EMBROIDERERS' GUILD.** The next meeting will take place in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, when we have a talk entitled *In Stitches*, by Linda Millar.

Morning sessions begin at 10.00 a.m. (UFOs and WIPs) and afternoons at 2.00 p.m., and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

**OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH** would like to invite all ladies to a Women's Breakfast on 4th April at 8.30am in our Church Hall. You will be offered a splendid continental breakfast followed by a talk from Phillip Jasper Herbert, who retired in 2002 from a lifetime in fashion and showrooms in Berkeley Square. Cost £4.00 on the door. For more information please call Margaret on 01959 522046 or Sue at [johnandsueward@btinternet.com](mailto:johnandsueward@btinternet.com)

**GIRLGUIDING IN OTFORD.** Following the recruitment of 3 new leaders, 3<sup>rd</sup> Otford Guides are 'up and running' again. The unit is open to any girl aged 10 to 14 and they currently have spaces available. Being a Guide is all about learning new skills, making your own decisions, having fun, making new friends and achieving personal goals within a safe environment. Any girls wishing to join can contact the new unit leader, Linda Stromberg, on 01959 523897.

Both the Rainbow unit (girls aged 5-7) and the Brownie unit (girls aged 7-10) are full at the moment but you can add girls names to the waiting list by contacting Esther Collens on 01959 524671 for Rainbows or Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342 for Brownies.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

**The Otford pond problem** has unfortunately dragged on. This council's efforts to get safe and long-lasting underwater facing to replace the one that was crumbling and being pushed down by the willow tree roots has been turned down by the District Council. The grounds are that the facing was the "listed part" and must be rebuilt in the same way as before, i.e. to freeze it in the rough design suitable for the 19th century rather than accept any change. The parish council does not think that putting a strong, invisible backing behind the facing would affect the pond's special interest but the decision rests with the District Council. Further discussions will take place.

**The willows by the pond** will be pruned again this year to ensure they remain as safe as possible and do not outgrow their position.

**The Public Toilets** remain closed while we search for a method of making the doors vandal proof that does not entail doubling the annual cost of caring for them. Other plumbing and electrical work must also be done before they can reopen, and we hope to redecorate them as well this year.

**Youth group in West Otford** that meets in the pavilion on the Hale Lane recreation ground is one of three youth groups in the village - in addition to the guides and scouts and their related organisations for other age groups; and the football and cricket organisations also have provision for young people. There would appear to be opportunities in Otford for all young people. However, the group at the west end of the village take part in many training activities and the parish council is assisting with the provision of a small cooker so all can learn the elements of cooking.

**Arboricultural atrocity** When asked to remove an infected and dying tree, with conspicuous peeling bark, the Highways Department cut down a healthy tree within sight of the infected one, leaving a high and obtrusive stump. They have been left in no doubt of our feelings and asked to do the job properly. JGA

*Bobbie Fairclough has sent us the following letter, written by Roy Threadgold of Essex to 'The Ringing World,' the weekly journal for bell-ringers. The letter lists the positive effects of ringing, especially during the current economic situation.*

- We enjoy a hobby that gives us healthy upper-body exercise at no expense
- Most places, in England at any rate, are within walking/cycling distance of a tower – lower body exercise at no expense
- Change ringing improves concentration and frees the mind from financial worries, at least for a while – brain training at no expense.
- Membership of a group gives social contact – at no expense (unless you go to the pub after ringing)
- We have free access to thousands of pounds' worth of training equipment
- Training is given by experts giving their time free of charge.

*Anyone interested in bell-ringing is welcome to contact Bobbie (details on page 1).*



*Registers*



**Wedding (Our Congratulations)**

31<sup>st</sup> January Graham Keith **Williams** and Yvonne Marie **Chappell**

**Funerals (Our Sympathy)**

6<sup>th</sup> January Ruby Helen **Polson** (aged 94)

**Church Offerings in January**

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses .....	£ 113.90
Freewill Offerings .....	£ 6,718.00

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