

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	9.30am	3.00pm	5.00 pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Palm Sunday Procession (10.45 am at the Methodist Church)	-		Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	CW Holy Communion for Easter Day	-		A Festival of Lessons and Easter Music
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	-		Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	Holy Communion (CW)	Commemoration of departed loved ones	CU@5	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 REST DAY: Monday

April 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- 1 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 2 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 8.30 p.m. Worship Advisory Group
- 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: meet at Otford Methodist Church**
- 6.30 p.m. Evensong**

Holy Week

- 6 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9 - **Maundy Thursday**
8.00 p.m. Holy Communion (Otford Methodist Church)
- 10 - **Good Friday**
9.30 a.m. Church Family Worship for Good Friday (Church Centre)
2.00 p.m. The Last Hour – meditative service of music & readings
- 11 - 9.00 a.m. Decoration of the Church for Easter
- 12 - **EASTER DAY**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 p.m. A Festival of Lessons and Easter Music
- 13 - **Material for the May magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 15 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
- 19 - **The Second Sunday of Easter**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 20 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
8.00 p.m. Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 21 - **8.00 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church Centre)**
- 22 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist New Hall)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 23 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)
- 26 - **The Third Sunday of Easter**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
3.00 p.m. Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 27 - 7.45 p.m. Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 29 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 30 - 7.15 p.m. Confirmation Group (Vicarage)

Some early May dates

- 2 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 4.00 p.m. Kent County Association of Change Ringers competition
- 3 - **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW) and baptism of Andrew Simmons
12 noon Baptism of Elias Mines
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 5 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9.00 a.m.**
8.00 p.m. Readers and Reverends meeting at the Vicarage
- 6 - 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)

Vicar's Viewpoint

Have you ever noticed how good news is practically impossible to keep to ourselves? Think of some good news that you have personally experienced and see what I mean. I can think of when our sons, Christopher and Matthew, were born: my response was to call up all my relatives and friends with the wonderful news. How about other occasions when you simply had to tell others your good news? When you passed your driving test, when you got engaged, when you passed your exams, when you got the job you had been really hoping to get – these occasions are too good to keep to ourselves.

I think it was this sort of bubbling-up feeling which the women who went to the tomb on the first Easter morning must have felt after the angels had appeared to them with the news that Jesus had risen from the dead. St. Luke tells us that the angels appeared to the women and reminded them of what Jesus had said to them while he was still in Galilee, that he would be crucified, and on the third day rise again.

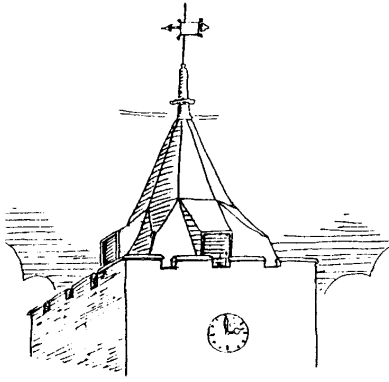
It is the response of the women which gives away their inner feelings. When the penny dropped and all of a sudden they remembered Jesus' words and realised the full and wonderful implications, their first response was to go and find the other disciples and tell them the good news also.

For ourselves, in moments of prayer and worship, when we let the wonderful news of Easter sink in, we, too, may experience that thrill of joy, that sense of good news which we simply have to share with others. We don't have to be trained evangelists or theologians to talk about Jesus. Like the women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning, it simply involves sharing what we have discovered for ourselves. It was the most natural thing in the world for the women to tell their friends.

This is what evangelism is all about: telling our friends our good news. Furthermore, as we gossip the Gospel with friends, we will discover with joy that this good news is not just ours, but is theirs also.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam



**FROM
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

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.

Maundy Thursday

This is on 9th April and there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 p.m. at Otford Methodist Church.

Good Friday is on 10th April. There will be a service for all ages at 9.30 a.m. in the Church Centre and also "The Last Hour" service of hymns, readings, pictures and reflective music from 2-3 p.m.

Easter Day is on Sunday 12th April and there will be services of Holy Communion at 8 and 9.30 a.m. There will be a Festival of Lessons and Easter Music at 6.30 p.m. Do join us!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st April at 8.00 p.m. in the **Church Centre** (note change of venue). We do hope you will join us as we look back with thanksgiving and forwards with hope.

cu@5. This popular informal service, held weekly in the Church Centre at 5.00 p.m., is taking a break for the Easter holidays but will re-commence on Sunday 26th April. Do come along if you haven't been before - and if you have, do bring your friends!

Commemoration of departed loved ones. This will take place in Church on Sunday, 26th April at 3.00 p.m.

Change of the Mid-Morning Service Time and Monthly Pattern of Services from May onwards

After weighing up various factors, the January meeting of the PCC resolved that as from the first Sunday of May the timing of the mid-morning service will revert to 10.00 a.m.

Also, there will be a slight change in the service pattern: the communion service held on the second Sunday of the month will now be celebrated at the mid-morning service rather than the evening service. At 6.30 pm the service will instead be Evening Prayer.

This will mean that at the 10 a.m. service there will be an alternating pattern of Church Family / Morning Worship (1st & 3rd Sundays) with Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays). At the 6.30 p.m. service there will be an alternating pattern of choral Evensong (1st & 3rd Sundays) with said Evening Prayer (2nd & 4th Sundays). The 8 a.m. service will retain its current pattern of Holy Communion.

'First Steps' meet in Otford Methodist Hall, 9.30-11.30 a.m. on alternate Wednesdays during school term. It offers a warm, friendly welcome to Mums and Dads or other carers with babies and pre-school children. Activities and stories for the children are

Bible-based and run jointly by St. Bartholomew's and Otford Methodist Church. At present there is an average attendance of over 20 families. Extra help (not necessarily at every meeting) would be very welcome. This is not just for the ladies serving coffee, tea and cake, but also help in getting out the equipment from 9.00-9.30 a.m. from the gentlemen would be very much appreciated and last, but not least, in making everyone feel very welcome. If you can help, please contact Hazel Terry on 523047 or Donna Worssam on 523185.

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Earlier in the year, the Archbishop of Canterbury warmly welcomed the launch of the Good Childhood Report, describing it as 'a clarion call' for society to listen to its children:

"Our children deserve the best we can give them, and I hope this Report will stir us to action in the wide variety of areas it touches upon. The Report shows something of the energy, the good sense and the vision of so many of our young people. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that the well-being of children and young people in this country is far from being the priority it should be, and this Report spells out in carefully researched detail some of the ways in which we are failing them. It is a clarion call for us as a society to do better. "

In an afterword to the report Dr Williams emphasises the importance of the notion of 'love' for the welfare of the child, both in the marital context, as well as love for the child itself:

"This report is not ashamed to put love at the centre of the child's needs – and the adult's too: love not as warm feeling alone, but as long-term commitment to someone else's well-being as something that matters profoundly to one's own well-being. That sort of commitment means relativising your own sense of what you as an individual need so as to discover what might be good for you and the other; and parenthood is one of the contexts where most people learn this most lastingly if they learn it at all."

The Archbishop concludes with a reminder of the special value Christian teaching and theology has placed on the child not only as a gift of God but also in some important respects as the teacher of virtue, spontaneous love and receptiveness to the Word of God:

"...the basic texts of Christian faith contain some startling statements about children (even more startling two thousand years ago than now): the child is the one from whom the adult must learn about 'the Kingdom of God'; and the one who abuses or corrupts or deceives the child is destined for the harshest of judgements. The child not only has access to the Kingdom, s/he has a privileged place in it. This is not romantic speculation about children trailing clouds of glory, or even a celebration of childlike innocence. In its context, it seems to mean that it is the very powerlessness or vulnerability of the child that is important – important in securing their place of privilege, but also important as reminding the adult that receiving the news of the possibility of change, freedom, love, reconciliation, requires of the adult a degree of vulnerability and spontaneity that is normally overlaid by suspicion and self-defensiveness. "

The full text of the afterword can be found here: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/2159>

The Council of Christian and Jews publishes a magazine entitled ' Common Ground'. What follows is a recent article by David Gifford.

The children push wooden wheelbarrows, clamber up the jungle gym and cuddle floppy dolls. It is a scene you might observe in any ordinary kindergarten. But listen carefully and you will hear the not-so- typical banter of Hebrew and Arabic in one room. This is Ein Bustan, the first Arab-Jewish Waldorf kindergarten in Israel, near Hilf, a small Bedouin village about 15 kilometres (ten miles) southeast of Haifa. Ahmed is seated in a wheelbarrow, being pushed by Avshalom. "Take me over there," Ahmed shouts in Hebrew - a language that was foreign to him until a few months ago.

“There are days,” says the teacher observing from a little distance, “when these two are inseparable.”



However it has not always been like this. When the kindergarten opened in September 2005, the youngsters, aged from three to six years, immediately formed two distinct groups. “The Arabic-speaking children built one home and the Hebrew-speaking children built another. Neither would allow a member of the other language group to play in their home,” says one teacher.

But over time, things changed. Now there are no groups divided by language - the children all play with each other. “It’s become completely natural for them,” comments a Jewish teacher, who teaches alongside a Druze colleague.

The kindergarten was formed at the initiative of Amir Shlomian, a peace activist, musician and educator, who was trained in the London Waldorf Teacher Training Seminar. Its curriculum is designed to nurture a child’s imagination. There are no television or videos, but a visitor will find children sewing, baking and planting wheat.

“I realised that I must do something to allay the fears we have about each other,” he recalled. Together with a dedicated social worker and community activist in a neighbouring Arab village Shlomian attracted other parents, raised funds from private donors and won the approval of the Israeli Ministry of Education and the local council. In September 2005, Ein Bustan - which is Arabic for ‘a spring in the garden’ - was opened. But the benefits of this approach are not confined to the children. One Jewish mother comments: “Its been enriching for me as well. This is the first time I’ve formed real ties with my Arab neighbours.” Meanwhile Alcméd’s father, Hisham, also endorses the spirit of the enterprise. “I think it will only benefit Ahmed to know Hebrew and to be exposed to the traditions of others,” he says.




ROUNDAABOUT

OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH invites 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

OTFORD GARDENERS’ SOCIETY. The next lecture will take place on Tuesday 7th April, when Mark Nelson, Head Gardener at Emmetts Gardens, will speak on ‘Gardening on the Roof of the World – Plant Collecting in the Himalayas’. 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.

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE will offer three activity days in April for children aged 3-10: ‘Walk Like an Egyptian’ on Friday 10th April from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Chiddingstone’s Egyptian collection is the backdrop for Egyptian games, face-painting and dressing-up. Bandage yourself into a mummy! ‘Easter Hunt and Springtime Fun’ on Monday 13th April from 11 a.m. ‘Crafty Stories’: Princesses and Knights at the Castle’ from 2-5 p.m. on Thursday 16th April: arts and crafts, story telling and face painting. Details from www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk and 01892 870347.

OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. We meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 2 p.m. We have a great variety of speakers and other interesting activities. On 14th April, the talk will be on 'Kent in the 19th Century', a look back in time. For full details, visit the Otford web site - www.otford.info and pick up the link to the WI. Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 or joyce.shaw@otford.net.

OTFORD OAST W.I. – 'a modern voice for women.' The next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd April from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be a talk about the Kent Air Ambulance. 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

THE OTFORD SOCIETY'S CELEBRATION OF ST.GEORGE'S DAY AND SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY. On April 23rd, the flag of St. George will be flying on Otford Green, and in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. the Society will be holding a community celebration of St. George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday. There will be a cold supper with dessert and coffee/tea, but please bring your own drink and glasses, especially if you want to join in the toast. Traditional songs will be sung; folk singer, John Morgan, will entertain; English verse will be spoken and there will be an illustrated presentation called 'An English Journey'. Admission is by ticket only at £12 by ringing 01959 522709. Please book early to avoid disappointment.
Ken Gunderson

OTFORD EVENING WI. Vice-president Eve Wiltshire took our March meeting and quickly dealt with the necessary business before welcoming Richard Limming to tell us about the restoration work being done at Canterbury Cathedral. His slides showed the ravages of wind, rain and air pollution, over many decades, on the fabric of the building and the work being done to preserve it. It costs £14,500 per day to run the cathedral with income coming from admission fees (currently £7.50) rental from properties round the perimeter and investments but every penny of the £50m needing to be raised in the Appeal is necessary to preserve the Cathedral for future generations.

After coffee it was the turn of the various reps. to give details of future events and Eve urged us to volunteer to man a float or walk in the procession at the Village Fete. Not much instant response but we ARE thinking about it and knowing our WI – well, watch this space!

Next month we shall celebrate being 50 years young with a two-course sit-down meal, birthday cake and a talk by Maurice Tripp on "Why the Show must Go On".

We aren't able to welcome visitors to the April meeting but if you have ever wondered what WI is all about come and find out at our meeting on May 14th. Or if hanging baskets appeal to you, Alan Harvey from Plaxtol Nurseries will be our speaker on 11th June at 7.30pm in the OVMH.
Brenda Young

SPOTLIGHT



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

The Otford pond problem continues. This council's application to get a safe and long-lasting ragstone facing round the pond, largely underwater and unseen, to replace the one that was crumbling and being penetrated and pushed down by the willow tree roots was rejected by the District Council. The grounds were that building a block wall behind it (and so not visible) essentially changed the structure from when it was listed in 1975.

Further discussions with council officers persuaded the council that this non-visible construction for sustainability and safety is really the only satisfactory forward, and a fresh application is being made, but this time providing all the information and evidence that we were aware of before starting to build - plus fresh information supplied by residents since the application was rejected. At the same time the parish council is lodging an appeal against the decision.

Photographs and documents show the number of times the primitive facing of randomly shaped and sized stones disintegrated and/or leaked in the past, and had to be partially or completely rebuilt. The parish council will also show the poor state of the facing in 2006, which resembled a poorly-built dry-stone wall, but lacked the depth and stability these can have - and the pond facing has to be watertight and is less easy to repair.

It will unfortunately take several weeks before a decision is given, but in any case no work can start until the weather is suitable.

Street trees in Otford. Following our complaint about the partial felling of a tree we have had detailed information from the County Highways Department about the health of several trees in the village. It seems several have fungal diseases and require attention. The parish council will be following this up to see what may happen in future and if it can assist in any way.

The council is pleased to learn that several trees have been given protection orders; these include the splendid line of poplars along the footpath from the Station to St Bartholomew's.

Traffic accidents. Once again there has been a tragic accident on the A225, south of the pond. It is sad that this seemingly open and safe stretch of road was the site of another death. JGA

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IN MEMORY

Peter Reynold Hull (1937-2009)

Peter was born in 1937 in South Shields, Tyne and Wear. During the Second World War tragedy struck the family with the loss of Peter's father at sea in November 1942. At the end of the War, in 1945, Peter was sent to the Merchant Navy school in Wokingham, Berkshire, for sons of fathers lost at sea. In 1953, at the age of 16, he finished his schooling and began an apprenticeship with a big engineering company on Tyneside. During this time he had to juggle both work and study, but in 1960 his efforts were rewarded when he qualified as a Chartered Electrical Engineer, to be followed later in life by also becoming a Chartered Mechanical Engineer.

On completing his apprenticeship, Peter was commissioned in the Royal Navy, in which he served for three years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. he sailed to many parts of the globe, but it was while he was based at Portsmouth that he met his wife, Rosemary. In 1963, upon leaving the navy, Peter moved to Guildford and worked for a firm of Consulting Engineers. Peter and Rosemary got married in 1964 in Portsmouth, and then moved to Yorkshire where he worked as a management trainee for Crompton Parkinson, a company making light bulbs and batteries. The following year, Peter and Rosemary moved to Wales with Crompton Parkinson.

They lived in Wales for four years, and during this time they began their family, with the birth of Jane in 1966 and then John in 1968. It was in 1969, forty years ago now, that they moved to Otford. Having moved around a lot in the previous few years, they now put down roots.

Peter concluded his engineering career by working on the Thames Barrier, a job he held for twenty years, throughout the 1980s & 1990s.

Peter and Rosemary became actively involved in Otford village and church life. In earlier years Peter was a member of the PCC; he was involved with the churchyard working party; he also served as a sidesman and he enjoyed being involved in the planning for the

new electric lighting in the church. He subsequently had to scale down commitments to the Church when time pressures from the Barrier increased. Family life continued to develop, and in 1995 Freddie was born, the first of four grandchildren, with Bella, Ben and Lottie to follow. In 2001, Peter retired from the Thames Barrier. He had several years of operations and hospital admissions and was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2006. Nonetheless, he continued to lead as active a life as he could. Right up until the last few weeks, he would make the effort to get up early on a Sunday morning and come to the 8 a.m. communion service. He will be sadly missed by family and friends alike.



Registers



Funerals (Our Sympathy)

29 th January	June Ellen Mary Catt (aged 77)
13 th February	Bette Joan Wolfe (aged 83)
18 th February	Eric Prosser (aged 77)
19 th February	Peter Reynold Hull (aged 71)
1 st March	Kathleen Eva Danaher (aged 97)

Church Offerings in

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£ 171.97
Freewill Offerings	£ 4815.00

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