

# SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	10.00am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Civic Service	<u>cu@5</u>	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	CW Holy Communion	<u>cu@5</u>	CW Evening Prayer
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	<u>cu@5</u>	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	<u>cu@5</u>	CW 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

# June 2009

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)  
8.00 p.m. Church Fair meeting ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 2 - **Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.**
- 3 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod (Borough Green)
- 4 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 6 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party  
5.00 p.m. "Bartholomew" piano concert at Russell House School  
7.30 p.m. 'Cantate' concert (in Church)

- 7 - **Trinity Sunday**  
     **8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
     **10.00 a.m. Civic Service**  
     **5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
     **6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)**  
     **6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 8 - 7.45 p.m. Coffee & Chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 9 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 10 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards  
       8.00 p.m. Standing & Finance Committee (Vicarage)
- 13 **Material for the June magazine by today, please, to David Matthews,**  
     **'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.**  
     **matthews.dg@lineone.net**
- 14 - **The First Sunday after Trinity**  
     **8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
     **10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
     **5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
     **6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)**
- 15 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 17 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)  
       10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 18 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 19 - 6.00 p.m. Help required at Church Hall to move tables, chairs,  
               to Castle House
- 20 - **2.00 p.m. St. Bartholomew's Church Fair (Castle House)**
- 21 - **The Second Sunday after Trinity**  
     **8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
     **10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**  
     **5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
     **6.30 p.m. Evensong**
- 22 - 7.45 p.m. China and Peru - Focus (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 23 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 24 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 27 - 10.00 a.m. Fabric Committee
- 28 - **The Third Sunday after Trinity**  
     **8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**  
     **10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**  
     **5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**  
     **6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)**
- 29 - 7.45 p.m. Focus Israel (17 Leonard Avenue)

**Some early July dates**

- 1 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
     11.00 a.m. 'First Steps' Summer Praise & Teddy Bear's Picnic  
               (St. Bartholomew's, then picnic in Vicarage garden)
- 2 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 4 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party

# Vicar's Viewpoint

Dear Friends,

Would you like to find happiness?

The search for happiness has been pursued over the millennia – it would seem to be a fundamental part of the human condition. Some ancient Greek philosophers, known as hedonists, believed that the main goal in life should be seeking pleasure and indulging your own desires. That philosophy is still much in evidence today. The only trouble is that happiness is, in many ways, elusive. Some seek happiness through the pursuit of riches; but John Paul Getty once said, “Money is not necessarily related to happiness. Maybe it is related to unhappiness”; and the singer Neil Simon observed, “Money brings some happiness, but after a certain point it just brings more money.”

So where is happiness to be found? An article by a young person in a youth work booklet described happiness in these terms: having parents who love you; being as well dressed as anyone in your crowd; having your own room; being popular; having parents that don't fight; getting the phone call you've been waiting for.<sup>1</sup>

How about us? Is there any course of action we can take in our search for happiness? I was interested to read of a recent survey of 42,000 people which found a link between happiness and church attendance. On average, 32% of all the respondents to the survey said they were very happy, but this varied between 40% for those who attended church regularly and only 25% for those who never attended church. It may be that other factors such as family size or economic status affect these statistics, but it is intriguing to note that the proportion who are very happy declines with declining church attendance.<sup>2</sup>

Factors affecting the happiness of church goers include finding a sense of purpose in life, being part of a caring community, and finding the affirmation of God's love.

Statistics can be interpreted in a variety of different ways, especially when researching something as complex as human experience. However, I would suggest that in any search for happiness, this research indicates an avenue worth exploring.

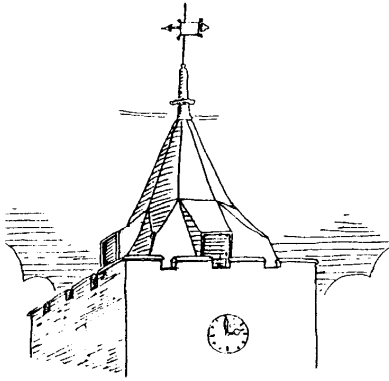
I hope you have a very happy summer!

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam

<sup>1</sup> “Culture”, *Youthwork Ready-to-Use Meeting Guide, Vol 3, 1995, p. 10*

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in “Future First”, *Vol 1, No.2, April 2009*



**FROM  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

**From the APCM:** Special thanks go to Ken Johnson as he finishes his more than fifty years' service as a Sidesman. Thanks, too, to Andrew Hill and Sue Stephenson as they step down from the PCC and a warm welcome to Mark Holmes as he joins it.

**The Churchwardens,** Derek Shilling and Janet Hunt, accompanied by the Vicar, attended the Archdeacon's Visitation at St Andrew, Paddock Wood at which the

Wardens were sworn into office for another year by the Archdeacon, in the presence of the Registrar.

**Cantate Choir** will be giving their next concert at St.Bart's on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m., when works by Part, Parry, Purcell and Palestrina will be performed. The conductor is Robin Walker and Iestyn Evans the organist. Tickets cost £10 with refreshments and are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, 147, High Street and from the Cantate Box Office: 01732 770570.

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FAIR  
SATURDAY 20th JUNE at 2.00pm  
In the grounds of  
CASTLE HOUSE, OTFORD**

By kind permission of the owners, Mark and Irene Roy, St Bartholomew's Fair is once again being held in the beautiful grounds of Castle House.

The Committee will be grateful for all the help you can offer. Items for sale can be placed at the back of church, but it would be appreciated if items of a non-perishable nature could be delivered to the appropriate stallholders in advance of the Fair so they can be sorted and priced. Alternatively arrangements can be made for them to be collected. In particular, this applies to the following:

**Bottles:** Linda and Bert Dunning. Tel. 524182   **Books:** Colin Fleetwood. Tel. 523582

**Toys:** Margie Torry. Tel 524463   **Craft items:** Sylvia Grafton. Tel. 01732 452117

**Plants:** Sue Stephenson. Tel. 523789   **White Elephant:** Heather Stanley. Tel. 523194

**New Gifts:** Liz Cole. Tel. 525404

**Sweets, Small Toys or items suitable for Children's Prizes:**

Christine Malan. Tel. 522654 or Deborah Vigis. Tel. 523331

**Food Hall -Cakes, biscuits, puddings, pies and preserves:**

Anne Fleetwood. Tel 523582

There will be the usual Children's Art Competition – Theme- Henry VIII and The Tudors – and a Single Rose Competition open to all.

Anybody willing to help at the Fair in any capacity should contact Margie Torry or Colin Fleetwood, and assistance with the setting up and clearing away will be particularly welcome. We shall be meeting at the Church hall at about 6pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June to collect tables, chairs and other equipment to be taken to Castle House, and clearing away starts immediately after the Fair.

**Macmillan Cancer Support.** Tony Grogan has arranged to give a presentation on his Trek in Nepal in 2008 at the Church Centre on 14 July 2009. Commencing 8.00pm, the presentation will last about 1 hour; light refreshments will be available afterwards. There is no charge for the evening. "The presentation is aimed at all those in the church and village who supported me or have an interest in my trekking experience."

#### MISSION UPDATE

**CMS:** The "Not the CMS Link Letter", April 2009, from Colin and Anita Smith "Warm greetings from Nairobi: this is our attempt at a slightly chattier letter. Nairobi was unusually hot during March, and the much-needed rains didn't materialise. Drought and hunger continue in many parts of the country. And, as we write, it feels like the coalition government is beginning to fall apart.

IGCSE's for Sheila are already beginning. She and Colin will fly to the UK to begin leave shortly after she finishes in mid June. Sandie has her year 9 SATS coming up and will follow with Anita in early July.

Anita's knee is in the final stages of mobilisation. Going up and down steps normally is the goal now.

Colin is delighted with the appointment of support staff yet life still seems to be as busy as ever . . . Thank you for all your continued support and interest.

*Please pray for:* Kenya, with many facing hunger and for the political will to tackle issues; Sheila, as she prepares for her IGCSE's; Sandie, doing her SATs, Colin and the team at CUM; Anita, to get up and down those steps! Plans for our UK leave and church visits this summer". [casmith@wananchi.com](mailto:casmith@wananchi.com) or [anita@smithsnbi.com](mailto:anita@smithsnbi.com)

**The Bible Society** has established a Trust in order to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James' Bible in 2011, with a launch at Hampton Court and a variety of musical, literary and educational activities.

**MAF** dedicated its first KODIAK aircraft on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the first of a new generation of 'planes that are less expensive because they use jet fuel rather than Avgas, and can carry nearly twice the cargo of current aircraft. This aircraft will be deployed in Papua, New Guinea.

Another current emphasis is on its work in Cambodia, where it seeks to help Christian leaders to fulfil the Mission Kampuchea 2021 vision of planting a church in every village. MAF provides knowledge and software to maintain church statistics and produce strategic maps and reports.

**FEBA** reports that the Aafno FM Station, in rural eastern Nepal, has passed its government inspection recently and so is fully licensed for broadcasting. The main focus is to become the heart of the community. Meanwhile, in northern Mozambique, a new FM radio project, Radio Wimbe, has agreed specific project goals for its ministry to hard-to-reach people of the region.

**Scripture Union:** two prayer points: there are finance issues facing its book division because of the increase of free on-line material; and with 16 missions and 100 holidays to staff, there is need for leaders, head caterers and 1<sup>st</sup> aiders.

Prayers are also requested for the provision of the team for the Sheringham Beach Mission, for help with the significant amount of material that needs to be printed and for guidance and income for its project to buy a house.

**The Children's Society** is developing a mentoring initiative to bring children and young people together with positive role models. The mentor serves as a trusted, independent person, who makes time to chat, listen and be a friend outside the home and school. The Society strongly supports the report published by the Children's Commissioner for England, which contains many examples of the harmful impact that immigration detention is having on children. It calls for an end to the detention of children for administrative purposes.

**Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust** thanks God for the opportunity to work alongside the KCC detached worker in Otford and asks for prayer for young school leavers as they work out their futures, for lunch-time drop-in times in schools, and for the developing relationships with schools. The Annual Meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June at Bessels Green Baptist Church at 7.45 for 8 p.m.

**The Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service** hopes that you will use the new prayer card that it has added to their website.

**The Literacy Project of The Churches Together in Sevenoaks.** For 2009, the chosen project is aimed at the war-ravaged and poverty-struck Southern Province of Sierra Leone. It seeks to reach out to 400 people aged 15-35 (240 women and 160 men), providing them with the opportunity to gain the necessary skills to become self-reliant, in particular, literacy and numeracy for all 400.

*The following article is taken from the April edition of 'The Link'*

**Bishop Michael has announced his intention to step down as Bishop of Rochester as from 1st September 2009.**

He will have been Bishop in the Diocese for nearly 15 years, during which time he has played a major part in the life of the Church. Bishop Michael to step down in September. He is hoping to work with a number of Church leaders from areas where the Church is under pressure, particularly in minority situations, who have asked him to assist them with education and training for their particular situation. Details of this arrangement are still being worked out.

Bishop Michael, who will be 60 in August, is the 106th Bishop of Rochester.

Originally from Asia, he was the first non-white Diocesan Bishop in the Church of England. He was appointed to Rochester in 1994. Before that he was the General Secretary of CMS from 1989-1994 and before that Bishop of Raiwind in Pakistan and Theological Assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Since 1999 he has also been a member of the House of Lords where he has been active in a number of areas of national and international concern. Bishop Michael says, "We thank God for his blessings and for friends we have made in the Diocese in the past 15 years. I am so grateful to God for the friendship and loyalty of those around us and ask for

people's prayers as we take this step of faith 'not knowing where we are going.'" (Hebrews 11:8)

What happens next? Bishop Michael's farewell service for the Diocese will be held at Rochester Cathedral on 12 September at 3.15 pm. Further details will be circulated at a later date. Details about the process of appointing a new Bishop and the arrangements during the interregnum will also be published in due course.

## **ROUNABOUT**



**OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY.** The next lecture will take place on Tuesday 2nd June, when John Edward-Winser, local apiarist and President of the Kent Beekeepers' Association, will talk on 'Beekeeping.' Later on 27<sup>th</sup> June, the Society will hold its Rose and Summer Show, with roses and summer flowers, early vegetables, 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).



**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 9<sup>th</sup> June, we will experience 'Poetry that Pleases' in a light-hearted afternoon. Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - [joyce.shaw@otford.net](mailto:joyce.shaw@otford.net).

**OTFORD EVENING W.I.** If you would like to see a demonstration and learn how to create hanging baskets come along and join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> June when Alan Harvey from Plaxtol Nurseries will be our expert. We meet at 7.30pm in the OVMH and would be pleased to have you with us.

There is nothing like a few days of spring sunshine to make us think about clearing those lofts and garages and on 18<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our always popular Boot Fair. This is a good way to get rid of those unwanted items and perhaps find you have been harbouring Cash in Your Attic! To reserve a table (cost £8) ring Heather on 01959.522491 and she will gladly give you all the details. Brenda Young

**OTFORD OAST W.I.** – 'a modern voice for women.' The next meeting will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when Gary Williamson will talk on 'Butchery', all you ever wanted to know about meat from a local Sevenoaks butcher. 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

**CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE:** The new Farmer's Market continues to grow in popularity: the next one will be held on 21st June 2009 and then on the 3rd Sunday of every month, with free entry for visitors between 10am and 1pm. A variety of stalls sell local produce, including fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, as well as home made bread, cakes and cookies, fresh-cut flowers and locally brewed beer. For more information about the castle, its events and family pass please visit [www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk](http://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk) or tel: 01892 870347

The Mill Lane Gospel Choir will be holding their annual concert on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, as part of the Sevenoaks Festival. This year the concert will be held at the Mill Lane Centre, 128 Seal Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AY (which is behind the Shell Garage). Parking is available. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 8:00 p.m.. Tickets are £5 and £3.50 for concessions. Hopefully there will still be some tickets available on the night, but the concert is usually a sell out, so to book in advance, call Kate on 07960-237639. The Mill Lane Gospel Choir is a community choir formed from members of many churches in the Sevenoaks Area. We sing modern gospel music, very like some of the groups in the TV programme 'Last Choir Standing'. Come and be inspired as we 'Praise the Lord'.



**SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD:** the next meeting will take place in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, when we have a talk on 'Danish Whitework – plus', by Anne Winter. 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 Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Pond willows: These have been pruned to ensure they remain safe and to limit the vigour of their roots. About 20% of the branches was skilfully removed to keep their shape in this important position, and - somewhat unusually - the parish council was complimented on the way the work was done; the compliment was passed to the tree surgeons.

The work unfortunately meant disruption to traffic around the pond for two days but this was necessary for safety; this work on our willows in this stage of their life needs to take place every two to three years in late winter or spring.

At the time of writing there is no news on our application to build a safe and long lasting facing to the side of the pond. The information supplied in the application is quite lengthy, and may be read on the District Council's website (details from parish office) or can be read in the parish office.

Public toilets: Repairs are almost complete: doors have been covered, the plumbing completed and the rest of the very basic electrical system brought up to date. The public toilets are an unwelcome expense.

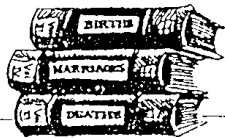
Commuter parking in roads near the station to avoid parking charges has, and remains, a nuisance, and even danger, for residents in these roads. Parking is a matter for the District Council and the problem was brought to their attention last year. The parish council was informed - verbally - that a new member of staff would be employed to examine the problem and report to residents on a possible solution around the end of last year. No action appears to have been taken and the problem remains. The parish council continues to press for examination of the problem and a solution.

Theft. Rails from the fence along the path to the village cemeteries were stolen one night. They will of course be replaced and the remainder made more difficult to remove.

**TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS:** Closing Dates for magazine material in 2009  
 Please note that, because of holiday arrangements, closing dates for the September and October magazines will be as follows:  
 closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> August for the September magazine  
 closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> September for the October magazine



## Registers



### **Baptism (Our Welcome)**

3<sup>rd</sup> May Andrew Thomas **Simmons**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> May Elias George **Mines**

### **Wedding (Our Congratulations)**

9<sup>th</sup> May Richard Michael **Taplin** and Sarah Eileen **Denny**

### **Funerals (Our Sympathy)**

10<sup>th</sup> April Betty Ethel **Kent** (aged 89)

### **Church Offerings in April 2009**

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses .....£ 489.75  
 Freewill Offerings .....£ 7,518

## **WINDOW CLEANING**

Trustworthy, thorough and reliable

Craig Lewis: 07800 000068  
 e-mail: craig\_lewis@live.co.uk