

instead the "Jesus of testimony" as presented by the Gospels.
Sure to ignite heated debate on the precise character of the testimony about Jesus, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* is a groundbreaking work that will be valued by scholars, students, and all who seek to understand the origins of the Gospels.

Richard Bauckham is professor of New Testament studies and Bishop Wardlaw Professor at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. A fellow of both the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, he has also written *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*.

www.archbishopofcanterbury.org



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

24th May Emily Rose **Chambers**
31st May Ross Aaron **Hendry**
31st May Grace Olivia **Howe**

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

30th May John Mackenzie **Wood** and Sarah Jane **Harper**

Funerals (Our Sympathy)

9th May Yvonne **Copeland** (aged 95)
18th May Alban Francis **Scully** (aged 54)

Church Offerings in May 2009

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses£ 666.03
Freewill Offerings£ 5,242.00

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website in the library for anyone who seeks information about parish council activities. The pond. A decision on our listed building application has not been received at the time of writing (the first week in June); the District Council's recommendation is now being sent to the Government Office of the South East for their decision; this may take several weeks.

There were only three responses to the District Council's consultation on our application: English Heritage left the decision on the pond's listing to the District Council; the Otford Society and a resident in the parish of Seal wrote letters supporting the application.

On a lighter note, the Muscovy duck recently succumbed to wanderlust and flew to a nearby garden; he was recaptured and returned to the pond. If you find a large black and white duck with a red beak in your garden, please phone the council.

Completion of Slip Roads to the M25 in this area has been discussed for about a year by parish councils along the A25 who suffer traffic that might lessen if slip roads at junction 5 were completed to enable traffic to join the A21 and the A25 from the M25/26, and vice versa. The option of slip roads to and from Otford was abandoned in the past but is still put forward by some.

The group's meeting will for the first time be held in Otford in the Club Room at 8 pm. on July 9th, and will be open to all with an interest in where or if a complete set of slip roads are built to hear the proceedings. The Chairman may allow questions.

The Parish Plan Some residents seem to have been confused by this document; it has been prepared by a group of residents and is entirely separate from the parish council, although some councillors are part of the group. Many other parishes have already prepared their parish plans. JGA

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The winner of the 2009 Michael Ramsay prize, which is given for innovative theological writing aimed at a wider audience, has been awarded to Richard Bauckham for his book, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*.

This momentous book argues that the four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus. Noted New Testament scholar Richard Bauckham challenges the prevailing assumption that the accounts of Jesus circulated as "anonymous community traditions," asserting instead that they were transmitted in the names of the original eyewitnesses.

To drive home this controversial point, Bauckham draws on internal literary evidence, the use of personal names in first-century Jewish Palestine, and recent developments in the understanding of oral tradition. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* also taps into the rich resources of modern study of memory, especially in cognitive psychology, refuting the conclusions of the form critics and calling New Testament scholarship to make a clean break with this long-dominant tradition. Finally, Bauckham challenges readers to end the classic division between the "historical Jesus" and the "Christ of faith," proposing



SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD: The next meeting will take place in the Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 25th July, when there will be an all-day workshop with Mandy Shaw on *Making a Housewife*, and also mini workshops run by members. Morning sessions begin at 10.00 a.m. and afternoons at 2.00 p.m., and more information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

'TRICKSTER': Free Musical for Older People (over 60)! Over 60s living throughout Sevenoaks district are being given a unique opportunity to see the *Trickster* musical performance on Monday 21st September at 3pm at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road. Sevenoaks District Council will provide free transport. This energetic, live story-telling performance aims to raise awareness of distraction burglary and dishonest doorstep traders without raising the fear of crime. The story is performed by professional actors who use familiar music and humour to take the audience back to times of war to unite them against bogus callers. Cllr Loney, portfolio holder for community safety, says "The *Trickster* musical is an ideal way of making residents more aware of how to deal with doorstep callers. We are aware that residents can often be visited by doorstep traders and then sometimes tricked or pressurised into paying out money for shoddy goods or services. Our aim is to reach as many people as possible with the message which will give them the confidence to say No!" Places must be reserved in advance; book early to avoid disappointment! To reserve a seat or for further information, please contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Chairman: Mr John Allen
Parish Clerk: Mrs B. Darby. Tel: Otford 524808

"It may not be generally known that any elector may attend Parish Council meetings and 'listen in' to the Council's deliberations. Moreover, with the permission of the Chairman, an opportunity can always be given to electors to express their views." This is from the booklet printed for the Otford Festival held in 1967; I came across it when researching the history of our pond. The only change during the intervening years has been for the meeting to be held in the comfort of the Hall Club Room, at 7.30 pm on the second Monday in the month (a day which I think has not changed in the intervening years). Few residents attend; one hopes this is through satisfaction with matters under the parish council's control. As with all levels of local government, agendas and minutes of meetings are published and available in some libraries for those who want the basic facts. Many councils, including Otford, also put these documents on the web. Minutes of Otford parish council meetings are put in the Otford library, and past parish council agendas, minutes and our Newsletters are also available via the Otford Parish Council and Heritage

Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

VICAR: Revd Richard Worssam, M.A. The Vicarage, The Green, Otford 523185
READERS: Mr Andrew Bratby, 39 Tudor Drive, Otford 525060
 Mr Peter Downing, 3 Becketts Place, Otford 522327
 Miss Dawn Hallam, 10 Flowerfield, Otford 526865
 Mr Bill Lattimer, "Holmesdale", The Green, Otford 522058
 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831
 Mr Brian Raynor, M.A., 5 Colets Orchard, Otford 523327
 Mrs Betty Reed, 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS: Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway", Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234
 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831
 Mrs Donna Worssam, The Vicarage, Otford 523185

HONORARY MINISTERS: Revd. David Casiot, M.A., 52 High Street, Otford 522588
 Revd Chris Reed, M.A., 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439

CHURCHWARDENS Mr Derek Shilling, "Ivybank", Shoreham Road, Otford 522059
 Mrs Janet Hunt, 14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

Organist and Choirmaster: Mr Kevin Grafton, M.A., F.C.A., 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks 452117
Sacristan: Mr Tony Grogan, 93 Willow Park Otford 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Mr Derek Shilling
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway",
 Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234
Hon. Treasurer: Mr Colin Fleetwood,
 "Lorien", St Michael's Drive, Otford 523582
Freewill Offering Fund: Mr Brian Beacom,
 39 Well Road, Otford 524304

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 10.30-12.30: Mrs Susan Reid,
 Mr Clive Southgate, Otford 523185
 Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Mr Robert Hunt,
 14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

MAGAZINE

Acting Editor: Mr David Matthews
Hon. Treasurer: Mr John Miller, 7 Warham Road
 Otford 523943
Advertisements: Mrs Hilary Fothergill,
 7 Darnets Field, Otford 524120

BELLRINGERS:

For all enquiries contact
The Tower Captain: Mrs Bobbie Fairclough,
 "Vailima", St Michael's Drive, Otford 522696
 or *Secretary:* Janet Whitehead, Otford 524088
 Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

'First Steps' (for parents and pre-schoolchildren)
Contact: Najen Harris, Otford 522813

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 9.30am)

Juniors (3-7s): Joan Beacom, Ot. 524304
Middles (8-11s) Mags Southgate Ot. 524720
Seniors (12-14) Liz Cole Ot. 525404

FROGS (School years 7, 8 and 9)

Contact: Andrew Bratby, Ot. 525060

Young People's Fellowship

Contact: Dawn Hallam, Ot. 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Committee:
 Mr David Matthews, 01732 462485
CMS Correspondent: Revd. David Casiot,
 Otford 522588
FEBA Correspondent: Miss Ruth Barclay,
 Otford 522882
 Children's Society:
Hon.Sec.: Mrs Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117
 Otford Benevolent Society:
Almoner: Mrs Christine Brauns, Ot. 524474

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and Churchwardens, Mrs Sam Barnett, Mrs Joan Beacom, Mr Chris Bishop, Miss Liz Cole, Mr David Crawley, Mr Colin Fleetwood, Miss Dawn Hallam, Mr Mark Holmes, Mrs Vicki Howie, Mr Bill Lattimer, Mr David Matthews, Mr Clive Southgate, Mrs Margie Torry, Mr Steve Vigis, Ex-Officio (Deanery Synod): Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, Mrs Pat Mills, Mrs Susan Reid.

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	10.00am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Church Family Worship	cu@5	Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	cu@5	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	-	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 10.00 a.m. service, except on first Sunday when in Church.

CRËCHE: 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 Church Office.

VICAR'S REST DAY: Monday

JULY 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 a.m. 'First Steps' Summer Praise & Teddy Bear's Picnic
(St. Bartholomew's Church, then picnic in Vicarage garden)
- 2 - **Morning Prayer is said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.**
2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 3-5 Church Youth Weekend Away at Elm Tree Farm, Mersham, Kent



OTFORD EVENING W.I. Caroline Jackson from Plaxtol Nurseries was our speaker on 11th June when she showed us how to create a hanging basket. Not only was it a demonstration, it was also a fascinating lesson as she explained the various structures of composts, water-retention gels, flower categories and how one could ring the changes and create a hanging basket of herbs or

bulbs. She was an excellent, friendly speaker, answering members' questions during her talk and afterwards when plants were for sale. The raffle run by Brenda Ash in aid of Kent Air Ambulance raised £43.

Some members had been to help at Spring House, showing the ladies/girls the basic skills of cookery and had been invited back again, this time to teach basic sewing. Dates were announced for a visit to Kew Gardens and also the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. As you see, we are an active and friendly institute so if you would like to hear more come along to our meeting on 9th July when our speaker will be a Court Embroideress and the competition is "Your Favourite Flower", proceeds in aid of ACWW. And then, of course, there is our Boot Sale on 18th July, when drinks and home-made cakes will be on sale to help sustain buyers and browsers at the well-stocked stalls.
Brenda Young

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 July, we will experience 'Exercise the Easy Way', something we all welcome! 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 16th July from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when Jackie from Harlow College Café will return to share her skills in baking in her Cookery Demonstration. 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: 'Crafty Stories: Under the Sea' is an activity day for children on Thursday 23rd July between 2-5 pm. when they can explore the fascinating world of the sea as they enjoy an afternoon of arts and craft. They can make and take home their own fish bowl complete with fish, plants and gravel or their own stuffed sea turtle. There will also be face painting and story-telling. For more information about the castle, its events and family pass please visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk or tel: 01892 870347

Rowan, Dostoevsky and a world without God



It does seem that new lines are being drawn in the debate between belief and non-belief. In short, the initial dispute appears to be exhausting itself and in its place, a more subtle discussion is emerging. The question is no longer simply, Does God exist? That has never admitted of a final answer anyway. Instead, it is this: What would it be like to live in a world without God?

Rowan Williams explained that it is the genius of Dostoevsky to explore the consequences of modern atheism, particularly in *The Brothers Karamazov*. The character Ivan is the atheist, and strikingly, it is he who utters the famous phrase, "Without God, everything is permitted." Ivan spends much of the novel voicing the reasons why God cannot be real, why divinity must be a delusion. And yet, he also realises what the consequences of his atheism are. If there is no longer any foundation for ethics, because there is no ultimate source of goodness, then human beings alone must choose how they will live. Some people will choose to be good. But others will not; they will choose to be evil. And it is not easy to say why they should not. That is the nihilistic possibility of which 19th century writers like Dostoevsky, and others like Nietzsche, became very conscious.

The issue at stake here is not whether atheists can be good, Williams explained: clearly they can. Rather, it is the realisation that human beings are on their own when grappling with how to live. Who is going to decide what is good? Who is going to take responsibility when evil prevails? We must do so. But are we up to the task?

The responses that people have to this challenge have moved on since Dostoevsky's time. Today, it is much harder to believe that Enlightenment values can rid the world of superstition and irrationalism, so that a virtuous way of life can flourish. In between Dostoevsky and us are the Nazi camps and other 20th-century horrors. We now know that "people will not be taught not to commit stupidities," Williams said with striking understatement.

Contemporary humanists and believers alike are waking up to the reality of that. This is the more subtle discussion that is now coming to the fore. Williams highlighted the *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Philip Pullman as one literary contribution. In Pullman's books, all the children have daemons, imagined as animals with whom they continually converse. The animals are like souls; the conversations are what keep the kids human. In the story, the evil Magisterium seeks brutally to sever the relationship between the children and their daemons, and so break the children themselves.

Pullman himself has the church in mind when he describes that dehumanising programme, though Williams interprets the action more generally to include any force – cultural or institutional – that seeks to turn human beings into automatons. Totalitarian regimes are one example. The scientific conception of human beings as gene-transmitting machines would be another.

Mark Vernon

Guardian.co.uk, Thursday 28th May 2009

- 4 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 5 - **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship and baptism of Hamish Muir
5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 6 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 7 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale' The Green)
- 8 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) followed by coffee
 8.00 p.m. PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 11 - 1.30 p.m. Wedding of Gareth Jaggard and Charlotte Riddick
- 12 - **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion and Prizegiving for Sunday Club (CW)
5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 13 - **August magazine material by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice' London Road, Dunton Green, Kent matthews.dg@lineone.net**
 7.45 p.m. Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 14 - 8.00 p.m. "Trekking in Nepal" - Tony Grogan (Church Centre)
- 15 - 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Oxford Methodist Hall)
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 16 - 2.30 p.m. Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
- 19 - **The Sixth 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
- 20 - 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 21 - 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale' The Green)
- 22 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards (Rev. John Goulding)
- 26 - **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. George McCormack)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 27 - 7.45 p.m. Coffee and Chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (Rev. John Goulding)

Some early August dates

- 1 - 3.30 p.m. Wedding of Danny Pullen and Kimberley Wills
- 2 - **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW) (Rev. Peter Flynn)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 4 - **Material for the September magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice' London Road, Kent. matthews.eg@lineone.net**

Vicar's Viewpoint



Dear Friends,

At this time of year many people set off on their summer holidays. I enjoy hearing about the different destinations to which friends are planning to travel. Some will be staying within England, visiting relatives. Others will be going further afield, by car to the Continent, or by aeroplane to America. Altogether, many different types of journey will be made this summer.

The image of a journey is also one that is historically connected with the Christian way of life. In the Early Church, Christians were known as "People of the Way" - following in the footsteps of Jesus who is himself The Way. One observation by Alister McGrath, which I find to be very helpful is: "Faith is not an accumulation of facts, but a journey to be experienced."

Abraham, whose story can be found in the Old Testament, is a good example of this. In faith he responded to God's call and set out on a long journey. He travelled from his homeland in Ur (in modern day Iraq) and finally settled in Palestine. Along the way he had many different experiences, and through all of it he grew closer to God. At one point he took a break from his travels and stayed in Haran for a while. On another occasion he had to make a decision whether to settle in the hill country or in the plains. Towards the end of his journey his trust in God was put to the test when it seemed that he might have no heirs to whom he could pass on his inheritance.

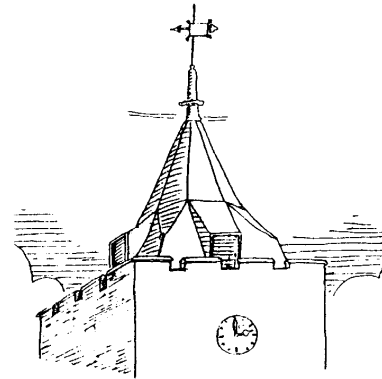
We may find a number of parallels in our own journey of faith. Some people speak of a pause in their journey (e.g. between leaving their childhood home and church and starting their own family); others speak of crucial decisions they've struggled to make, which have had major implications for the rest of their journey and have brought unforeseen blessings; some tell of times of doubt and uncertainty along the way.

We are never alone on our journey. We can hold on to promises from God such as this from Scripture, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8)

If you are setting off on your travels this summer I hope you have a most enjoyable, refreshing and fulfilling time. And for all of us, my prayer is that we may find that our journey through life deepens our faith and draws us ever closer to God.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard



FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday Club Prizegiving

This takes place on Sunday 12th July at the 10 a.m. service when we shall be presenting our Sunday Club with prizes for attendance. This event concludes the Sunday Club groups for the summer term: their activities recommence from 13th September in the Church Centre. There will still be basic provision for children throughout the summer weeks.

The popular **CU@5** service ends on 19th July and recommences on 13th September.

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."

'Bartholomew' Pianists' Recital: Saturday June 6th. It was a balmy evening when 22 pianists and their guests Russell House Choristers gathered to play. The choristers sang beautifully, and then there was a hush as the first group of pianists came forward. Every performance had merit, and some were especially memorable. Charles Long gave a spirited account of *Knight Rupert* by Schumann to begin the first half, and the second part began with a Dussek sonatina played with bravado by Bethany Crawley. Tom Best created a romantic picture in sound with a set of Schubert waltzes, which were contrasted with the delicate agility of the Clementi *Sonatina Op.36* performed by Elizabeth Royce and the Beethoven *Sonatina in F* performed by Andrew Pijper. Isabel Mee played *Impromptu in Ab D899* with style and polish, and Rosanna Buist created just the right impressionist flavour in her portrayal of the dancer in Debussy's *1st Arabesque*. And this was not all! Between these exciting pieces were others performed equally well. It was a good evening. Our audience generously donated £332 for Hospice in the Weald and St. Bartholomew's Church Funds. Jean Kelsey

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 4th August for the September magazine
closing date of 7th September for the October magazine