

whom have shown great skill in construction and in understanding the requirements of this ancient feature; perhaps one of the reasons why this "settlement" grew here in the first place. JGA

* * * * *



Hopefest Main Events

- 3rd October - 'Have I got news for you'
- 21st November - 'Who do you think you are?'
- 28th November - 'The X Factor'
- 5th December - 'Deal or No Deal?'

For details of these events and others go to www.hopefest.org.uk



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

20th September Nathan Samuel Tappin

Church Offerings in August 2009

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses	£ 523.85
Freewill Offerings	£ 4708.00

UPHOLSTERY

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SPOTLIGHT



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Otford's position in the District's settlement hierarchy has risen, according to Sevenoaks District Council minutes. This arcane ranking of hamlets to towns is required by the government from councils and is based on an arbitrary system of points for 22 facilities, from bus services to sports opportunities, halls and post offices in each "settlement". Those with the highest number of points are then deemed to be areas where there is greatest potential for developments - not necessarily actual developments. Otford now rises to join Westerham and New Ash Green as a "Local Service Centre". It is a testimony to the benefits we have gradually acquired - some with the help of the parish council - over many years, but this consequence is perhaps not welcome.

No large-scale developments are presently planned in Otford but in the next five years there may be many hundreds of new dwellings within a few minutes drive away. The document states this is with the aim of creating a dynamic and viable economy.

Parish Councils are being encouraged to do more at a time when District Councils are suffering funding reductions that are likely to continue for some years, and Otford parish council has certainly taken on more work. Also, our parish office has in the last ten years proved much more successful than was anticipated when it was converted. For example, it serves as a meeting place for "surgeries" and village group committees as well as an office for our Community Warden, where our PCSO and local police can meet to exchange information. It also provides and receives information about Otford, and, of course, dispenses waste disposal sacks to those who need them. This puts considerable pressure on the clerks, and we need to find ways of adapting the building so it and they can work more efficiently. The Heritage Centre has also acquired much more than it can put on show and explain to visitors at any one time, and also needs greater space.

Road closure of Pilgrims Way East: We are informed this road will be closed from Station Road to Row Dow from the 28th of October. Other sections as far as Cotmans Ash will be closed from the middle of November for about two and a half months. This work is necessary to improve the many drainage problems that exist.

The Solar System model is one of Otford's more important features, and may I remind all that it needs someone to assist with maintenance; details from the parish office.

The essential pond repairs are finished as all can see. Our white duck only enjoyed it for a brief time before providing a meal for a fox, but we have two more Muscovy ducks to take her place. The fox-proof duck enclosure on the bank will shortly be built (the original was demolished by a sleeping car driver!) and the grass seed must grow before the fencing can be removed. We will also be planting some rushes in carefully controlled places and the ducks should appreciate these natural habitats. We have had excellent service from the contractor and those who regularly care for the pond, all of

Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

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 13th October our meeting is entitled 'Murder Comes Giftwrapped.' Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - joyce.shaw@otford.net.

OTFORD OAST W.I. – 'a modern voice for women'. The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 15th October, when the challenges are to choose your president and committee and to be proactive in your WI! 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 will offer another activity day for families with 'Crafty Stories: Horrible Halloween Lantern-Lit Trick or Treat' on Thursday 29th October from 2-5pm. Freaky face painting. Make your own scary mask and 'trick or treat' bag ready for a lantern-lit walk through the grounds to collect some sweet treats. For more information about this event, the castle and the family pass, please tel.: 01892 870347 or visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD. The next meeting will take place in the Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 31st October, when we have a talk by Walter McLaren on The History of Fans. There will also be an all-day Bring and Buy Sale. Morning sessions begin at 10.00 a.m. (UFOs and WIPs) and afternoons at 2.00 p.m. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Tonbridge Branch. This year there will be courses on *History and Current International Events, Historic Landscapes, Literature – Great Expectations, Philosophy- from existentialism to post-structuralism, Practical Art and Smashing Saxons to Capricious Capetians – Europe 900-1250.*

There will also be a day school on Saturday 7th November held at the Tonbridge Adult Education Centre from 11am-4pm entitled *Rehearsing Shakespeare or Shylock Accused.* David Matthews will lead a study and rehearsal of Act 4 Scene 1 of *The Merchant of Venice*, as the basis for considering Shakespeare's art and craft. For further information, please contact Jill Britcher on 01233 634410 or jill.britcher@btoopenworld.com

DAME FELICITY LOTT IN CONCERT, ACCOMPANIED BY ROGER VIGNOLES. Rochester Cathedral will host a recital in aid of the Music Endowment Fund on 4th November 2009 when Dame Felicity Lott and Roger Vignoles will perform. Tickets for the concert cost £30 each, including programme and interval drink. Tickets for the concert and an exclusive dinner afterwards in the Cathedral Crypt cost £90 each. Four schools within the Diocese have drawn to have one of their students participate in an onstage master class with Dame Felicity during the first half of the recital, one of which will be Tonbridge Wells Girls Grammar School. To reserve tickets please contact Lynne Agide on 01634 development@rochestercathedral.org or www.rochestercathedral.org .

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 10.00am)

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

FROGS (School years 7, 8 and 9)

Contact: The Vicar Otford 523185

Young People's Fellowship

Contact: Dawn Hallam, Otford 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	-	Deanery Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	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, second 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

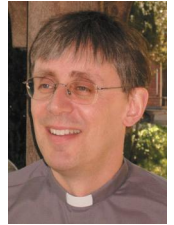
OCTOBER 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 4 **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)
12.45 for 1 p.m. Harvest Lunch
5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)
6.30 p.m. Festal Evensong
- 5 7.45 p.m. Focus - Historical DVD (17 Leonard Avenue)

New Archdeacon of Rochester

Bishop Michael is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Simon Burton-Jones (Rector of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst) to be the next Archdeacon of Rochester following the retirement of the Ven. Peter Lock on 31 October.



It is envisaged that he will take up the appointment around the beginning of next year. Bishop Michael said, "We were blessed in that the calibre of candidates for this post was extremely high. I know Simon well, and am confident that he is the right person to take on this mantle after Peter retires. As a Diocese, Rochester faces a period of change and I believe Simon will be an excellent addition to the Bishop's team."

Simon is a familiar face and voice to many as a popular contributor to the Link, writing his thoughtful, "Culturewise" column since 2005, which he says he hopes to continue. He said, "I am delighted to have been offered this appointment. There are fresh challenges and new opportunities to do God's work through the office of the Archdeacon of Rochester and I am looking forward to it immensely."



OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH are holding a Woman's Breakfast on Saturday 3rd October at 8.30 a.m. when the speaker will be the accomplished author, Julie Sheldon. For catering purposes please let Margaret Matthews, (522046) know if you are going.



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. The next lecture will take place on Tuesday 6th October, when Russell Bowes, Garden Historian, will talk on 'The painted Garden.' Lectures take place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on Tuesdays at 8 pm, all at a cost of 50p to members and £1 to non-members, including refreshments.

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



OTFORD EVENING WI. Nearly twenty members visited the Care Village at Edenbridge at the end of August and spent time chatting with the residents, enjoying lunch and browsing through the shop and plant nursery. Our District's summer event was an hilarious Murder Mystery evening and declared a great success; our thanks go to Otford Oast WI. On 8th October we have our Annual Meeting, when we shall elect our new committee and president. On 12th November Trevor Carman, a flood development officer, will tell us about "Old Mills on our Stream" – what an intriguing title! If you just can't bear not to know more why not come and join us at 7.30pm in the OVMH.

Brenda Young

Combined Fellowship On Wednesday 14th October at 2.30pm, members of St. Bartholomew's, Otford Methodist Church and other churches in the area are invited to meet together in St Bartholomew's Church Centre. Donna Worssam will give a short talk followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Deanery Choral Evensong. This will be held at St. Bartholomew's on Sunday 18th October at 6.30 p.m. This service will feature the combined choirs of the Deanery, including our own. There will be **no cu@5** on this Sunday.

The CHRISTMAS MARKET will take place in the Church Centre on Saturday 21st November from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

Stalls will include: gift wrapping; cards; Christmas tree and table decorations; candles; cakes; winter woollies (scarves, gloves, hats etc.); Christmas sweets and chocolates. A super Christmas raffle is also planned.

There will be "Pick a present from the tree" for children, and while we appreciate that Santa Claus is extra busy, he has again promised to send a deputy! Coffee, tea and soft drinks, together with Christmas biscuits, Stollen and mince pies, will be on sale for you to enjoy while you chat with friends. I am very grateful for the offers of help so far received; what is urgently needed now are items with which to stock the stalls. All contributions will be most gratefully received, and may be left at the Church Office, at any church service, at 'Burway', Sevenoaks Road, or at 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks. With any queries or offers of help, please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

We require:

- Gifts* – new or unused, for adults and children
- Christmas gift wrapping* – paper, ribbon, tags, gift boxes
- Christmas decorations* – table, tree, hanging and novelty
- Candles* – decorated or plain which we can decorate
- Cakes please* - see *Susan Reid*, who will be delighted to receive your offerings
- Christmas Sweets and Chocolates* – bought or home-made
- Winter woollies* – hats, scarves, gloves etc. – new, all sizes, single or in sets – please label with age or size

Most of all, we want you to come and enjoy a happy time with your church family and friends, joining together in support of our church work. Sylvia Grafton

THANK YOU. As I reach the end of my nearly three years as acting editor, I should like to thank all contributors and readers for their support and encouragement, and particularly those who provided information regularly and faithfully. Special thanks go to Susan and Clive in the Office and particularly to the latter for his unfailing willingness to try to solve problems in order to make the magazine look as good as possible every month. Best wishes go to those who are taking over. David Matthews

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS: The closing date for copy for future magazines will be the **10th** of the month.

Please send copy, preferably by email, to st.bartholomews@otford.net, or to **The Church Office, St Bartholomew's Church, The Green, Otford, Kent. TN14 5PD**

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

- 5 8.00 p.m. Mission Committee ('Beech Coppice')
- 6 8.00 p.m. Living Heritage 2: The Saxon origins of parishes (Church Centre)
- 7 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church all)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00 p.m. Deanery Synod - Diocesan Stewardship Advisor (Church Centre)
- 11 The Eighteenth 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)**
- 6.00 p.m. FROGS (Church Hall)**
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)**
- 12 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 13 Material for the November magazine by today, please, to the Church Office, St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford, Kent. TN14 5LD. st.bartholomews@otford.net**
- 8.00 p.m. Living Heritage 3: Anglo-Saxon spirituality (Church Centre)
- 14 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) Coffee afterwards
- 2.30 p.m. Combined Fellowship meeting with other churches in the area (Speaker: Donna Worssam: Church Centre)
- 8.00 p.m. Standing and Finance Committee (Vicarage)
- 17 1.30 p.m. Wedding of Christopher Gubbins and Joanne Bamford
- 18 The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)**
- 6.30 p.m. Deanery Evensong (St. Bartholomew's)**
- 19 7.45 p.m. Coffee and Chat (1 The Butts)
- 20 8.00 p.m. Living Heritage 4 : Medieval Wall Paintings (Church Centre)
- 21 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Church Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 Last Sunday after Trinity: Bible Sunday**
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)**
- 12 noon Baptism of Joseph and Ameila Odell**
- 5.00 p.m. cu@5 (Church Centre)**
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)**
- 26 7.45 p.m. Coffee and Chat (venue to be arranged)
- 28 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) Coffee afterwards
- 31 8.30 a.m. Deanery Pastoral Assistants' Breakfast (Church Centre)

An early November date

- 1 All Saints' Sunday**

Vicar's Viewpoint



Dear Friends,

At a recent social occasion I was introduced to another guest, and their opening gambit was, "You won't see much of me in Church - I believe in freedom of thought!" It was not right occasion to develop this further, but it remains a controversial statement. How would you have replied?

I think it says more about the guest's perception of Christianity than of the Christian faith itself. Far from imposing a mental straitjacket, the Church has always encouraged clear and courageous thinking. To be sure, there are core doctrines that are upheld in the creed, but there is the constant challenge of applying these truths in the ever-changing circumstances of contemporary society.

One of the best definitions of Christian thought was first coined by Anselm, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093-1109. He described it as "faith seeking understanding." At the heart of Christianity there is an invitation to explore the nature of God and what it means to live a life of faith today.

God is not an object of our questioning, but the subject who invites us to know him. Faith begins with a sense of God's touch upon our lives. It is not a list of propositions demanding our assent, but rather a personal response to the God who call us. As in any relationship, we can never fully know the other, and so there is always an element of mystery. God is not a problem to be solved, but a personal being who invites us to go deeper.

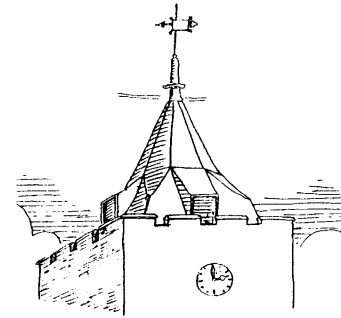
Far from closing down thought, Christian faith opens up whole new realms that invite a response of wonder as we reflect on the vastness of creation, in time and space; the humility of God in Christ Jesus; the miracle of forgiveness achieved through the cross; the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. To begin to give an account of these calls for the highest qualities of human thought.

To be human is to have questions. What are we here for? Why is there suffering? Is there more to life than the here-and-now? Where can I find hope and purpose? These questions have been a feature of humanity's quest for meaning, and these are precisely the questions that the Christian faith addresses.

If you have any interest in these issues, then the Christian faith is a good place to begin. In practical terms, I encourage you to come along to the Hopefest events at the Stag Theatre on 21st & 28th November & 5th December, at 6.30 p.m. or 9 p.m., to hear more. You'll discover that this will not so much restrict as enlarge your thinking. Try it and see!

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard



FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Thank you! We are very grateful to David Matthews for editing the magazine over the past three years, using his literary skills to the full. He has shown both a great breadth of interest in the articles he has included and also a fine attention to detail in the proof reading and final presentation. An editorial team will be taking over with the November edition. Many thanks to David for

setting such a high standard to follow.

Churchyard Working Party A reminder that the last two churchyard working parties of the year will take place on Saturday 3rd October and Saturday 7th November, between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. Any support will be most welcome.

CLAIRE'S COFFEE CALL FOR KENYA. Claire Stevens, an ex-chorister at St. Bartholomew's, is off to the Rift Valley in Kenya in January c/o Changing World, to work in a school. She is working hard to raise the £2,700 required, so we are giving her a helping hand by inviting you to join us on Saturday, October 3rd from 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. in the Church Centre for coffee, where cakes, preserves and cards will be on sale. There will also be a raffle. You are also invited to watch the church being decorated for Harvest Festival. Do please come and join us in supporting Claire; for further information please ring Sylvia Grafton (01732 452117) or Anne and Claire Stevens (01959 524333).

Harvest This falls on Sunday 4th October. This year we are again supporting the Diocese of Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal 2009. The Bishop of Tonbridge writes, "Times are undoubtedly hard in the U.K. at the moment and these are difficult days for many individuals. However, through our appeal we have the chance to touch the lives of people whose countries, already poor, have no money to help them through difficult times. This year the support is for Uganda and Kenya, Guatemala, India, Haiti, Central Asia and Burma. Please give generously and joyfully, pray diligently and continue to give hope to some of the world's poorest people. Thank you."

Harvest Lunch - Sunday 4th October - 12.45 for 1 pm in the Church Hall You are warmly invited to join the whole Church Family for lunch as we celebrate harvest together.

Living Heritage. You are warmly invited to come and learn more about our living heritage of faith that has shaped our village community since Roman times. The four sessions are on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. in the Church Centre:

29th September -From Roman times to the mission of St. Augustine

6th October -The establishment of dioceses and parishes in Saxon times

13th October -Anglo-Saxon spirituality

20th October -Medieval wall paintings