

- 21st November "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?" Is it possible to find a place of peace in being valued for who you are?
- 28th November "THE X FACTOR" Is there a road to freedom in a world spoiled by human failure?
- 5th December "DEAL OR NO DEAL" Could there be a choice before every one of us that will determine our future?

Tickets, priced £2.50 each, are available from St. Bart's Church Office (523185) or from the Stag Theatre Box Office (01732 450175). Children aged 4-10 are invited to a free film in the Stag Cinema during each 6.30 programme.

For further information, please see the web site: www.hopefest.org.uk or phone 01732 740340.



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

25th October Joseph and Amelia Odell

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

17th October Christopher David Gubbins and Joanne Louise Bamford

Church Offerings in September 2009

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses£ 243.57

Freewill Offerings£ 5545.00

Christmas 2009 with Live Entertainment

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SPOTLIGHT ON

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chairman: Mr John Allen

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

Another French village (Neuchatel-Hardelot) wishes to "twin" with Otford. The village is relatively close (only 45 minutes from the tunnel at Calais), on the coast, has a wide, gently sloping beach and has good provision for many sporting activities. A party of councillors and others went there and saw the football grounds, tennis courts, golf courses and equestrian facilities. The wide beach is used for sand yachting. There is also a lake where one can fish and a castle where concerts and other activities are held. All this is in a - compared with Otford - quiet and peaceful setting. Pine woods grow in the sandy soil offering distinctive flora and fauna.

The village has been recognised by KCC as a place both "foreign" and near, with splendid opportunities for recreational activities and with a centre that can be hired. It is an ideal place for young people, and has been used for visits to its historic sites and for environmental studies as well as attracting bird watchers, church and other groups.

There are also, of course, hotels etc where one can stay - and the beach is great for children.

For further information please contact the parish office. More importantly, if you think you might be interested in becoming involved in the future, please tell the parish office.

Children's Play Days were a great success. These were held on four days on the main and west Otford recreation grounds and afforded enjoyment to a total of about 240 children

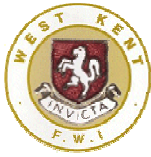
Highways' work in Otford. Work is well underway on gully (drain) clearing and we hope it will decrease road flooding, although the department's report on drainage problems points out that this is still expected to happen with very heavy rain.

There were two projects listed for work in Otford in the next financial year but a shortage of funds has resulted in them no longer being short-listed. They are now with 29 other proposals for work next year in West Kent, of which only about half are likely to be carried out, reflecting the difficulty of making Kent's roads suitable for today's traffic with the available funding. JGA



HOPEFEST - COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND!

You are warmly invited to come to the Hopefest events at the Stag Theatre on 21st & 28th November and 5th December. The presentations are at 6.30 p.m. and 9.00 pm. Nick Cuthbert and his team will host these fast-moving, fun and thought-provoking evenings exploring questions of life and hope.



OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 2 p.m. We have a great variety of speakers and other interesting activities. On 10th November we will be holding our Annual Meeting. Our publicity contact is Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - joyce.shaw@otford.net.

OTFORD EVENING W.I. Our annual meeting was held on 8th October and Diana Jeremiah chaired her last meeting as president. It was reported that there has been a most wonderful response to the appeal for items to go in shoe boxes for the Royal Marines fighting in Afghanistan. Chris and Marian then entertained us with Chris first reading a lovely poem of her own followed by them both reading T.S. Eliot's poem about that most elusive of cats – Macavity.

After coffee we got down to business, with a clear and well-presented copy of the accounts from our treasurer and an excellent annual report from the secretary. Diana was thanked for her four years' dedication as president, the new committee stood up "on display" and Eve Wiltshire was elected as our new president. Visiting WI Adviser Elizabeth Patterson, a friendly and familiar face to many of us, brought us up-to-date with the new voting procedure to be adopted for the Resolution selection next year and other items of Federation interest.

We meet again on 12th November at 7.30pm and would warmly welcome any visitors – ring Eve on 524887 or Maureen on 522789 if you need more details.
Brenda Young

OTFORD OAST W.I. – 'a modern voice for women'. Our penultimate meeting of the year is on 19th November. There will be a talk entitled 'How to keep our families safe on the internet' given by Murray Letham. 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



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. Quiz and Fun Night - A social evening to round off the gardening year. 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 - A Victorian Christmas - another activity day for families. Get into the spirit of Christmas from the days of Charles Dickens. Make Christmas decorations and find out the history behind some of our Christmas customs. Why do we pull crackers and decorate trees? Other crafts will include making sugar mice in the Victorian kitchen and traditional Christmas cards signed with a dip pen. For more information about this event, the castle and the family pass, please tel.: 01892 870347 or visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

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

Editorial team: Vicki Howie, Christine Malan,
 Clive Southgate, Richard Worssam
 523185
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)

Infant (3-7s): Donna Worssam, Ot. 524304
Junior (8-11s) Mags Southgate Ot. 524720
Senior (12-14) Liz Cole Ot. 525404

FROGS (School years 7, 8 and 9)

Contact: Margie Torry, 524463
 Richard Worssam 523185

Young People's Fellowship

Contact: Dawn Hallam, 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Committee:
 Mr David Matthews, 01732 462485
CMS Correspondent: Revd. David Casiot,
 522588
FEBA Correspondent: Miss Ruth Barclay,
 522882
 Children's Society:
Hon.Sec.: Mrs Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117
 Otford Benevolent Society:
Almoner: Mrs Christine Brauns, 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	Remembrance Service	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	cu@5	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
FIFTH	CW HC	Morning Worship	-	Candlelit Advent Carol Service

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion

Sunday Mornings

SUNDAY CLUB (for ages 3-14) with three groups:

Infant (3-7); Junior (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.

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 second 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

November 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 All Saints' Day
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
 10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW) and Baptism of Owen Thomas
 Leadbeater and Marnie Charlotte Leadbeater
 5.00 p.m. CU@5 (Church Centre)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong

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

we continued over difficult terrain through a long afternoon of many ups and downs until, at about 4.00pm we saw, on a distant mountain top, Cabana Omu. Our mountain hut for the night was at 2505m and we arrived there at 6.00pm (8 hour trek). The hut is built into the rock and gives an amazing panoramic view of the range (subject to visibility). At this hut the whole group shared one dormitory – girls on the top shelf boys on the bottom. Access to the hut is by foot only and the team had great difficulty in moving in supplies. Though it was cold outside, the temperature and environment in the dorm made sleeping a dream rather than a reality. Nevertheless the team still prepared a remarkable evening meal and breakfast for all.

Friday - At 7.00am, after a difficult night, we assembled for the final descent. We trekked along a long ridge of rolling hills, through dwarf pine trees, dropping 600m to a track. This lead down a very steep grassy and rocky face and we descended another 1000m, continuing on through forest and open hills, until we reached the stream crossing at the bottom at 700m (6 hour trek).

A finishing line and a champagne reception were waiting for us not far away, as was a coach which took us to a special lunch and on down to the Castle at Bran. After the visit we made for our hotel in Brasnov. A spectacular celebration meal and entertainment had been arranged in a medieval castle in the town. A good evening ended with me leaving the party to join Pam and Jean on a bespoke tour of Romania.

Nearly all the party managed the whole trip though injuries and sickness had affected some trekkers.

Thank you for your support to Macmillan which provides much needed services in cancer care. You helped me to achieve in excess of £3000 and the combined total for all the trekkers is over £150,000. The trek was a real challenge but worth all the effort of training and fund raising.

Tony Grogan

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS: Due to the printer's holiday the closing date for magazine material for the January 2010 magazine is 3rd December.



OTFORD PLAYERS FIRST EVER PANTOMIME - ALADDIN. This will take place at Otford Memorial Hall on:

Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm

Friday 6th November at 7.30pm

Saturday 7th November at 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for children under 14 and are available on 01959 525404

Advent Sunday This falls on Sunday 29th November. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10.00 a.m. At 6.30 p.m. there will be a special candlelit Advent Carol Service.

The Christingle Service will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 6th December.

Tree of Light Service This will be held on Friday, 11th December on The Green at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome and labels remembering those who have died may be obtained from the Parish Office in the High Street, or Hospice in the Weald, for which organisation donations are invited.

Christmas Choir Concert This will be held on Sunday, 13th December at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will cost £5. There will be no evening service on that day.



Romania Hiking Challenge for Macmillan Cancer Support, 14th to 19th September 2009

You will be delighted to know that we have returned from a successful trek in one piece, without any aches or pains.

On arrival at Heathrow for the start of the trek we learnt that the arrangements had changed. We were expecting to camp each night but due to the experience of a group the week before, who were disturbed by bears on the camp sites, it was decided to use mountain huts for sleeping. Our party consisted of seventeen ladies, ten men, two UK guides, a doctor from Discover Adventure, one Macmillan representative and a local guide.

Monday - Our first night in Romania was therefore spent in a winter sports hotel in Sinaia at 1400 m above sea level.

Tuesday - At 9.00 am, after the regular morning warm up, we set off up the very steep slopes under the cable car to an altitude of 2000m, arriving for lunch and a cup of tea at the cafe at the top of Cabana Miorita. Our first objective had been achieved. After lunch we continued, in the rain, down the other side via steep slopes, hillside and thick forest to a hut in Pestera at 1500m, arriving at 6.00pm (8 hour trek). The boys and girls were in two separate dormitories and minimal facilities were enjoyed by all!

Wednesday - At 9.00am we set off to visit the Lalomita Monastery built at the entrance of a vast natural cave. From the monastery in the gorge we climbed our way up to the top of Bucegi Plateau at 2200m where, after a lunch break, we visited rock figures named 'Sphinx' and 'Babele' which had been shaped by the wind and weather. Unfortunately our view was hindered by cloud. Whilst we were sitting in the café at lunchtime, Pam and Jean walked in. It is surprising who you meet in the mountains! We journeyed on down to the Romanian national winter sports village at Piatra Arsa at 1950m where, at 5.00pm, we enjoyed twin room accommodation and a cold shower (6 hour trek).

Thursday - At 9.00am we set off back up the mountain to the Caraiman Cross, a monument on the summit of Costilla Peak at 2500m. After a packed lunch at the peak

- 2 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 3 8.00 p.m. Reverends & Readers' Theological Reading Group
- 4 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 7 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 8 The Third Sunday before Advent; Remembrance Sunday
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Remembrance Sunday Service
- 10.55 a.m. Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5
- 6.00 p.m. FROGS & YPF Firework Party (Park Farm House, High Street)
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (said)
- 9 7.45 p.m. Focus group (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 10 Material for the November magazine by today, please, to the Church Office, St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford, Kent. TN14 5PD. st.bartholomews@otford.net
- 11 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 8.00 p.m. PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
- 14 6.30 p.m. & 9.00 p.m. Hopefest Presentations at the Stag Theatre
- 15 The Second Sunday before Advent
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5
- 6.30 p.m. Evensong
- 16 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 8.00 p.m. Fair Committee ('Lorien', St. Michael's Drive)
- 17 8.00 p.m. Homegroup ('Holmesdale', The Green)
- 18 9.30 a.m. 'First Steps' (Otford Methodist Hall)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19 8.00 p.m. Worship Advisory Group (Vicarage)
- 21 10-12 noon Christmas Market (Church Centre)
- 6.30 pm & 9.00 p.m. Hopefest Presentations at the Stag Theatre
- 21 The Sunday next before Advent: Christ The King
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW) & re-licensing of Betty Reed as Reader
- 5.00 p.m. CU@5
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (CW)
- 23 7.45 p.m. Coffee and chat (17 Leonard Avenue)
- 25 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) coffee afterwards
- 29 Advent Sunday
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (CW)
- 6.30 p.m. Candlelit Advent Carol Service
- 30 7.45 p.m. Homegroup (17 Leonard Avenue)

Vicar's Viewpoint



In recent weeks, outside St. Bart's there has been a banner announcing "Hopefest". There are similar banners outside many other churches in the area and also one strung across the High Street in Sevenoaks.

What comes to mind when you think of hope? In a recent survey, local people were asked the question, "What do you hope for?" and a variety of replies were given. These ranged from an individual perspective, ("I hope for a pay rise") to a global outlook, ("I hope for world peace.") Sometimes hope can have a selfish element to it, as a wit once observed, "There are those who cast their bread upon the waters hoping it will be returned to them toasted and buttered." And yet hope is a vital component of human flourishing, with the capacity to bring out the best in us. There is much truth in Charles Sawyer's comment, "Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so indispensable, none so powerful, as hope. Without hope we are only half alive."

Pause for a moment to consider how powerful hope can be. If you were to remove hope from the equation of life, what would you be left with? The words despair and despondency come to mind. By contrast, hope gives life and energy.

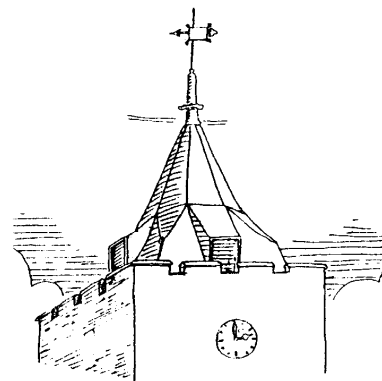
It is an interesting exercise to look up hope in a thesaurus, and see the connections that radiate out from this word. It is closely related to trust and confidence, and to expectation combined with desire. It is a virtue that can be cherished and nourished. It is often connected with light, and so we may speak of a glimmer or ray of hope. This implies a source of strength in difficult times; as the proverb goes, the one who wants to enjoy the glory of the sunrise must live through the night.

Did you know, hope is mentioned 140 times in the Bible? Hope is a foundation of faith. For the key question is not so much, "What do we hope for?", but "What is the source of our hope?" Without a sure basis, hope can become little more than wish-fulfilment. From the Biblical perspective, the source of our hope is in God himself and his purposes for us and our world.

In the pages of the Bible the word hope features prominently in certain places - it is mentioned 15 times in the Book of Job in the face of suffering; it features 25 times in the Psalms in the face of adversity; it occurs 17 times in the Prophets in the face of national calamity; and St. Paul uses it no less than 42 times in terms of both finding strength and purpose for this life and also living in the light of the eternity that awaits us.

Given that hope is such an important feature of both life and faith, I warmly encourage you to celebrate and share this hope by coming along to the Hopefest events (see pages 9 & 10) and by bringing your friends. I leave the last words to St. Paul, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." (Romans 15:13)

Your friend and Vicar, Richard



FROM
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Harvest Thank you to all those who gave to the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal. A sum in excess of £652.50 was raised for this appeal.

Claire's Coffee Call for Kenya. Thank you to everyone who supported Claire Stevens' coffee morning. A fantastic total of £500 was raised. This will go toward the money Claire requires to work in a school in the Rift Valley, Kenya, c/o Changing Worlds charity.

Remembrance Sunday This falls on Sunday 8th November and the traditional service begins at 10.00 a.m. in Church, followed at 10.55 a.m. by the service at the War Memorial on The Green. Traffic will be halted during the two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m.



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