

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver, February 2007*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 Feb</b>	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11 Feb</b>	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	<b>BCP</b>
		11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 Feb</b>	11:15	All Age/Family Service with Holy Baptism	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 Feb</b>	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 Mar</b>	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	

For details of joint services, prayer times, etc please see Page 2

*A Thought for Lent?*

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. - Charles Colson

**Most now know that 'WWW' stands for 'World Wide Web', but might it also be interpreted also as 'Well Worth While'? You can prove this by making a regular visit to our church web site at [www.sealstlawrence.org.uk](http://www.sealstlawrence.org.uk)**

**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS**

**Priest in Charge - St Lawrence Church - Revd Dr Michael Cooke - 761766**

**Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534**

Churchwardens	John Morris	810227	Seal Parish Council		
	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	Chairman	Colin Milligan	761809
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Vice-Chairman	Tony Ansell	833756
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville	763832
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris	810227		Colin Milligan	761809
Organist	David Walton	02075 374227	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
Choir Director	John Morris	810227	Chairman	Peter Granville	763832
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Elsbeth Cooke	761766	Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Tony Webb	xd	Treasurer	Di Heskeith-Williams	810226
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker	760843
	Beryl Storey	451510	St Lawrence Village Association		
Magazine Editor	Brian Sutton	450873	Chairman	Graham Moynes	760640
Church Flowers	Jean Stirling	810258	Secretary	Bradley Walter	811131
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Cricknet Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Chairman of Governors	Mrs Sarah Hudson	810050	Drawing Classes	Stephen Rose	761049
Clerk to Governors	Brian Sutton	450873	Pilates	Moira Clark	453271
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
1 <sup>st</sup> St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
			Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
S'oaks District Councillor	Cnelr Peter Coates	762129	Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202

Copy for the next issue, which will be in the Church on Sunday 25 February, should be sent to the editor to arrive by **08:00 on Wednesday 14 February 2007**. (or e-mail to [brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk))

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart  
Parish Magazine February 2007*



*Priest in Charge*

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*Reader*

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Ivyhatch  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NJ  
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**Hilary Denby-Jones**  
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Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES  
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**Notes from a Sunday School—Not ours!**

A Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the cow in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, how Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. "Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the cow on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

A Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

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	<p><b>Church Flowers for</b></p>	
<p>4 Feb Beryl Storey 11 Feb Beryl Storey</p>	<p>18 Feb Francis Coles 25 Feb LENT (No Flowers)</p>	
	<p><b>St Lawrence Sunday School</b> PROGRAMME UNTIL MARCH 2007</p>	
<p>Sun 18 Feb Sunday School Samuel (2) - Samuel anoints Saul</p> <p>Sun 4 Mar Sunday School Timothy - His mother and grandmother</p> <p>Sun 18 Mar Mothering Sunday</p>	<p>Lesley &amp; Beryl Elspeth &amp; Celeste</p>	
<p><b>Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown</b> <b>All children are welcome — Bring Mum or Dad as well!!!</b></p>		
<p><b>For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Beryl Storey (451510)</b></p>		

**From the Vicar**

A big thank you from Elspeth and myself to the many people who kindly sent us Christmas cards – your good wishes are greatly appreciated. We are sorry that we can only write it now, but this was the Magazine’s first copy-date after Christmas.

Next .... have you heard of the 99% challenge, one of the catchphrases being promoted by CAFOD, one of the major Christian charities? With the idea of living on 99% of our regular expenditure, it is a step towards Mahatma Gandhi’s call for the rich to learn to “Live simply, that others may simply live.” But *could* we live more simply? *What might it mean in practice?*

Regrettably, there is not usually much to be done – at least in the short term - about some larger outgoings such as mortgage payments or season rail tickets to get to work. (Mid-term, or longer term, there are choices about switching mortgager suppliers, even downsizing one’s house, or changing jobs. And perhaps as a nation there’s far too much time and resource wasted on all those commuting journeys.)

But if we are honest, there is a lot many people could do to save money on other parts of their expenditure. Buying “Value” foods from a supermarket (do check out some time that the ingredients in such “white” packets are usually exactly the same as on the branded packets with lots of writing); using low energy light bulbs; lowering the house temperature by 0.1 degree can save several percent! Driving at 40 mph rather than 50 mph for those 10 mile journeys (which will take only 3 minutes longer! – and if we really feel we need to save 3 minutes then it’s possible something else isn’t right in our lifestyle); switching telephone or energy suppliers; drinking one less glass of wine in 20; the list could go on and on.

Would doing any of these kind of things hurt our life? Almost certainly we’d hardly notice the difference – but resources would be saved.

And if we did some of these lesser things, then the 99% challenge is quite probably achievable. And think then to whom we could give that saving so that they might simply live.

Perhaps also because Lent starts this month, let’s please think about it, and resolve to do something.

With all Blessings,

*Michael*

## Valentine

For God so loVed the world,  
 That He gAve  
 His onLy  
 BegottEn  
 SoN  
 That whosever  
 Believeth In Him  
 Should Not perish,  
 But have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

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## Carol Singing

We have been singing Christmas Carols out in to the community for several years. This year saw a new development as we joined the Village Association for mince pies and mulled wine at Foxbury farm. This was to celebrate switching on the Christmas tree lights and mark the start of Yuletide festivities. There was a large group of about 80 adults and children; a rewarding turnout for what it is hoped will become a regular celebration. The whole gathering was then led by the St Lawrence choir and supporters in singing carols around the tree.



Fortified and encouraged we then moved on to Bitchet Green. We were again joined by local residents as we moved round some of the houses spreading the Christmas message. Attempting to cover representative areas of the parish, we concluded our evening with Seal Chart residents. Thanks to all those who participated and gave their support in aid of Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust.

Eric Jackson

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## News from our School

The Christmas decorations have not been long down but the festive season feels like a distant memory. Nevertheless it is a pleasant memory. Christmas in school is always a very special time and each year I feel privileged to be a part of it. The Carol Service and the Christmas Concert were, as always, very well supported by parents and friends and the Christmas Dinner was a very



## Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual service on the first Friday of March will take place this year on Friday 2nd March at 10:30 am at Vine Evangelical Church, Sevenoaks. The service has been prepared by the women of Paraguay and the theme is "United Under God's Tent". All are welcome (men, women and young people). There will be a crèche and refreshments will be provided after the service.



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## The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'



So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

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## Thoughts from our Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury has encouraged parents to talk to their children, and criticised the tactics used by advertisers to encourage consumerism in children, during a recent interview on breakfast television. "We're looking overall at a rising level of social concern about what we're doing to children in terms of the stable background that we give them, the expectations that we lay on them, and the way in which we don't allow them to have a proper childhood, to expand into being children," he said.

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buried in St Lawrence churchyard. Part of the reason for this Book is that even if a memorial tablet is used, such details can more easily become overgrown with grass.

The last page of the current Book has now, sadly, just been filled, and a new Book is being ordered. Once there are further entries – hopefully not for some time – the new Book will be the usual one on display, but will contain within its front cover a list of those remembered in the earlier Book. If any friend or relative wants this earlier Book displayed for a particular date or occasion, could they please ask the vicar or churchwardens.

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### ***Parishes follow cathedrals with bigger Christmas congregations***

Parish churches followed the trend set by cathedrals in attracting more Christmas worshippers, according to counts taken in 2005. The latest figures released by the Church of England show a six per cent increase in the Church of England's overall Christmas Eve/Christmas Day congregations last year.

The first figures to come out of the 2005 collection of Church of England attendance data show the 2005 Christmas congregation at 2,785,800, an increase of 156,500 over 2004. It is the highest figure since Millennium celebrations drew in 2.85 million in 2000.

Cathedrals saw their Christmas congregations grow by 14,000 in 2005, to 121,000. Parish congregations increased by more than 142,000. Christmas communicants also increased strongly, by four percent to 1,207,800

Cathedrals have seen a 28 per cent increase in Christmas Eve/Christmas Day congregations since 2000. The figures do not include worshippers attending carol services held during Advent. Nearly three-quarters of a million people, for example, attend cathedral services over the whole Christmas period.

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### ***Brisk walking is good for you***

Walk briskly for 15 minutes a day, every day – and within four months you could reduce your body fat levels by up to 1.9 per cent, according to recent research from Canterbury Christ Church University.

Brisk walking is a rhythmic, dynamic, aerobic activity that uses large muscle groups and brings numerous health benefits with minimal harm. Walking in short bouts is something that most people can conveniently include in their everyday life – which means they are more likely to keep at it.

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festive occasion. Perhaps my favourite memory is the final assembly which is just before the children go home on the last day of term. We light the hall with Christmas lights and candles, sing some favourite carols and remind ourselves of the Christmas story. It is a magical occasion.

Now, of course, all that is behind us and we are well into the new term and much is planned. One particularly exciting project is a whole school study of the arctic. We have forged links with Glenn Morris, an explorer and eco-campaigner, who is making an 8 month trip to the arctic starting in June. He has managed to twin us with a school in Greenland which is the most northerly school in the world! More news on this next month! In the meantime, I would encourage you to look at Glenn's Website [www.arcticvoice.org](http://www.arcticvoice.org).

Another big development for St Lawrence School is our new school hall. If you have walked or driven past the school in recent weeks you will see that the building is progressing really quickly. The outside is more or less finished – inside there is still some work to do but we are expecting completion towards the end of February. We are all looking forward to this with great anticipation because it will make a tremendous difference to our school facilities.

Finally, a piece of really good news. Just before Christmas we received a letter informing us that we had achieved 'ActiveMark GOLD'. This is very prestigious accolade which acknowledges the standard of our P.E. and Sport provision. Credit goes to Mrs Medhurst for her leadership in this area and, of course, to the children who participate with such enthusiasm in all weathers!

*Alison Saunders*

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### ***From the Registers***

20 December Burial of the ashes of the late Allan Robert Reid.

21 December Funeral and burial of the late Frances Kathleen Coles, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006, aged 87. We extend our deepest sympathy to all those who knew and loved Frances, especially to her children David, Brian and Kate, and to their families.



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### ***A Yearning for Knowledge***

A man went to the Police Station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant. "No, no, no!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"

**Thank you for donations to Special Collections at St Lawrence's services and events**

We are sorry that this February issue is the first we can say a proper Thank You to all who contributed so wonderfully to the special collections held in December:-

At the Celebratory Re-opening Service on 10<sup>th</sup> December: £623.65 plus a further £50 in regular envelopes – total £673.65.

From St Lawrence School's Christmas Concert and Carol Service:- £193.97 and £10.50 respectively, making the wonderful total of £204.47

For Christian Aid, at the Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December:- £353.34

and because much was given under Gift Aid a further £64.73 will be claimable by Christian Aid from the Inland Revenue.

From carol singing on 19<sup>th</sup> December, for Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust: £144.08

For Demelza House, at the Crib Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December £460.00

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**Christian Aid Indoor Table Fair**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 10 am to 12:30 pm, there will be an Indoor Table Fair at Christ Church URC Hall, London Road, Sevenoaks in support of Christian Aid. (This is similar to a boot fair, but indoors, with the table hire fee going to Christian Aid, but the proceeds retained by the seller). Tables can be hired for £10 (adults) or £5 (children under 11). This is a good opportunity to sell unwanted items or outgrown toys. Customers are needed too (Admission 20p). Refreshments will be available. Please support this new venture by Sevenoaks Christian Aid Committee. For further information, contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766) or to book a table phone 01732 459901.

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**Parish Pump**

This web site has been designed specifically for editors of parish magazines and is an absolute mine of information, funnies, graphics, etc, etc. I decided that I ought to subscribe to it and over the next few months I'll be including some bits and pieces from it. I hope you enjoy them. Ed

**Gretel's Lenten Treasure Hunt - open to everyone!**

Some treasure is hidden on the St. Lawrence Bookstall!

CLUE! It's hidden in one of the books for Lent.

You have three choices (1) Take treasure; (2) Put it in another book, for someone else to discover; (3) read one of the books, where you'll find even greater treasure! The only condition for the winner is that you do any two of the three options!

Even if you don't find the prize...do look further and borrow an exciting book for Lent - then you can keep eating chocolate!

The church is always open during daylight hours and the books will be on display from February 5th. Please form an orderly queue. Gretel Wakeham

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**Special Events for Lent**

The **Ash Wednesday** service to mark the beginning of Lent will be held at 10:00 am on 21<sup>st</sup> February – though the service is at St Margaret's Church in Underriver, it is for both our parishes.

As in previous years, Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District (includes our parish!) are co-ordinating **Lent House Groups**.

The theme will be “Can we build a better world?” – taking as one starting point inspiration the bi-centenary in 2007 of the abolition of slavery (c.f. William Wilberforce, and others).

The contributors to the course are Dr David Hope (former Archbishop of York), Leslie Griffiths (renowned Methodist broadcaster), Wendy Craig (actress), Archbishop John Sentamu, and Five Poor Clares from BBC TV's The Convent. Costs towards the booklet, CD/tape and postage will be £4.50 per participant.

As in previous years the hope is that by offering times and venues “across the churches”, a good choice will be possible, and participants will meet Christians from other traditions and churches.

The meetings will begin in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February, and will run for 5 weeks. Signup lists are available at the back of church. So that “best venues” etc can be found, and adequate notice given to those taking part, forms need to be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> February to one of the organisers (their names are given are on the forms).

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**A new Book of Remembrance for St Lawrence's**

As readers may well know, there is at the back of St Lawrence Church a Book of Remembrance in which limited details are given for all those whose Ashes are