



## Church Flowers for March



4 March LENT (No Flowers)  
 11 March LENT (No Flowers)  
 1 Apr LENT (No Flowers)

18 March Beryl Storey  
 25 March LENT (No Flowers)

### Services at St Margaret's Underriver March 2007

<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	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11 Mar</b>	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	<b>BCP</b>
		11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 Mar</b>	11:15	Mothering Sunday Family Service with Communion	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 Mar</b>	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 Apr</b>	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:00	Procession from foot of Carter's Hill to . . .	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	

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

### 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 Hesmith-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

# St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine March 2007



#### Priest in Charge

**The Reverend Dr Michael Cooke**  
 St Lawrence Vicarage  
 Stone Street  
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ  
 01732 761766

#### Reader

**Mrs Gretel Wakeham**  
 The White House  
 Bitchet Green  
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NA  
 01732 761534

#### Church Wardens

**John Morris**  
 Beaconsmount, Pine Tree Lane  
 Ivyhatch  
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NJ  
 01732 810227

**Hilary Denby-Jones**  
 Broomsleigh Park  
 Seal Chart  
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES  
 01732 763883

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

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)  
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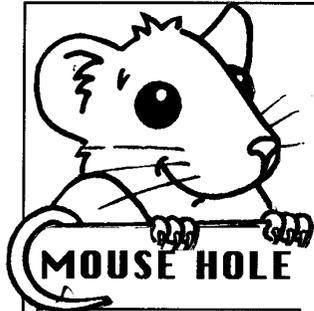
**Services at The Church of St Lawrence**  
**Seal Chart, March 2007**



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 March Second Sunday of Lent</b>			
	08:00	Holy Communion (said) Philippians 3: 17- 4:1	Luke 13: 31:35	BCP
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School) Psalm 27: 1, 4-6, 13-14	Luke 13: 31-35	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8 March Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b>			
	10:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11 March Third Sunday of Lent</b>			
	09:45	Family Communion (with hymns) 1 Cor 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9	CW
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 March Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday</b>			
	08:00	Holy Communion (said) 2 Cor 5: 16-21	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	CW
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (with children in church) 2 Timothy 1: 3-10		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>23 March Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b>			
	10:00	Shepherd's Cottage, Heaverham Road, Kemsing		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 March Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday</b>			
	09:45	Morning Prayer (with hymns) Isaiah 43: 16-21	John 12:1-8	BCP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 April Palm Sunday</b>			
	08:00	Holy Communion (said) Philippians 2: 1-15	Luke 23: 1-49	BCP
	09:25	Walk from foot of Church Road to . . . .		
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (children in church) Luke 19: 28-40	Philippians2: 5-11	

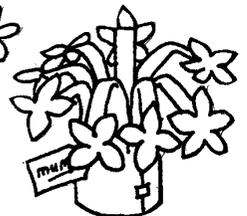
BCP = Book of Common Prayer - a service using traditional (17th C) language and form;  
 CW = Common Worship - a service using contemporary (21st C) language and form

**For the Children**

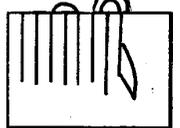


**MOUSE HOLE**

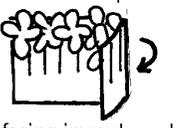
**Flower Cards**



To make a 3D flower card, cut strips 1.5cm wide and about 12cm long, from an A4 size sheet of thin green card or thick paper.



Curl lots of large flowers from coloured paper and stick one onto the end of each strip. Curl round with the flowers facing inwards and stick. Write a message on a tag and stick to the pot.



**THANK YOU MUM**

Thank you Mum for all you do,  
 For all your love and care,  
 For helping me to tie my shoes,  
 And brush and comb my hair.



For cuddles when I'm frightened,  
 For hugs when I am sad,  
 For loving me when I am good,  
 And *still* loving me when I am bad!



For teaching me about Jesus,  
 Of how he loves me too,  
 Thank you Mum for loving me,  
 I LOVE YOU!



To \_\_\_\_\_  
 love **Samuel**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

To \_\_\_\_\_  
 love **Isaac**  
*Genesis 17:19*

To \_\_\_\_\_  
 love **Joseph**  
*Genesis 30:24*

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## Thank You

To everyone who contributed to the collection at the Taizé united service at St Lawrence's on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January. A total of £125.60 was collected, and sent directly to Feed the Minds for their Project to revamp their Assemblies for Schools website.

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## Some Prayers for us to pray during March

- For the innocent 'ordinary' people of the Middle East, caught in the cross-fire of big-power politics
- For Mothers – especially those who are single or for whom family relationships have turned difficult
- For holiness as we live in a consumer-driven society

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### St Lawrence Sunday School PROGRAMME UNTIL MARCH 2007



Sun	4 Mar	Sunday School Timothy - His mother and grandmother	Elspeth & Celeste
Sun	18 Mar	Mothering Sunday	
Sun	1 Apr	Palm Sunday	
Sun	8 Apr	Easter Sunday	
Sun	15 Apr	Sunday School Easter	Lyn & Helen
Sun	20 May	Sunday School The Only Way	Elspeth, Lesley & Hannah
Sun	17 Jun	Sunday School - St Lawrence Festival The Holy Spirit—Pentecost, Philip and the Ethiopian	Celeste & Beryl
Sun	15 Jul	Sunday School Peter and Cornelius	Hilary & Lesley
Tues	11 Sept	Planning Meeting (at Beryl's 20:00)	
Sun	16 Sept	Sunday School Paul and Barnabas	Elspeth & Helen

**Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown  
All children are welcome — Bring Mum or Dad as well!!!**

**For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Beryl Storey (451510)**

## From the Vicar

What do you think of when you hear the word “March”? Pause, if you like, before reading on ....

When I reflect - which perhaps like others I don't do enough - my grass-hopper mind skips to thoughts like:-

- Ø Gales -> all those trees toppled over recently because of strong winds -> the tree branch I did *not* stop to remove from the road -> the priest who walked by on the other side -> other things I don't do ..... ; or
- Ø Last month of winter -> final chance to get those preparatory jobs done before gardening takes off in a big way -> preparation in general .... ; or
- Ø March hare -> haring about -> needing to *stop* dashing about .... ; or
- Ø Marche militaire -> militarism in the world today -> anger at our own or another government's heads-in-the sand; -> innocent victims .... ; or
- Ø March of the penguins -> Antarctica -> What are we doing for climate change? -> Or, rather, what am I doing to *combat* climate change? ...

I'm sure there's a name for my kind of mind which jumps from one abstract idea (the name of a month) to some big world issues – or, more soberly, to my contribution – or lack of it - in God's real estate of earth. I'd like to think too that it's not just thoughts and prayers which come into my mind but some actions as well. I make resolutions like “I will go back next time with a bow saw and deal with that traffic hazard”; “I will oil those garden shears”; “I will not (and I didn't) comply with scurrilously inflammatory e-mails” – like the recent one about petitioning the government against differential charging motorists for their actual use of key roads.

We had a visiting Canadian family in church this past week, who have just spent several months walking the ancient pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela: a distance of 1,000 miles. You can't rush with three children under 10 and 2 donkeys! Similarly, I intend in 2007 to take a little more time not doing things – for me at least, the years 2005/6 were far too busy. I need time – and maybe you too do – to step back from the mad rushing about. When I think of what inessential activities I still find time for in a supposedly busy life, I know there is time – but will I make the necessary change in my ways? It's hard to break a comfortable habit!

Perhaps this is part of the reason that those who realise there is something and someone beyond this world take a month of a different lifestyle – which is one of the reasons for the reflective season of Lent (started this year on 21 February – so it's not too late!). I remember too that of course Lent isn't really about side issues like no chocolates, but about us and God who died on Good Friday (last day of Lent) – and why he did that for this otherwise mad, mad world. Now *there's* a thought - and a reason for a change.

With all Blessings,

Michael

**ONCE AGAIN IT IS TIME FOR CAROL'S CHURCH CLEAN DO -  
CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO?**

**THE CHURCH SPRING CLEAN  
WILL BE ON  
WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2007  
09:00 to 11:00**

The regular team of cleaners would welcome extra helpers, please,  
in order that the task can be completed more speedily.

Carol McLintock Tel 452964

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***Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust Fundraising***

Once again this year the PCC has made a commitment to donate £1500 to the work of the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and to raise this money as far as possible from events sponsored by parishioners. Through its two full-time youth workers, Judith and Jane, the Trust continues to do valuable work supporting young people in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area.

In 2006 we met our commitment by raising money from a number of small events run by parishioners in their homes. These included a bridge evening, a mothers' and children's lunch, coffee mornings and afternoon cream teas. We seek your support again to run some small events that can help us towards our target.

Everyone who participated last year said how much they enjoyed their event and were pleasantly surprised at the strong financial result.

If you would like to help towards us meeting our 2007 target please have a word with either of us and we can give any support you may need so that we can once again meet our obligation to this very worthwhile local cause.

John Morris     Gretel Wakeham  
01732 810227     01732 561534

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**Today is a gift: that's why it is called the present.**

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***Mad as a March Hare?***

Mad or not, this is the best time of year to see any sort of hare. But you'll have to be quick: the brown hare is Britain's fastest mammal, reaching staggering speeds of 35 to 45 mph over open ground. With their orange brown fur, powerful hind legs and black tipped ears, hares are magnificent and a pleasure to watch as they run.

If you are very fortunate, you may even see two hares 'box' this month, during their breeding season. One will almost certainly be an unimpressed female, telling an over-amorous male to get lost.

Sadly, hares in Britain are in serious decline. In the late 19th century, there were probably more than four million. Today, barely a fifth of this number remains. Their decline is due to modern intensive agriculture methods, however, not aggressive females!

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***A Little Knowledge . . .***

In a country home that seldom had guests, the young son was eager to help his mother after his father appeared with two dinner guests from the office.

When the dinner was nearly over, the boy went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of apple pie, giving it to his father, who passed it to a guest. The boy came in with a second piece of pie and again watched his father give it to a guest. This was too much for the boy, who said, "It's no use, Dad. The pieces are all the same size."

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***The Whole Truth and . . .***

The judge read the charges, and then asked, "Are you the defendant in this case?" "No sir, your honor, sir," replied Bob, "I've got a solicitor to do the defendin'. I'm the guy what done it."

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***A Prayer before Work***

My God, you are always close to me. In obedience to you, I must now apply myself to outward things. Yet, as I do so, I pray that you will give me the grace of your presence. And to this end I ask that you will assist my work, receive its fruits as an offering to you, and all the while direct all my affections to you.

*Brother Lawrence, Carmelite monastery 1611 – 1691*

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***Special Forthcoming Services***

***Mothering Sunday (18 March)***

Even if you are not a mother, our 9:45 am special service is still for you! - for at least two good reasons:-

- (a) Because everyone has, or had, a mother – and we give thanks for them;
- (b) Because Mothering Sunday is also about celebrating and both giving to and drawing strength from our wider church family

In fact, Mothering Sunday seems to have started as a pilgrimage to the mother church of the diocese – and as many of us know it was to fortify people for this pilgrimage that Simnel cakes were baked. The Sunday is also known as Refreshment Sunday. May it be so for all those who look after others – especially for mothers.

Please note that because people will want to be together at worship this Sunday, the usual **Sunday School will be taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> March** instead of 18th! Please mark that change in our diaries.

***Palm Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> April)***

Although it is April Fool’s Day, what happened on around 30 AD is no larking matter! To mark the start of this most holy week in the Christian Year, we are invited to gather at 9:25 am at the foot of Church Road, and from there to walk with palms – hopefully also with a pony or donkey – up to church for a special service at 9:45 am. We will enact that entry of Jesus into Jerusalem – and recall how the great rejoicing of the crowd turned so completely different by Good Friday.

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***Gender and Church Attendance***

Almost three-fifths, 57%, of those who attend church in England are women. This is one of the findings of the 2005 English Church Census whose results were published last year in the book ‘Pulling out of the Nosedive’. The percentage has not changed greatly since the first Census in 1979 when it was 55%, although it rose to 58% in 1989 and 1998.

The male percentage is just over two-fifths, 43%, but although this has increased since the 1998 percentage of 42%, this isn’t because more men are coming to church. The male percentage has increased because so many women are leaving!

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***Do not stand at my Grave***

Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
 I am not there, I do not sleep,  
 I am a thousand winds that blow,  
 I am the softly falling snow,  
 I am the gentle rains that fall,  
 I am the fields of refining grain.  
 I am in the morning hush,  
 I am in the graceful rush  
 Of beautiful birds in circling flight,  
 I am the star shine of the night.  
 I am in the flowers that bloom,  
 I am in a quiet room.  
 I am in the birds that sing  
 I am in each lovely thing  
 Do not stand at my grave and cry  
 I did not die.

Hilary very kindly sent the words that so many of us have heard but never knew the origin. They were, it is said, found on a piece of paper in the pocket of a soldier killed in Northern Ireland.

It was initially thought that he had written the lines but a number of people claimed authorship. More recently the words have been attributed to Mary Frye and reported as “the most requested poem in the English language in the past 60 years”.

It was most famously used at the memorial service for the five astronauts who died in the Challenger space shuttle disaster.

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***News from our School***

Last week, together with most of the country, we enjoyed the wonderful snowy weather. Despite our rural location, St Lawrence School was NOT closed, in fact we made use of the snow to have a ‘snow sculpture’ competition and to build an igloo. A very creative time was had by all and the field looked magical.

Our children continue to be very active musically. A couple of weeks ago the Chamber Choir performed at the *Prep and Junior Schools Concert* held at Sevenoaks School. They sang three short unaccompanied pieces in two and three-part harmony which went down very well. They also had the opportunity to listen to items from other schools and a performance by pupils of Sevenoaks School.

It is the time of year for parents to select the primary school they wish their child to attend. We recently had an open morning specifically with prospective parents in mind and were very encouraged by the interest in the school. In fact, I am now sure that, despite the falling birth rate in the Sevenoaks area our numbers are on the increase. This is a real encouragement for everyone who has been working so hard to promote our small school.

As always, Mrs. Medhurst is making sure that our children are leading healthy and active lives. Our PE afternoons this term are at The Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, where the children make use of the gymnastics facilities and the swimming pool all in one afternoon. They arrive back to school exhausted!

We are already halfway through the term but there is still much to look forward to, including the grand opening of our new school hall!

*Alison Saunders*

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## Easter Events 2007

### Stainer's 'The Crucifixion'

at 7.30pm on Good Friday, 6 April at St. Mary, Kippington  
with a united choir - all singers welcome.

Rehearsals: Palm Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 3.30 – 5pm  
Good Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 – 5pm

Contact Valerie Ruddle (01732 450355) if you would like to sing, and please do try to get to both rehearsals. Otherwise, just come along on the evening and support us. There will be a collection for the Churches Together Literature Project for 2007.

### Silent Witness Walk—Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

The North West Fellowship of Churches will hold its Silent Witness Walk on Good Friday morning. If you would like to join them, you are welcome to meet up with them at 10.45am at the junction of London Road and Pembroke Road (opposite the Council Offices) and walk up into Bligh's for a short act of devotion at the clock tower at 11am.

**All are welcome.**

Please note, there will be NO Vigil on the Vine this Good Friday

*You are invited to support these events  
with other Christians in Sevenoaks and District*

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### The Future's Fishy

The Government is urging people to increase the amount of fish they eat. Food Standard Agency recommendations are that we should eat at least two portions of fish a week, including one portion of oily fish. Oily fish include varieties such as sardines, mackerel, trout and salmon. They are rich in omega-3 fatty acids which help reduce the risk of heart disease.

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### 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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### Help the Helpless – Leprosy Support in India

You are warmly invited to come and hear about Leprosy support work in India at **Christian Aid's Frugal Lunch on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 pm.** at St Mary's Church Hall, Riverhead. After a very simple lunch, the speaker will be Mike Downing, who is a member of Sevenoaks United Reformed Church and has recently returned from a visit to India in connection with his work with the charity 'Help the Helpless'. No tickets are required and all are welcome. There will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid what you would have spent on Sunday lunch.

For further information, contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766).

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### Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: "God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers".

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

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