

Services at St Margaret's Underriver April 2007

Sunday	1 Apr	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:05	Process from foot of Carters Hill to . . .	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Friday	6 April	11:15	Devotional United Service for Good Friday	
Sunday	8 Apr	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		11:15	Festival Communion	CW
Sunday	15 Apr	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	22 Apr	18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	29 Apr	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		10:30	Songs of Praise at St Lawrence's hymns)	CW
Sunday	6 May	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:00	A Short Service for All God's Children	

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

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, " We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

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

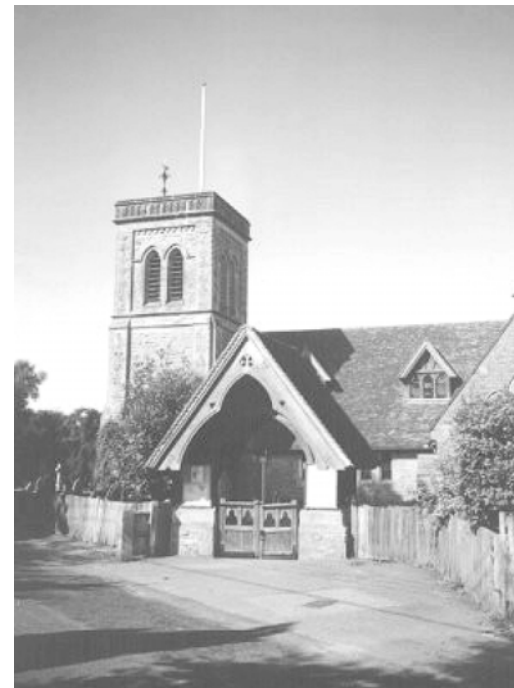
Churchwardens	John Morris	810227	Seal Parish Council		
	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	Chairman	Colin Milligan	761809
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Vice-Chairman	Tony Ansell	833756
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville	763832
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris	810227		Colin Milligan	761809
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Choir Director	John Morris	810227	Chairman	Peter Granville	763832
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Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Tony Webb	xd	Treasurer	Di Hesmith-Williams	810226
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Copy for the next issue, which will be in the Church on Sunday 29 April, should be sent to the editor **to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 18 April 2007.** (or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk)

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**St Lawrence, Seal Chart
Parish Magazine April 2007**

**Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!**



Priest in Charge

The Reverend Dr Michael Cooke

St Lawrence Vicarage
Stone Street

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01732 761766

Reader

Mrs Gretel Wakeham

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Seal Chart

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Services at The Church of St Lawrence
Seal Chart, April 2007



Sunday	1 April	Palm Sunday		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		BCP
		Philippians 2: 1-15	Luke 23: 1-49	
	09:25	Process from foot of Church Road to		
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (children in church)		
		Luke 19: 28-40	Philippians 2: 5-11	
Tues	3 April	Bible Study for Both Parishes		
		Ar Kettleshill House		
Thurs	5 April	Maundy Thursday		
	20:00	Holy Communion		CW
		Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14	1 Cor 11: 23-26	John 13: 1-17, 21b-35
Fri	6 April	Good Friday		
	09:10	Devotional Walk from St Lawrence to St Margaret's		
	11:15	Devotional United Service at St Margaret's		
Sunday	8 April	Easter Sunday		
	09:45	Festival Family Communion (with hymns)		CW
		Acts 10: 34-43	Luke 24:1-12	
Thursday	12 April	Prayer Time for Both Parishes		
	10:00	At The Vicarage		
Sunday	15 April	Second Sunday of Easter		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		CW
		Revelation 1: 4-8	John 20: 19-31	
	09:45	All Age/Family Service		
		Luke 24: 13-35		
Sunday	22 April	Third Sunday of Easter		
	09:45	Morning Prayer (with hymns)		BCP
		Zephaniah 3:14-20	John 21: 1-19	
	11:00	Annual Church Meetings		
Friday	27 April	Prayer Time for Both Parishes		
	14:00	At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green		
Sunday	29 April	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
	10:30	Songs of Praise for both Parishes		

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

The Easter Story

On a donkey, here's God's King!
"Hosanna, Hosanna" the people sing.

Eggs are given at Easter as a symbol of the **new life** we can have with Jesus.

Speckled Eggs
Colour boiled eggs by adding a few drops of food colouring to the water just before they have finished boiling. When cool, dab on diluted food colouring with a sponge to make a speckled effect.

But soon they say *"He's telling lies, he's not God's Son, so he must die!"*

Egg Games
 Decorate hardboiled eggs with friends, then roll them down a hill to see who's can roll the farthest without cracking!

Beaten and stripped, nailed to a cross, He only came to save the lost.

Enlarge the pictures from the Easter story by 200%. • Glue on card and cut out.
 • Glue the words onto the other side.
 • String together to make a mobile.

But three days later, where is he?
He has risen for all to see!

He is God's Son, He is our King, *"Hosanna, Hosanna"* God's people sing!

Read the Easter story in **Matthew** chapters 21, 26, 27 and 28

***The Annual General Meeting of the St Lawrence Village Association
will be held in Stone Street Village Hall***

on

Thursday 17th May 2007 at 8pm

Cheese and Wine will be provided at the end of the evening



Church Flowers

LENT—No Flowers Sunday 1 Apr
Bridget Stevens Sunday 8 Apr
Bridget Stevens Sunday 15 Apr
Sheila Jackson and Sunday 22 Apr
Pat Wilson Sunday 29 Apr

***Flower Rotas
for***



Memorial Flowers

Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi



***St Lawrence Sunday School
PROGRAMME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2007***



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

Less than 12 hours after I wrote the following letter, I found I had forgotten to turn up to an important advertised meeting! Mea culpa maxima! Woe is me!

Imagine what it would be like if you had spent ages preparing your home for a great party: the guest list is as complete as it possibly could be, and the garden has been immaculately tidied up - no weeds (tares they used to be called). Very careful thought has gone in to what food will be eaten (yes, you have taken account of every allergy), and indeed not only has advance notice gone out by Royal Mail, but you've also walked the highways and byways to deliver invitations in person.

And then specious excuses come in – which show that the recipients hadn't really valued your offer at all. Or, come the big day, folk don't bother to turn up – and those who do arrive think only of either abusing your home, or want only burgers and coke. Or chocolate – eggs or rabbits; worse still they may want to behave like rabbits.

You'd probably be mortified! Which, considering what that word means, is an appropriate description of how God surely feels at how we (collectively, we understand, but personally too) treat his invitation to share in his banquet in heaven. Literally he died on Good Friday to open the door to all - and though he amazingly rose again for ever two days later on that first Easter Day, the world – by-and-large – has gone its way as if nothing had happened. Or thinks of Easter as just eggs and holidays in the temporal sun (NB the two don't mix!)

In fact Jesus was well aware of our fallen inconsiderate nature, and even told some stories about guests who chose not to be part of his party – we can read it for ourselves in Luke 14: 16, or in a slightly different version Matthew 22. And although our baser nature and his plans don't fit well together either, he wondrously respects our choice even when he knows, as no-one else can, what a wrong choice will lead to. Think of how you feel when your children wilfully walk in ways which will only bring them great grief.

Of course, no one (not even a vicar) can prove the Resurrection to anyone who wills not to listen. Belief in Jesus is ultimately about appearing to take a big risk – foregoing a lower way of life that we know in our heart of hearts goes nowhere – and putting our trust in him. And then finding that it wasn't a risk at all, but the most wondrous decision we ever made – not so much for ourselves (though that is true), but for him, the Father of us all. The joy on his face when his children come safely in is what he died to achieve. Could we make it for him the best Easter present ever? Please let's do, and continue to remain his, for all time!

With all Blessings,

Michael

Special Forthcoming Services and Events

Maundy Thursday – and foot-washing

During this solemn service when we remember what Jesus said and did on the night he was betrayed, we shall for the first time for many, many years, re-enact Jesus' washing of his disciples feet. This is a custom which is observed in many churches – the last time in our parishes was with Revd Peter Simmons in the early 1990s. There is no obligation for anyone present to feel they must have their feet washed - but for anyone who might want to take part, please come prepared - i.e. not wearing tights or long socks.

Palm Sunday (1st 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. During the service we shall make our palm crosses – and look forward to Ellen Wakeham telling us some of the significance of this. (As we perhaps know, Ellen is in training at Cambridge for the ordained ministry.)

Good Friday (6th April)

As in previous years there will be a devotional walk from one church to another - this year it's downhill from St Lawrence's to St Margaret's, arriving in time for the traditionally reflective service at 11:15 am.

We leave St Lawrence's Church at 9:10am – no later! Bring stout shoes in case some of the way is still soggy underfoot; we trust there will be hot-cross buns in St Margaret's Village Hall from 11 am.

Easter Day (8th April)

What more can we say? - except let's all make the biggest effort to be in church to join in celebrating the defining day of Jesus' life – and our destiny.

Annual Church Meeting (11:00 on Sunday 22nd April)

This will take place after the refreshments which follow the morning service. The AGM will last approximately one hour, and is an opportunity for us all to hear what we have been achieving this last year, and to contribute to our plans for the future.

arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy.

* * * * *

Richard of Chichester (c1197 – 1253)

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full:

'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'

* * * * *

Some Prayers for us to pray during April

- For the innocent ‘ordinary’ people of the Middle East, caught in the cross-fire of big-power politics
- For those whose anniversaries (of birth, marriage, or death) fall this month
- For Ellen Wakeham as she starts the last ‘term’ of her first year in training for the ordained ministry
- Thinking of St George’s Day (23rd), for our nation, and a society seemingly driven by temporal pleasure:

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

(from the hymn “Lord, for the years”, by Timothy Dudley-Smith)

* * * * *

Christian Aid House-to-house Collection

During **Christian Aid Week (14 – 20 May)**, there will be a house-to-house collection in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area including St Lawrence Parish. Would you like to take some practical action to help some of the world’s poorest peoples build a better future for their communities? Just an hour or two collecting from a few local houses could raise enough to make a significant difference to the life of someone in a developing country. The more collectors we have, the easier the task, so please give prayerful consideration to helping. If you can help, or if you’d like to know more about what is involved, please contact me. If you live outside the parish and would prefer to collect in your own local area, do please still contact me and I can put you in touch with the organiser for your area. More collectors are needed in all areas. Thank you.

Elspeth Cooke

* * * * *

Why Easter will never go away - Alleluia!

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his

United Songs of Praise (29th April, 10:30am at St Lawrence’s)

Are there hymns you’d like to be sung? - perhaps which the vicar never seems to choose?! Then, provided you are going to be present at the service, let him know by Sunday 15th April your request, with a reason for your choice.

The service on 29th will be held this time at St Lawrence’s, but is for both our churches, and will be at 10:30 am.

* * * * *

What is Fairtrade?

St Lawrence’s is a Fairtrade parish, which means we use fair-trade products as far as possible, for example, only serving Fairtrade Tea and Coffee at church functions. A recent development in our commitment to Fairtrade is a monthly Traidcraft stall (and thank you to Libby Payne who has recently become a Traidcraft representative and runs the stall). But do you know what the Fairtrade label means and how does Traidcraft fit into the picture? Well here is a brief explanation.

Fair trade differs from standard trade in five principal ways.

- Fairtrade focuses on trading with poor and marginalised producer groups, helping them develop skills and sustainable livelihoods.
- It pays fair prices that cover the full cost of production and enable a living wage and other fair rewards to be earned by producers.
- It provides credit when needed to allow orders to be fulfilled and pays premiums to provide further benefits to producer communities.
- It encourages the fair treatment of all workers, ensuring good conditions in the workplace and throughout the supply chain.
- It aims to build up long-term relationships, rather than looking for short-term commercial advantage.

The FAIRTRADE mark

The FAIRTRADE Mark is an independent consumer label which appears on products as a guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal. For a product to display the FAIRTRADE Mark it must meet international Fairtrade standards which are set by the certification body Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO). Producer organisations that supply Fairtrade products are inspected and certified by FLO. They receive a minimum price that covers the cost of sustainable production and an extra premium that is invested in social or economic development projects.



Traidcraft

Traidcraft is the UK's leading Fairtrade organisation and a founder member of the Fairtrade Foundation which licenses FAIRTRADE products in the UK. Established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, Traidcraft pioneers the development of fair trade according to the five principles described above. It combines a trading company and a development charity and fights poverty through a wide range of trade-related activities.

For further information: www.traidcraft.co.uk and www.fairtrade.org.uk

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Training as a Reader

We are delighted to welcome to our parishes this month Mrs Fleur Parratt, currently a parishioner of St Matthew's in High Brooms, mother of four children, and who is training to be a Reader within the Church of England. Just as happened in Gretel Wakeham's preparation (where she spent time at St Philip's in Tonbridge), part of the training takes place in a parish (or parishes) very different from what the candidate has been used to. The intention is to ensure the eventual Reader has as wide an experience as possible, so that he or she can serve the church in a greater variety of situations. Please welcome Fleur, as over a six week period she takes various roles in our Sunday services and at the end (April 29th) we look forward to interviewing her at our united Songs of Praise service. May she have a happy time here, and may her shared experience inspire others to offer themselves for this highly valued ministry.

* * * * *

From your Organist

On 4th March, being overjoyed at the number of modern hymns that were called for, I decided to play a final voluntary (on the piano) of quite avant-garde music. This raised a few eyebrows, and I was invited to explain myself in writing. Hence:

Nineteenth Century - Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was the greatest pianist the world has ever known. In some ways this was a disadvantage to his reputation as a composer, as he used brilliant technique as a form of technology which would enhance his powers of composition. This was regarded with disfavour by many critics and musicians, who (not sharing his technical powers) claimed that his work was simply showmanship, not to be taken seriously.

In 1886 Liszt made a journey in a draughty train and caught pneumonia. He asked for brandy, but it was denied him (19th century PC), and he died shortly

afterwards.. (Dreadful lessons there for all of us). In that year he had completed a set of 7 short piano pieces in a cycle which he called 'Hungarian Historical Portraits' referring to distinguished personalities of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. These compositions were far removed from Liszt's earlier Romantic and glittering style, and are distinctly experimental in character. Numbers 6 and 7 of the set had already been published in Germany (and later republished by the Liszt Society in England). The manuscript of the first 5 was lost.

Twentieth Century - The lost manuscripts were discovered about 1956 and published in Milan. A copy found its way to a London music dealer, and was there spotted and identified by a young undergraduate in Modern Languages (who ought to have had better things to do studying for his degree). In May 1960 he performed No 2 of the set (Eotvos Jozsef) at a concert given by the University of London Pro Musica. A telephone call to the Liszt Society elicited the comment that, as far as they knew, this was the first performance in the UK.

Twenty-First Century - Motivated, as I have already explained, I dug out my copy of 'Ungarische Bildnisse' and played No 2 of the cycle. I have not noticed any of the set appearing in concerts and it may well be that that was its first airing in over 30 years - probably first ever time in Kent! The music is interesting for the light it casts on Liszt as a composer at the end of his life, and his experimental approach (rather like Beethoven after he became deaf). I understand that the congregation enjoyed it (at least I hope so) as is shown by the request to me to go into writing about it.

Would anyone like me to perform the full cycle of 7 some time?

David Walton

* * * * *

News From Our Sunday School

Our meetings in February and March were nice and cosy, being held inside the school. We had good programmes, learning about Samuel when he grew up and in March learning about Timothy and his mother and grandmother.

Unfortunately, due to half term holiday and the fact that the March meeting was not on the usual Sunday, we had only a few children, which was a shame.

We do hope that when we get back to the routine third Sunday in the month i.e. 15th April, more children will be able to come. Dates in diaries, please, we would love to see you.

Beryl Storey

* * * * *

Advance notice of date for the Parish Garden Party

This is due to be held on Saturday 19th May on Seal Chart. Please let's make a note now in our dairies of this date.