



*Flower Rotas
for*



Church Flowers

Gill Benyon
Gill Benyon
Margaret Bridle
Margaret Bridle
Kath Clarke

Sunday 6 May
Sunday 13 Apr
Sunday 20 Apr
Sunday 29 Apr
Sunday 3 June

Memorial Flowers

Services at St Margaret's Underriver May 2007

Sunday	6 May	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	13 May	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	20 May	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	27 May	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	3 June	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	

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	Elspeth Cooke	761766	Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Tony Webb	xd	Treasurer	Marie O'Connor	
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	Cricketer 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	Moir Clark	453271
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
S'oaks District Councillor	Cnelr Peter Coates	762129	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
			Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202

Copy for the next issue, should be sent to the editor
(or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk).

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Sunday 27 May 2007

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St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine May 2007



Priest in Charge

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Reader

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Please visit your church website on www.sealstlawrence.org.uk

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



Sunday	6 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13:31-35 09:45 All Age/Family Service (children in church) Acts 11: 1-18	BCP
Friday	11 May	Prayer Time for Both Parishes 10:00 At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	13 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) With the ministry of healing and wholeness Ezekiel 37: 1-14 John 5: 1-9	CW
Tuesday	15 May	Bible Study for both Parishes 20:00 At Kettlehill House, Underriver	
Thursday	17 May	Ascension Day (At St Margaret's, Underriver) 10:00 Holy Communion (said) Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Luke 24: 44-53	CW
Saturday	19 May	United Parishes Garden Party 14:00 At Fishponds, Seal Chart	
Sunday	20 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Acts 16: 16-34 John 17: 20-26 09:45 All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School) Psalm 97: John 17: 20-26	CW
Friday	25 May	Prayer Time for Both Parishes 14:00 At Shepherd's Cottage, Heaverham Rd, Kemsing	
Sunday	27 May	Pentecost (Whitsuntide) 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns) Acts 2: 1-11 John 14: 8-17, 25-27	BCP
Sunday	3 June	Trinity Sunday 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15 09:45 All Age/Family Service (children in church) and Holy Baptism Psalm 8	BCP

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

Jesus did not leave us on our own after he had gone to heaven to be with God his Father. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and to help us...

The Holy Spirit helps us to know we **belong** to God

The Holy Spirit **teaches** us about God and helps us to **understand**

The Holy Spirit **lives** with us and he **lives** in us!

The Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak and gives us **words** to **pray**

The Holy Spirit **speaks** God's word to us

The Holy Spirit helps us to **tell others** about Jesus

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, there was a sound like the blowing of a violent wind.
 Make wild wind sounds: Cut a drinking straw in half, flatten at one end and cut into a shape. Put this end between your lips and blow! Cut straws to different lengths and see what sounds they can make.

Read what happened at PENTECOST in Acts 2: 1-41

**AT HEAVENS
 PSWIOTBOL
 SPIRITLIL
 PENTECOST
 GODGETWES**

The wind has jumbled the words, can you find them?
 PENTECOST • HEAVEN
 BLOW • GOD • SPIRIT
 NOISE • WIND

FAN-TASTIC!
 1. Tape 2 sheets of paper together, then decorate

2. Fold the paper backwards and forwards to the end. (each pleat = 2cm wide)

3. Fold the pleats up at the bottom and tape. Open out your fan and fan!

The Mobile Phone vs The Bible

What would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?
What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
What if we flipped through it several times a day?
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to our children as a gift?
What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?
Unlike our mobile, we don't have to worry about our Bible being 'disconnected'
because of an unpaid bill. Jesus already paid the bill. In full.
And just think - no dropped calls! God hears them all!

Anon

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Advice???

By following the simple advice I heard on a TV chat show, I have finally found inner peace. The TV doctor advised: "The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you've started and never finished." So, I looked around my house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished, and before leaving the house this morning,

.....I finished off a bottle of White Zinfandel, a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream, a packet of Jaffa Cakes, the remainder of my old Prozac prescription, the rest of the cheesecake, some Doritos and a box of chocolates. You have no idea how good I feel! The man is a genius!



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



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

Do you ever wonder what your parish priest does with his time? Seriously, someone really did say to me on Easter Day "This is your busy day of the year"! Well, not exactly – Easter is meant to be *celebrated*, not worked, and in fact the great majority of the labour for any service is done midweek. Hymns, for example, are chosen up to 3 months earlier – though particular circumstances occasionally result in late adjustments being needed!

Interestingly, the diocese pays 24.5% of a standard stipend for each of my two parishes; behind this unusual percentage lies what Baldrick might call a "cunning plan". In 1996 when I was appointed as your priest-in-charge, a national system restricted appointments in what were considered to be some of the "easier" dioceses (mainly in the more affluent South of England) so that posts in the "harder" dioceses would get filled. But if a minister was contracted for less than half a stipend he or she didn't count in the quota of ministers that a diocese was allowed to have! 49% was an imaginative way round the system: it shows churches too can be wiser than serpents!

Pro-rata, my ministry in the parishes equates therefore to a shade under 3 days a week - full-time clergy are supposed to serve 6 days a week with one day off - which in my case is advertised as Monday (please note!).

So what do I do with the rest of my working hours? Many will know that since 1997 I have also been serving Churches Together in Kent, the organisation sponsored by the main Christian traditions in Kent to facilitate and promote unity between Christians. The Director of the Kent Baptist Association, a Church of England Archdeacon, the Methodist Chairman of District, a Roman Catholic Bishop, and the Moderator of the United Reformed Church's Southern Synod jointly appointed me to this second (or is it third?) role as Ecumenical Officer for 'greater' Kent (i.e. now including Medway and the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley). So in between juggling midweek parish matters – which includes writing this article, time in prayer, dealing with the joys and sadnesses of baptism, marriages and funerals, parish meetings, forward planning, and limited visiting (if one had more time all of these could be done better) – I correspond, and travel the county sharing and encouraging situations where Christians are working together - or could do so more. I hope there may be space in a future issue to share with you why this working together is so vital – indeed the essence of what it means to be a Christian.

With all best wishes

Michael

Thank you

Dear Friends

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the generous Easter gift to the vicarage. We shall continue our room by room decoration of the house and hope to tackle the dining room this year. In the garden, a holly tree which had got much too large, was cut right back and this created a new area to develop. I finally got round to emptying and moving an old water tank which had been outside the back door and which I had been planning to convert into a planted container. It is now located as a central feature of the new area and was planted up with *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans', *Polystichum munitum* (sword fern) and variegated ivy with snowdrops as underplanting. A few months on and the planting is well established and thriving with the ivy cascading over the side of the tank.. I can report that the tomatoes in hanging baskets yielded an excellent crop (fed on liquid fertiliser from my wormery), but the climbing courgettes were not a success. This winter I planted miniature narcissi in the hanging baskets including two with our daughter's names - Jonquilla 'Suzy' is flowering as I write and is a bright yellow multi-headed variety with an orange centre and a gorgeous scent and Cyclamineus 'Jenny' is still in bud, but should be white with pale lemon corona. Thank you once again and love to you all.

Elsbeth

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A Follow-up

It has long been a precept of mine that all evil is self-destructive in the end.

The name of Bukharin was familiar to me from having read that monumental work 'Eastern Approaches' by Fitzroy Maclean. In this I learned that Bukharin had occupied high positions of power under various sorts of Communism and was regarded as the dialectician of the party and authority on political matters - a very dangerous chair to occupy. History is littered with the stories of the right-hand men of famous dictators of whom they then fell foul, perhaps for getting too big for their boots.

Bukharin was no exception. He was arrested some 20 years after his denouncement of Christianity (see page 8 March Parish Magazine), and, together with a lot of others, charged with High Treason. It was a show trial with high public profile, to which western journalists were invited. Maclean succeeded in gaining admission as representing the embassy, and at at least one point found himself the object of the finger of suspicion as a British spy.

The outcome was, of course, a foregone conclusion. Despite a brilliant defence rather in the style of Sir Thomas More (who had likewise found himself in the same highly-charged position) Bukharin was automatically found guilty, and

From the Registers

18 April

Memorial service for the late Richard Harold Botterill, father of Sally, David and Charlotte. We pray for the family on this major event in their lives.

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The New Textiles



having the red Christian Aid Week envelope ready to collect with the Gift Aid declaration completed if you are a taxpayer. This enables Christian Aid to reclaim the tax on your gift – over £1million extra for Christian Aid’s work last year. So please take those extra few seconds to complete the declaration and think what could be achieved with another million

◆ **Help with Station Collection at Sevenoaks Station**

Could you spare an hour during the morning or evening rush-hour to 'rattle a can'.

Please contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766) to offer to help or for further information about Christian Aid.

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Could you help?

The Hospice of Hope Tea Shop in Otford (formerly known as Ellenors) is a popular, well established teashop. It is known to many locals and forms part of a charity network dedicated to the support and development of hospice care throughout Romania.

At present we are looking for volunteers able to give a few hours a week, either in the tearooms or manning the till.

If you feel able to give it a go just drop in and enquire anytime or simply phone on 01959 524322 for more details.

Tessa Worthington

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Parish Garden Party: 2 pm on Saturday 19th May

We should have found with our copy of the magazine an orange ‘flyer’ giving details of our Parish Garden Party on 19th May at Fishponds. Fuller details, including how to find Fishponds, are on that flyer. Please let’s make every effort to come and enjoy one of the most beautiful gardens in the Sevenoaks area, and support the stall-holders.

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A Riddle

Thinking of any relationship there may be between pay and time worked, I hope you know the fallacy in the riddle about how much someone is worth:- If someone works 8 hours in a 24 hour day (equates to 122 full days in a Leap year); if they have off Saturdays and Sundays (i.e. a total of 104 days in a year – so they only work 122 less 104, i.e. 8 days net); and even if they take but 10 days holiday, why do we pay them so much for *not* working 2 days?!

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shot.

Many many years later (recently, in fact) Bukharin's name came into the newspapers again. In Russia there had been a revision of old scores, and a strong movement insisted that Bukharin had been innocent of all 'crimes'. The authorities agreed, and he was 'rehabilitated' - which was doubtless a source of great consolation to him.

In his book, Maclean mentions having visited the Cathedral, transformed into an 'Anti-God Museum'.

David Walton

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Sunday School 15th April

Today six children came to hear the wonderful news of Jesus’ resurrection! We were fortunate to be in the new school hall which is so roomy, welcoming and well equipped.

The theme of the lesson was “celebration” in the form of a party, celebrating the wonderful news that Jesus is alive.

We heard the story of the resurrection from Mark Chapter 16 verses 1-8, and also learned more about the story in a “pass the parcel”, ending with party poppers for the children to pull!

We had great fun decorating cakes for the children to enjoy and to take back into Church at the end of the service.

We all had a great time together learning about and celebrating Jesus’ resurrection and the wonderful news that he is alive and with us all today.

Helen and Lyn

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Church Textile News

The new Altar Rail Kneeler

Thursday 19 April is the day when the new long altar kneeler is cut off from the loom. Our replacement kneeler has been designed and woven by Philip Sanderson, the designer director at The Tapestry Studio, West Dean, Nr Chichester. Philip has been working on the kneeler since the autumn and has now finished weaving. When the weaving process is complete the tapestry is cut off from the loom with great ceremony as this is the first time the woven piece can be seen in its entirety: the weaving process involves winding the finished part around a beam on the loom so only a small area is visible for working on at any one time.

After the woven piece has been cut off, it is laid flat and stretched before making up into the kneeler shape. Making a kneeler shape, a 3D object, is a new departure for the Tapestry Studio staff who generally work on flat tapestries for

wall hangings. Fortunately West Dean centre has plenty of experts in design of all kinds, including furniture, and it is with advice from these members of staff that our kneeler will be constructed. The completed kneeler should be in church in the next few weeks and will be dedicated at a service in June. Philip is also designing and weaving the two small sanctuary kneelers for either side of the altar, to match the large kneeler. The designs are a unique interpretation of the life cycle incorporating trees, leaves and the colours in the church windows which he has taken from the surrounding countryside and the church community.

Michael, Elspeth, Gretel and I were privileged to be at the cutting off ceremony and delighted to see the completed piece. (see page 9)

Other Kneeler News

Work on the two new high kneelers for the congregation and the Minister's seat cushion and kneeler is progressing very well. Each week the St Lawrence Stitchers enjoy a busy social meeting stitching and chatting. It will be several months before these are completed.

Cleaning the existing congregational kneelers and other church textiles is almost complete and we look forward to having them all back in church soon. *Roz Morris*

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News from our School

The end of the Easter Term saw a very exciting event in the life of our school – our new school hall is now finished and very much in use! We celebrated its completion on Red Nose Day and managed to raise £100 by singing to the parents and selling Red Nose Day cakes. This was a very fitting way of saying 'thank you' for this lovely new facility which is already making a tremendous difference to the day to day running of our school.

The recent summery weather has encouraged us all to make full use of the many sports opportunities available. We have booked professional coaching in tennis and cricket and will be taking part in several inter-schools competitions; rugby, swimming, cricket, girls' football – to name a few. We are also planning a 'Health and Fitness Week' later on in the term - our children are certainly well exercised!

As well as our sporting activities we have many other things to look forward to. The summer term brings many popular annual events and, of course, there is the warmer weather which enhances many of the otherwise routine activities. Our older children are particularly looking forward to our trip to The Isle of Wight - it is always a highlight of their time at St Lawrence. We hope to visit the other St Lawrence Church and see the memorial plaque for Mary Wilkinson, the daughter of the school's founder.

The atmosphere around the school at the moment is very positive. I am proud of

the very hard working team of teachers and classroom assistants who manage to be both professional and cheerful!

Alison Saunders

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Christian Aid Week 13 – 19 May 2007

Climate change is a hot news topic just now and we are all being urged to do what we can to protect the environment. But have you ever thought how devastating the effects of climate change can be on some of the poorest peoples in the world? Take El Salvador, for instance. "We definitely have more hurricanes and floods than we used to. I've lived here all my life and it wasn't like this before. Strong winds and big waves from the sea cause more floods now" says Dominca Echevarría.

Dominica and her husband live in the San Luis la Herradura area of El Salvador. This area is particularly prone to natural disasters. Hurricanes are a growing threat, and the low-lying land is very susceptible to flooding. Dominica's brother, Chus, aged 15, likes to get involved with his community in a practical way, and works with Christian Aid partner Aprodehni, putting down tyres and filling sandbags to strengthen the river bank. This vital work helps his community to live with the effects of climate change.

Aprodehni encourages people to get involved in, and take responsibility for, protecting and developing their own communities. Its work includes reducing the risks created by natural disasters, reducing environmental pollution and responding to emergencies. The changing climate is creating a situation that calls for an urgent response.

Archbishop Oscar Romero memorably referred to the 80 per cent of El Salvadoreans living in poverty as a 'crucified people'. Chus is just one of these 'crucified people'. Yet with the help of Aprodehni, he is helping to save lives. Although he is poor, he is helping people to adapt to climate change and to live with the effects of natural disasters.

By supporting Christian Aid you will be enabling Aprodehni not only with tasks such as cleaning up wells after a flood, but also to pay for the education and training of the local community – people who can make an immediate difference, particularly young people like Chus.

What can you do to help?

◆ Support the House to House Collection in St Lawrence Parish

Could you help distribute and collect envelopes from a few houses during Christian Aid Week (13-19 May)?

◆ Have the Red Envelope ready for collecting and complete the Gift Aid slip if you are a taxpayer.

Even if you are not able to be actively involved in collecting, you can help by