

Services at St Margaret's Underriver June 2007

Sunday	3 June	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	10 June	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	17 June	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
		10:30	United Service at St Lawrence's	
Sunday	24 June	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	1 July	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW

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

From the Children

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a really good time as I am."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children why it was necessary to be quiet in church. One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

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	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	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	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).

to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 13 June 2007.

The next issue, for July, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on

Sunday 24 June 2007

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
Printed by Highland Printers, 23 High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0AN (01732 762131)

St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine June 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

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

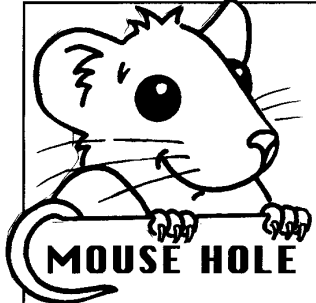
**Services at The Church of St Lawrence
Seal Chart, June 2007**



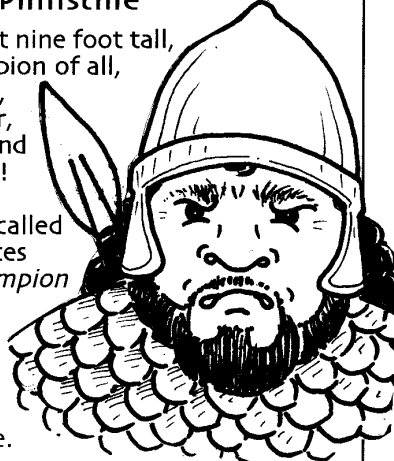
Sunday	3 June	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion (said) Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15 09:45 All Age/Family Service (children in church) and Holy Baptism Psalm 8	BCP
Wednesday	6 June	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	10 June	First Sunday after Trinity Family Communion (with hymns) Galatians 1: 11-24 Luke 7: 11-17	CW
Sunday	17 June	Second Sunday after Trinity St Lawrence Dedication Festival Service (with Sunday School) 1 Chronicles 29: 6-19 Ephesians 2: 19-22	
Friday	22 June	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	24 June	Birth of John the Baptist - Third Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer (with hymns) Isaiah 40: 1-11 Luke 1: 57-66, 80	BCP
Sunday	1 July	Fourth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion (said) Galatians 5: 1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) 1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21 Luke 9: 51-62	BCP
Friday	6 July	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	

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

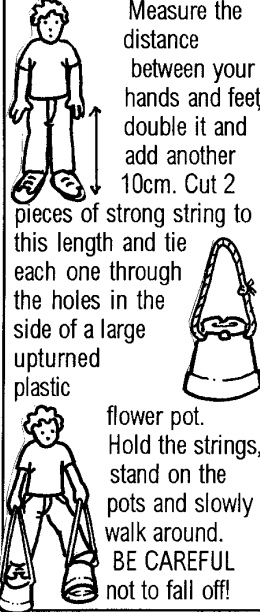



Goliath the Philistine
Goliath's a giant nine foot tall,
He is the champion of all,
He has a sword,
he has a spear,
When he's around
all run in fear!

He jeered and called
to the Israelites
"Send your champion
out to fight!"
Instead,
dismayed
and terrified,
They ran away
in fear to hide.


But David the shepherd boy had no fear,
Because he knew that God was near.
He took his staff, he took his sling,
And *in the name of the Lord*, ran out to him.

Giant Steps
Make 'Goliath' stilts:
Measure the distance
between your
hands and feet,
double it and
add another
10cm. Cut 2
pieces of strong string to
this length and tie
each one through
the holes in the
side of a large
upturned
plastic
flower pot.
Hold the strings,
stand on the
pots and slowly
walk around.
BE CAREFUL
not to fall off!



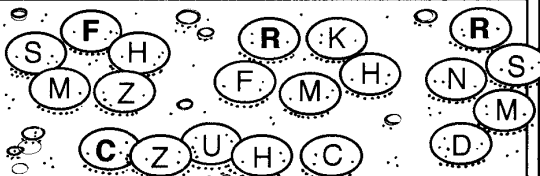


Goliath was a giant
nine foot tall,
No longer the
champion of all,
David struck him
on the head,
With one small stone,
he struck him dead!

 Read how David's faith in God saved
the Israelites in **1 Samuel : 17**

Do you measure up?
Measure 9ft (270 cm)
up or along a wall
then measure
yourself against it -
*how much smaller
than Goliath are you?*

Change each letter on the stones to the one
after it in the alphabet to find 4 five letter words





I am very grateful to the continuing support that the school receives from the PTA which has been particularly active in recent months. Last Sunday they once again organised a very successful 'Bluebell Walk' which was enjoyed by children, parents and dogs! As always, the bluebells were stunning.

Last week we were very honoured to be invited to be involved once again in an International Evening at Sevenoaks School. Our children were asked to do an Indonesian Dance to accompany the Sevenoaks School children playing their gamelan (best described as an Indonesian orchestra). The children all danced beautifully retelling the traditional story of Roma and Sintia. The evening was a tremendous occasion – a real international experience.

Alison

+++++

	Flower Rotas	
Church Flowers	<i>for</i>	Memorial Flowers
Kath Clarke	Sunday 3 June	Annie Scarsi
Kath Clarke	Sunday 10 June	Francesca Turner
Wedding	Sunday 17 June	Francesca Turner
Wedding	Sunday 24 June	Sue Labrum
Wedding	Sunday 1 July	Sue Labrum

	St Lawrence Sunday School	
PROGRAMME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2007		
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	Elsbeth & 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

I am writing this on the day that Tony Blair is announcing his stepping down as leader of his party. And by the time you read this, we will have been inundated with analysis of his time as Prime Minister - things achieved (I won't be party-political to mention them – but we should acknowledge several major successes), and things less well done (I will cite Iraq). History will decide, we say, where his premiership lies on the scale 0-to-100.

But is Tony Blair measured best by what he did or failed to do? Closer to the heart, what about you or me? If it is by our actions or deeds, then if we are truthful it will always be a matter of "Could have done better – or even much better". In Biblical language, to fail in even one thing is to *sin* and fall short of what we could and should have done. We (or others at our funeral) may try to cast a rose-tinted view, but any sensible person who has been present at such a eulogy is not fooled – nor, most definitively, is God. Which should cause thought for the spin- or image-making industry.

But the good news is that in truth, however important is what one does, *who one is*, is even more significant. In his famous passage in 1 Corinthians 13, when he writes about the supremacy of love, St Paul says that even doing beautiful things counts for little if not accompanied by love: lovely actions can only truly stem from a person in love. (Nasty things may come from a nasty person, but can also be caused by outside wrongs.)

This principle of *Being* even more important than *Doing* applies "*a fortiori*" to God. Because of the limitations of where and when he was in this world, some might think Jesus' life too was limited in its effect - he could have healed more, taught more, or done more. Actually, he achieved everything: "It is finished/completed" was his cry, and it is a fact that the vast majority of his achievements were not to take place within his 30 years in Palestine, but worked out in eternity in the cosmos. And who he is - in the perfect relationship of love within the Godhead - is the guarantor of all of this.

This is a long, but timely, preface to the primacy of Trinity Sunday in the Christian Year. On 3rd June we celebrate God for who he is – and therefore we can recall the intended destiny of each one of us Beings, made in his image. What a joy then that this year two Baptisms are also taking place that day! Even if you don't normally come to church, why not give it a try on 3rd, and so be part of the making of real history for the two families who, with God at their side, make affirmations towards eternal Being with and in God.

With all best wishes,

Michael

ST. LAWRENCE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

CAR TREASURE HUNT

on

SUNDAY 24TH JUNE 2007 at 2.30 pm

Starting from the field between the Padwell Arms and
Stone House, Stone Street

ENTRANCE & BBQ

Adults - £7.50 Children - £4.00

FOOD ONLY WITH TICKETS PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

BY 20th JUNE

Contact: Mrs J K Moynes - 01732 760640

+++++

General John Gowans at 10:30am on 17 June ...

We are greatly privileged to be welcoming General John Gowans as guest preacher at St Lawrence's Dedication Service. Between 1999-2002 John Gowans was the 16th General of the (world) Salvation Army, having previously served with his French wife Gisèle in many locations worldwide, including California, France, Australia and the UK. John is also a renowned composer of songs and hymns (one is in our hymn book), and of musicals. He is also author of books of prayer poems. We greatly look forward to his visit, where he will speak on "What we have done for others, we have done for Him!" *[More details of John's biography are easily found on the internet.]*

+++++

Good for your heart

When was the last time you laughed until your sides hurt? It may have left you breathless, but it could also have given a boost to your immune system, stress levels and heart. Findings of a recent study at the Vanderbilt University in Nashville show that Genuine laughter makes your heart beat faster and increases energy expenditure by up to 20 per cent. So the longer and more often you can laugh, the better!

5. You know people's email addresses before their home addresses.
6. Your reason for not staying in touch with various friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
7. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the shopping.
8. Every advert on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
9. Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.

+++++

Closure

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!

+++++

News from our School

We are now well into the Summer Term and although the weather so far has not always been 'summery', we are nevertheless enjoying many of the traditional summer activities. In particular, our maypole has been brought out of winter storage and the children's efforts at maypole dancing has made many a rambler stop in their walk past the school and watch!

Last week the year six children (10 and 11 year olds) sat the annual SATs tests which are a rather unpleasant necessity which have to be tackled each year. However, they have worked very hard and cheerfully, and we expect some good results. With these tests out of the way, the children will soon embark on a new project in conjunction with the National Trust. They will spend a week at Ightham Mote learning and absorbing the history of the building, and working with Stoney Parsons, a glass artist, to create their own piece of stained glass. It promises to be a very exciting week.

Keep Fit this Summer

Forget expensive health clubs and fitness centres! Follow the suggestions below for your fittest Summer ever by:

- Playing tennis on the grass court at Bitchet Green
- Chasing the rabbits off the court
- Helping maintain the court for the community, for an all round workout!

The court will be ready to play shortly. Please see enclosed leaflet to join. A bargain at £13 per adult, or £28 for family and friends membership. No charge for helping with the maintenance only! Your support is appreciated! Please contact either Gretel Wakeham (761534) or Ian Lister (762416). *Gretel*

+++++

What's it all about?

You're T. S. Eliot,' said a taxi driver to the famous poet as he stepped into his cab. Eliot asked him how he knew. 'Ah, I've got an eye for a celebrity,' he replied. 'Only the other evening I picked up Bertrand Russell, and I said to him, "Well, Lord Russell, what's it all about?" And, do you know, he couldn't tell me.'

And what *is* it all about!

What is the purpose of being here at all? How does suffering tally with a loving God? What do Christians believe and why?

What, if anything, am I missing out on?

Even if you have just half thought some of these questions, there is the opportunity to find out more in the Autumn, when we are planning a short 6/7 week course on Exploring Christianity, starting mid September.

No credentials necessary and no strings attached!

For those who know nothing about the Christian faith and those who would like to know more: for sceptics, for believers and everyone in between.

Please ring Michael (761766) or Gretel (761534) for more information or to say you would like to attend. *Gretel*

+++++

You know you are living in 2007 when....

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 16 phone numbers to reach your family of 4.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust

If you'd like to know more about one of the main charities supported by our parish – Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (concerned primarily with meeting Young People where they are, i.e. not in formal Youth clubs or the like), then please do come to SAYT's Annual Service and AGM and find out more. These take place at St Mary's Kippington on Sunday 10 June at 6.30 pm, followed by refreshments. For more information, please contact Sue Baldwin (SAYT's Communications Facilitator) on 01732-459075.

+++++

Summer Solstice

June is of course is the month of the summer solstice, on the 21 June, the month of the Sun. While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All
He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

St Patrick

Palestine and Israel: An illustrated talk

Our parish has received an invitation from Sevenoaks Quakers to come to an illustrated talk by Rolfe Evans entitled “The pain that is Palestine: The Fear that is Israel: The Guilt that is Mine”. Rolfe has spent two recent periods in Palestine, working with the Israeli Coalition Against House Demolition. He aims to present a fuller picture of the situation in Palestine, and will be sharing reflections on ways in which the international community could become more involved. Date: 24th June, 2pm, at Quaker Meeting House, Hollybush Lane. (For more information, or to join for lunch beforehand, please phone Aldyth Rowe 01959-523699.)

+++++

Weekday Prayers

Monday Wash Day - Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday Ironing Day - Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday Mending Day - O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday Cleaning Day - Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday Shopping Day - O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday Cooking Day - Help me, my Saviour, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday The Lord's Day - O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

+++++

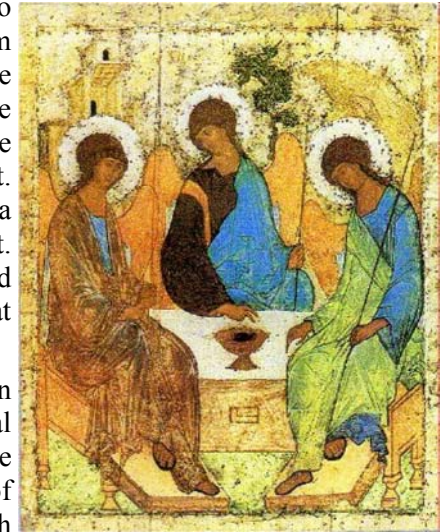
Lost without your Sat Nav?

If your car's satellite navigation stops working this summer, and you can't think of an earthly reason why, you are probably right. It is the sun that is to blame.

Scientists now believe that bursts of radiation caused by solar flares interfere with the signal from satellites orbiting the earth, causing the receivers in cars to lose track of their position. The scientists, funded by NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), hope that in studying solar flares they will find some answers. In the meantime, keeping a roadmap in the car might be a good idea!

God in the Arts

There is the story of the parish priest who commissioned an icon for his church from the orthodox monastery nearby. When the abbot rang to say the icon was ready, the priest said that he was too busy - could the abbot post it? “No, no,” replied the abbot. “The icon is a sacred object. Sister Thecla will deliver it.” “Oh, good,” said the priest. “She can stay for lunch.” “No, no,” insisted the abbot. “Sister will fast all day for that holy journey to deliver the icon.”



Icons have become popular in our western tradition, but we can forget the very special place they have in the life of the church. The icon is a window into the kingdom of heaven. When we enter an orthodox church with icons all around, we are entering that kingdom. As we stand and pray before an icon, if we can 'bridge the distance of the heart' (that space between the human eye and the icon), then God can reveal his glory to us.

For many, Andrei Rublev's icon of the Old Testament Trinity, painted in the early 15th century, is that kind of revelation, inviting the beholder into the intimate fellowship of God's triune life. The three men who visited Abraham at Mamre is often seen as a prophecy of the Christian revelation of the Trinity. The shimmering colours capture the heat of the day with the oak and tent behind the three figures standing for the tree of life and the church.

As you look at the icon, the three form a circle, but there are also two triangles: one from the middle figure down to the right and left bottom corners, and the other from the middle of the bottom up and out to the two figures at the side. They are in deep communion with each other, drawing us into that fellowship so that we all may be one as they are one. The Father is in the centre, his right arm billowing out towards the Son, and his right hand pointed to the Holy Spirit.

They are seated around a table which is like an altar. In the cup is the sacrifice that has been offered. It is the banquet of the eternal kingdom and we are called to be the guests. 'Love is the kingdom which the Lord mystically promised to his disciples....when we have reached love, we have reached God and our journey is complete. We have crossed over to the island that lies beyond the world, where are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.' (St Isaac the Syrian).

One of the several interpretations of Rublev's Icon of the Trinity can be found by clicking on to http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/rublevs_icon/rublev.htm

Ed