

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 July</b>	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8 July</b>	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	<b>BCP</b>
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15 July</b>	11:15	All Age Family Service	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22 July</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>St Margaret's Patronal Festival</b>	
<b>unday</b>	<b>29 July</b>	11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5 Aug</b>	11:15	A Short Service for all God's children	

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

### Zoo

One day Joe's mother turned to Joe's father and said, "It's such a nice day, I think I'll take Joe to the zoo." "I wouldn't bother," said father. "If they want him, let them come and get him!"

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### 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	Robin Watson	833930
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
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	xd
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 <sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk)).

**to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 18 July 2007.**

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

**Sunday 29 July 2007**

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## St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine July 2007



*Priest in Charge*  
**The Reverend Dr Michael Cooke**  
St Lawrence Vicarage  
Stone Street  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ  
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*Reader*  
**Mrs Gretel Wakeham**  
The White House  
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01732 761534

*Church Wardens*  
**John Morris**  
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Ivyhatch  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NJ  
01732 810227

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

*Have you visited the church website on [www.sealstlawrence.org.uk](http://www.sealstlawrence.org.uk)?*

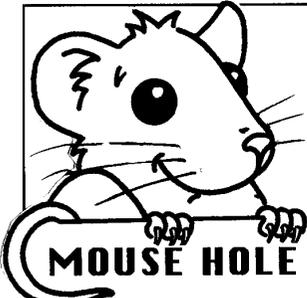
**Services at The Church of St Lawrence  
Seal Chart during July 2007**



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 July</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		<b>BCP</b>
		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	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6 July</b>	<b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)</b>		
	10:00	At The Vicarage		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8 July</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	09:45	Family Communion (with hymns)		<b>CW</b>
		Galatians 6: 7-16	Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15 July</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		<b>CW</b>
		Colossians 1: 1-14	Luke 10: 25-37	
	09:45	All Age Family Service (with Sunday School and Holy Baptism)		
		Deuteronomy 30: 9-14	Luke 10: 25-37	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19 July</b>	<b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)</b>		
	10:00	At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22 July</b>	<b>St Margaret's Patronal Festival - Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	10:30	<b>Festival Parish Communion (with hymns)</b>		<b>CW</b>
		<b>At St Margaret's, Underriver</b>		
	18:00	Evening Prayer (said)		<b>BCP</b>
		Genesis 18: 1-10a	Luke 10: 38-42	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29 July</b>	<b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	09:45	Holy Communion (with hymns)		<b>BCP</b>
		Colossians 2: 6-15	Luke 11: 1-13	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3 Aug</b>	<b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)</b>		
	14:00	At the Vicarage		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5 Aug</b>	<b>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		<b>BCP</b>
		Colossians 3: 1-11	Luke 12: 13-21	
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church)		
		Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2:18-23	Luke 12:13-21	

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

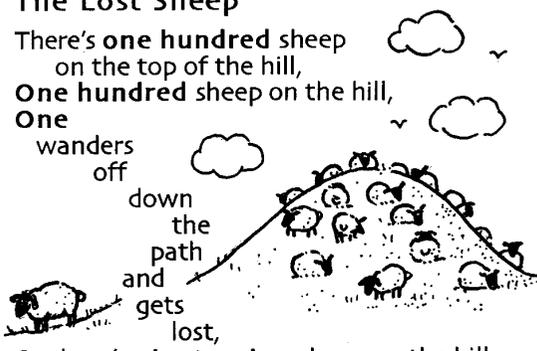
*For the Children*



**MOUSE HOLE**

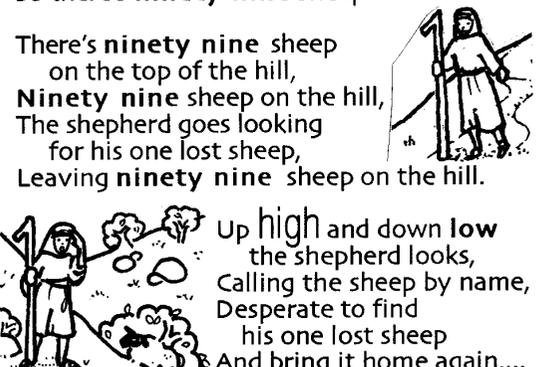
### The Lost Sheep

There's **one hundred** sheep  
on the top of the hill,  
**One hundred** sheep on the hill,  
**One**  
wanders  
off  
down  
the  
path  
and  
gets  
lost,



So there's **ninety nine** sheep on the hill.

There's **ninety nine** sheep  
on the top of the hill,  
**Ninety nine** sheep on the hill,  
The shepherd goes looking  
for his one lost sheep,  
**Leaving ninety nine** sheep on the hill.

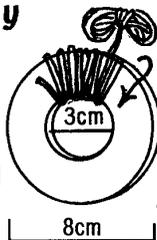
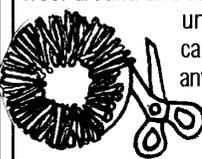


Up **high** and down **low**  
the shepherd looks,  
Calling the sheep by name,  
Desperate to find  
his one lost sheep  
And bring it home again...

There's **one hundred** sheep  
on the top of the hill,  
**One hundred** sheep on the hill,  
The shepherd has found his one lost sheep,  
So there's **one hundred** sheep on the hill!



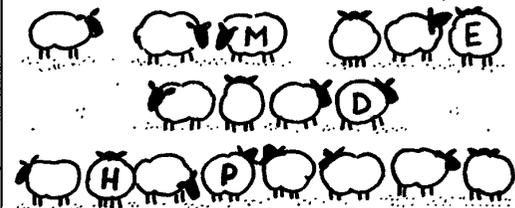
**Woolly Sheep**

- Cut two rings out of cardboard and wind white wool around and through until you can't wind any more.
 
- Cut between the rings then tie in the centre with a length of wool.
 
- Pull the cardboard off and fluff up into a pompom, then glue on a black card face.
 



Read the parable of the lost sheep in **Luke 15:4 - 10**

Find out who Jesus is... look up **John 10:14** and fill in the blank sheep.



**From the Registers**

3<sup>rd</sup> June Holy Baptism of **Poppy Mae Elliott**, infant daughter of David Elliott and Katherine Lambert, of 9 Horns Lodge Farm, Shipbourne

and of **Oliver John Livsey**, infant son of Tim and Claire Livsey of 3-4 School Lane, Trottiscliffe

We wish both families every joy in the new start in the Lord.

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**Who do you trust?**

75% of people trust clergy to tell the truth, according to a Mori poll taken in 2006, while 92% trust their doctors. Perception of clergy truthfulness has fallen since 1983 when it was 85%, while the scores for doctors and teachers have risen. Only 19% trust journalists, just slightly less than the 20% who believe that politicians are generally truth-tellers - this remaining more or less steady over this same period of time.

	<b>Flower Rotas</b>	
<b>Church Flowers</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>Memorial Flowers</b>
Wedding	Sunday 1 July	Sue Labrum
Wedding	Sunday 8 July	Sue Coombe
Wedding	Sunday 15 July	Sue Coombe
Wedding	Sunday 22 July	Gill Beynon
Wedding	Sunday 29 July	Gill Beynon
Annette McKellar	Sunday 5 Aug	Alix Lewis

	<b>St Lawrence Sunday School</b>	
<b>PROGRAMME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2007</b>		
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**

Have you a morning or an afternoon free over the next 2 months (till 23 September) .... to see what has rightly been described as a once-in a lifetime exhibition? I hope so – I sincerely believe you will not be disappointed.

This is the first time in 11 years of writing for our parish magazine that I am commending an exhibition – but, living up to all the accolades, “*Sacred: Discover what we share*” presents a unique collection of the world’s most important and beautiful religious texts from the three faiths which stem from Abraham (Jewish, Christian and Muslim). From the earliest-surviving fragments to modern examples, even one Qur’an from Kent, the range is amazing.

Altogether some 230 manuscripts, texts and other objects are on display. So, for example, the treasures include the Codex London (one of the oldest surviving manuscripts of the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament), which are central to Jewish worship; the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest complete manuscript of the New Testament and best witness for some books of the Old Testament too; the Ma’il Qur’an, one of the oldest Qur’ans in the world to have survived, dating from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century CE (this equates to the 1<sup>st</sup> century in the Muslim Hijri calendar.).

What is also unique is that these manuscripts are displayed *alongside each other* – not individually in separate zones. The texts are treated thematically, exploring points in common, looking at ways they have been produced, interpreted and used. Due to the different theologies (for example in Islam representation of a human, still less God, is strictly forbidden), different art forms developed; whereas Christian documents may be richly decorated with scenes from the life of Christ, or of the saints, the Islamic documents have relied on fabulous geometric patterns.

Amongst the other objects to be seen are icons, Jewish reading hands (the Torah is so sacred that the human hand must never touch the manuscript, so instead of pointing directly to the text with a finger, ivory or silver pointers are used); as we can imagine these are exquisitely carved.

The exhibition is at the British Library in London’s Euston Road. The Library (Tel 020-7412-7111) recommends pre-booking, but on a normal day that may not be necessary. (I didn’t have to.) And since entry is free, we can visit time and time again –and due to the wealth on display a second visit may well be needed. I certainly expect to be visiting again. Please don’t miss this opportunity. With all best wishes,

Michael

## WHAT DO YOU DO ON TUESDAY EVENINGS?

**St Lawrence Short Mat Bowls Club meets in  
The Village Hall from 7:00 pm until about 9:30 pm**



**Although we all enjoy playing the  
game, the social side  
is equally important.**



**It's not complicated, not energetic  
and we have all the equipment needed.**

**You have nothing to lose (apart from £1:50) and much to gain.  
Phone Peter Granville on 01732 763832 for more information**

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### ***999 Emergency Service.....***

Is prayer the last resort in a crisis? When the other services have failed do you think “there is nothing else to do, I'd better pray”

Perhaps praying is pointless, as there isn't anyone out there listening?

Noel Coward was once asked “What do you think about God?” to which he replied “We've never been properly introduced”

Why not find out more, as to whom it is we pray to and how one can be introduced?

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. There is a short evening course, on exploring Christianity, starting mid September for 7 weeks.

Please ring Michael (761766) or Gretel (761534) to let us know if you are thinking about coming along!

*Gretel*

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### ***St Lawrence Christian Aid Week Collection***

Thank you very much to everyone who collected and to all who donated so generously to this year's house-to-house collection in the parish. The splendid total of £1,475.90 was collected (approximately £1,777 including Gift Aid).



*Elsbeth*

shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: ‘Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety’.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that St Christopher became in due course the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

### ***The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus***

Do you tend to avoid conflict? When you feel stressed, do you crave sleep? Then the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus would be good patron saints for you. But - you may find it hard to copy their successful method of avoiding trouble!

Legend has it that The Seven Sleepers were third century Christians who lived in Ephesus during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Decius. When things got very bad, the Seven Sleepers decided to ‘go to ground’. Literally. They found a cave on the outskirts of the city and walled themselves in. The story goes that then God simply put them to sleep.

200 years later they woke up, and peeped out of the cave again. Things had changed: Ephesus had converted to Christianity. Unfortunately the Seven Sleepers did not get much time to enjoy the new freedoms, because within a short time they all died – of extreme old age.

The story was popularised in the 6th century by Gregory of Tours and Jacob of Sarugh, who venerated the Seven Sleepers as saints. But it was challenged by Baronius and many scholars since. It is sometimes called a Christianised pagan or Jewish legend akin to Rip Van Winkle.

A possible moral for anyone today is that when you find yourself in a storm of conflict, you don't have to fight all the battles yourself. You can indeed seek refuge in God. He may not put you to sleep for 200 years, but he will be a safe hiding place for your soul.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

### ***St Christopher The Patron Saint of Travellers***

The legend goes that Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and his Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith, and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along, and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that he was in fact Jesus Christ, and that he carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who he claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten,

### ***News from our School***

As is often the case at this time of year, there is so much going on at school that I am having trouble keeping track of everything! The children and staff continue to work and play extremely hard.

We have had considerable sporting success this month. There were some outstanding performances in the Sevenoaks Swimming Gala. In the small schools division we just kept on winning races!! Particularly deserving of a mention are Tom Hordle, Libby Swan and Michaela Pugh who between them, came first in too many races to list!

Our oldest children (Beech Class) have been involved in a very successful week long arts project at Ightham Mote. They spent the week immersing themselves in the history and beautiful surroundings of The Mote, as well as working with Stoney Parsons, a stained glass artist. Each child produced their own stained glass window and these are now on display in the Ightham Mote restaurant. Do visit and admire if you get the chance.

The children of Oak Class (8 and 9 year olds) have been involved in an equally exciting project. They have had some expert tuition in Indonesian Dance and then were part of a performance last Saturday at the re-opening of the Royal Festival Hall. It was a tremendous privilege to be a part of such a prestigious event and the children rose to the occasion and performed beautifully.



There is still much to happen this term including our end of year concert, the residential trip to the Isle of Wight, our Instrumental Concert, Open Evening, Health and Fitness Week ..... more about these next month.

*Alison*

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### ***Fairtrade grows***

Britons are helping create a Fairtrade revolution, according to the American-based Christian Science Monitor, with sales in 2006 up 46% from the previous year. According to Traidcraft, Britain has overtaken Switzerland to become the largest Fairtrade market, see the website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

***The Church is alive and active .....***

.. when some 110,000 Christians (with 50% under the age of 30) can gather together as they have just done in Cologne for 5 days of worship, discussion, study and culture. I was privileged to be present, and hope to be able to give a fuller report of encouragement in a future issue of our magazine – but here is a joke circulating at the meeting which I hope we can all appreciate:-

A new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his community. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one opened the door. Finally, he took out his visiting card, wrote on the back “Revelation 3:20” and stuck it through the letterbox. The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was a notation “Genesis 3:10.” Upon opening his Bible to the passage he let out a roar of laughter.

[Revelation 3:20 reads: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Genesis 3:10 reads: “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked”.]

*Michael*

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***Thank You ...***

... to everyone who contributed to the highly appreciated and very successful joint Garden Party - but an especial thank you to Jim and Annette MacKellar who lent us their beautiful garden for the occasion: we can only half-imagine the work which had gone into preparing Fishponds so well. The weather too was just perfect - some of us had wondered a few days earlier whether the showers and rain would continue, but in the end the sun shone throughout with just the right amount of occasional clouds. And it was so good to see so many people having so much fun. Thank you too to the various donors, helpers and stall-holders - including the innovation, this year, of the "Newly New/Collectibles" stall. Thank you to Richard Glencross St Lawrence's coordinator. On the financial side, after deduction of expenses, some £2,100 was raised to share between our two parishes. Thank you, again, one and all.

*Michael*

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***A Lesson for Baby Sitters***

A young girl was babysitting for the first time - beginning her shift shortly after supper and as the children were playing in front of the house. At bedtime she sent all the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch TV. One child kept creeping down the stairs but the young girl kept sending him back. At 9pm,

the doorbell rang. It was the next-door neighbor, Mrs Brown, who asked anxiously whether her son was there.

The babysitter brusquely replied, "No." Just then a little head appeared over the banister and a voice shouted, "I'm here Mum but she won't let me go home."

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***The River***

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large, raging violent river.

Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about two hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength - and some tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: “God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross this river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, walked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

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***Some Sainly Legends***

Down through the ages and still today, believers and non believers celebrate Saints’ Days. Some saints are well known - St George’s flag is flown on 23 April and St Swithun takes the blame for a wet summer if it rains on 15 July. There are, of course, legends behind these celebrations and over the next few months I’ll extract some of the detail from the Parish Pump website and include a few of them in the magazine.

*Ed*

***St Swithun (or Swithin) or A Saint for a Rainy Day***

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that.

It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.