

Services at St Margaret's Underriver August 2007



Sunday	5 Aug	11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	12 Aug	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	19 Aug	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	26 Aug	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	2 Sept	11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	

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

If you log on to our web-site, www.sealstlawrence.org.uk
you can see the pictures in colour

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

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Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534

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	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	Chairman	Robin Watson	833930
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PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
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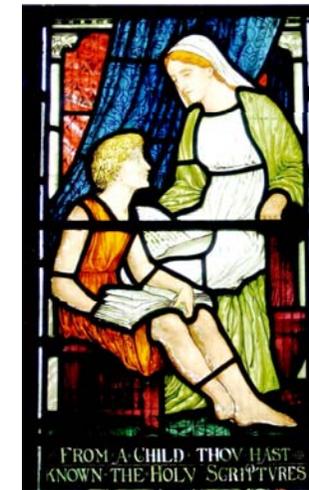
Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor
(or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk).

to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 15 August

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine, for August, will
be in Church on **Sunday 26 August 2007**

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St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine August 2007



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When did you last visit the church website on www.sealstlawrence.org.uk

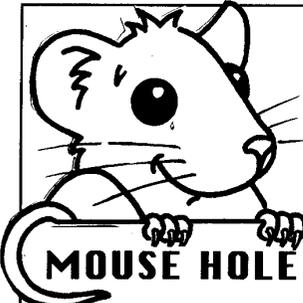
**Services at The Church of St Lawrence
Seal Chart during August 2007**



Friday	3 Aug	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At the Vicarage	
Sunday	5 Aug	Ninth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion (said) Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21	BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church) Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2:18-23 Luke 12:13-21	
Sunday	12 Aug	Tenth Sunday after Trinity Family Communion (with hymns) Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12: 32-40	CW
Thursday	16 Aug	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	19 Aug	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity All Age Family Service (children in church) Jeremiah 23: 23-29 Luke 12:49-56	
Sunday	26 Aug	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer (with hymns) Isaiah 58: 9b-14 Luke 13: 10-17	BCP
Thursday	30 Aug	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	
Sunday	2 Sept	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion (said) Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15 Luke 14: 1, 7-14	BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church) Luke 14: 1, 7-14	

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



The Crippled Man

At the gate to the temple a man sat. He was crippled, he couldn't walk. As he couldn't walk, he couldn't work so he had to sit by the gate and beg.

One day he saw the Apostles Peter and John as they came to the temple to pray. He asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him and said:

"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth walk"

Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk, and went with them into the temple walking, jumping and praising God.

MOUSE HOLE

Jiggling Jumper

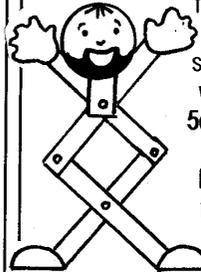
Cut 4 strips of stiff card 2cm wide x 16cm long.

○ ○ ○ ○ x 4

Punch a small hole in the centre and 1cm in from each end.

Join together with paper fasteners.

Cut a strip 2cm wide and 5cm long. Punch a hole 1cm from one end and fasten



in front of the strips

through the top centre holes to make a neck. Cut a circle 5cm wide, glue unto the neck strip and draw on a face. Cut, colour and glue on hands and feet. Push and pull the feet to make him jump and praise God!

Read this story in Acts 3:11-16

Hop, Skip and Jump! running games



Chain Tag

One person is 'it'. Run around until you catch someone, join hands and together try and catch others.

Shadow Tag

One person is 'it'. Catch the other players by jumping on their shadows

Catch My Tail

Tuck a hanky into the back of your belt leave it hanging like a tail then run around and try to pull out another player's 'tail'. The last one with a 'tail' wins.



in 1899 when the conductor Richter performed Elgar's "Enigma Variations". "The Dream of Gerontius" followed in 1900, the words being from Cardinal John Henry Newman's poem. Many regard this as his masterpiece – although its first performance in Birmingham was a failure because of inadequate rehearsal. But music critics of the day recognised its worth.

His projected trilogy of oratorios, with words from the New Testament, written by Elgar himself, was never completed. "The Apostles" in 1903 and "The Kingdom" in 1906 never got their third partner, largely because Elgar's own Christian faith, always shaky, largely disappeared.

His earlier music was full of brash enthusiasm and pomp. He knew he was on to a good thing with his first "Pomp and Circumstance" march, with the tune that had the words "Land of hope and glory" added to it, when he said "I've got a tune that will knock them flat". But after the horrors of World War 1 Elgar came to regret the cheap jingoism of these words.

After his death, his music rapidly lost its popularity. A new world was dawning and Elgar's rural, open-air optimism was no longer in tune with the times, but Elgar had been the first British composer to get international recognition for over 200 years. He can rightly be called a national composer, because his music in many ways reflects the English temperament.

From the Vicar

August should be a great month – even if one is not able actually to get away on holiday. With no business meetings, most of us should have time to do some of those "jobs" we've been putting off like fixing that broken chain to the bath plug, writing to Aunt Matilda, or wondering at one of life's deeper questions.

- Is the sky on holiday really a different blue from that in Sevenoaks? (It certainly is in the South of France – but why? Why, indeed, is the sky *blue*? There is a scientific answer for that, but it still fascinates me! And why do some people like the colour blue, and others prefer orange?)
- Do shirts or pyjamas need ironing, and would the world be really so different if they weren't? As I write this, I'm wearing a seersucker shirt!
- Do I really miss watching the news at 10 pm? And is the world a poorer place for my not being informed when I'm on holiday? The newspapers, such as I get to see them, certainly treat August as a sort of 'silly season'; this speaks volumes about what editors really feel is important news – which of course continues whether or not we are told about it. If someone is a victim in Sudan or Iraq, the realities of the world don't stop in August!
- Why is it that one immediately recognises a person from just their *face*? Two eyes, one nose, and mouth, etc – there's really not so much information for the brain to be working on, and yet from the thousands of people one has met *this* face is instantly recognisable as being unique. Amazing – but why?
- The hairs on one's head may all be numbered – and perhaps counting them is getting easier as the years go by – but consider a wave on the ocean and realise that God knows the interaction of each molecule in it. Or does he have to? Maybe he just set the rules of how water molecules interact and, by-and-large, he lets the very complex laws of physics work their course.

Maybe, of course, some of us are puzzling a more ultimate question – such as the meaning and purpose of our three-score-years-and-ten, and whether it matters what we believe about God at all.

As Pascal famously proved in his Wager (see page 5 in this Magazine), the answer to this last question is emphatically "Yes, it does matter". Which leads me to commend the course "Exploring Christianity" which will be starting mid-September in our parishes. Details elsewhere – but, come rain come shine, don't miss out on making more sense of the fundamental issue of life's purpose.

With all blessings for a good holiday month,

Michael

	<p>Flower Rotas</p> <p><i>for</i></p>																
<p>Church Flowers</p> <p>Annette McKellar Annette McKellar Jean Stirling Jean Stirling Roz Morris</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>5</td><td>Aug</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>12</td><td>Aug</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>19</td><td>Aug</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>26</td><td>Aug</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>2</td><td>Sept</td></tr> </table>	Sunday	5	Aug	Sunday	12	Aug	Sunday	19	Aug	Sunday	26	Aug	Sunday	2	Sept	<p>Memorial Flowers</p> <p>Alix Lewis Alix Lewis Charlotte Sinclair Charlotte Sinclair Bridget Stephens</p>
Sunday	5	Aug															
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Sunday	2	Sept															
	<p>St Lawrence Sunday School</p> <p>PROGRAMME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2007</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Tues</td> <td>11 Sept</td> <td>Planning Meeting</td> <td>(at Beryl's 20:00)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>16 Sept</td> <td>Sunday School</td> <td>Elsbeth & Helen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Paul and Barnabas</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown All children are welcome — Bring Mum or Dad!!!</p> <p>For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Beryl Storey (451510)</p>	Tues	11 Sept	Planning Meeting	(at Beryl's 20:00)	Sun	16 Sept	Sunday School	Elsbeth & Helen			Paul and Barnabas					
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From the Registers at St Lawrence's

- 16 June Marriage after Banns of Daniel John Townsend and Kate Louise Willis. We wish Dan and Kate every joy in their new walk in life.
- 20 June Funeral and burial of the late Ronald John Drury (snr), aged 60, and late of Church Road, Stone Street. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow Lily, and to all the family and friends.
- 7 July Marriage by Licence of Nicholas John Morris and Jane Mead.
- 14 July Marriage by Licence of Thomas Martin Henry Clews and Catryn (Kate) Lloyd Williams.
- 15 July Holy Baptism of Olivia Grace Petersen, infant daughter of Sebastian and Jennifer.
We wish the family every joy in their new life in Christ.



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Summer Conference at Detling

From Saturday 4th August to Thursday 7th August, the Kent County showground will host the Detling Summer Conference. Over 5,000 Christians a day from Kent and the South East will gather for prayer, worship and teaching from a range of world class speakers. This year's speakers include Canon Andrew White (Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy to help break barriers between Christians, Jews and Muslims; and who at the time of writing has just been denounced as a spy and forced to leave Iraq), and major Christian writers and artists such as , Adrian Plass, Jonathan Veira, Mike Murphy, Kyle Horner, Eric Delve and many others.

There is something for everyone - from quiet reflective worship to the contemporary; inspirational seminars and solid bible teaching; for all ages, full programme for children and youth. So come for the evening, the day or the week. Prices start from just £10, concessions available.

For further information call 0870 901 7777 or go to www.revivalfire.org.uk

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What are you supposed to be doing?

What does this coming autumn hold for you? Is there something God is asking of you?

Gladys Aylward was just a simple woman who did what she believed God called her to do. A movie, 'The Inn of Sixth Happiness' was produced many years ago telling her life story. In 1920 she sailed to China, where she opened a home for orphaned children, who'd been left to starve or wander the streets. She'd read the words in Isaiah: "...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs..." (Isaiah 58:10 – 11 NIV)

When the Japanese invaded China, Gladys was forced to flee. She ended up on the island of Formosa with more than 100 children to care for. Despite hardship and danger, she devoted herself to looking after them. Years later, when she was honoured for her work, she said: "I did not choose this. I was led into it by God. I'm not really more interested in children than I am in other people. But God gave me to understand that this is what He wanted me to do – so I did it!" Have you discovered yet what God has called YOU to do? Are you making plans towards it – this autumn?

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Sir Edward Elgar 1857-1934

You'll be hearing a lot of Elgar's music this month, since we celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth on June 2nd 1857.

Elgar was born in Lower Broadheath, a village three miles from Worcester, where his father ran a music shop. As a young man he taught music at the County Lunatic Asylum and succeeded his father as organist of St. George's Roman Catholic church in Worcester.

In 1889, he married Alice Roberts, the daughter of a distinguished military family, but it was a union opposed by Alice's family; marrying the son of a tradesman was seen as being socially beneath her. But Alice became the driving force behind Edward's decision to devote his life to composition.

Their move to London wasn't the success they'd hoped for. In Edwardian England, Elgar struggled to establish himself, handicapped by his lowly origins in a very class-conscious society, and by his Roman Catholicism in an often bigoted protestant country.

They returned to Worcestershire, to Malvern, as a love of the countryside, especially of the Malvern hills, was always an inspiration to him. Success came

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ has received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.' ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

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Stolen Post Box at Bitchet Green!

The locals are aware that our post box has been stolen from by the crossroads. Apparently it will not automatically be replaced, so please do write and plead that we miss and need our post box!

The address is:

Mr Ian Chapman
Collection Centre Manager
Royal Mail
South Park
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1AA

Thank you. Gretel

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All you need is love

Mother Teresa once said: "We cannot do great deeds, but we can do small deeds with great love." That's something to remember in our daily life. What good are great public efforts if they are fuelled by personal ambition or a desire to rule? If you are not personally kind, what good does it do you? The Bible says: "... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, and have not love, I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2,3, NIV) Who can you show some love to, today?

Exploring Christianity

A seven-week course for those who know nothing about the Christian faith and those who would like to know more.

On Wednesday Evenings from 8.00 – 9.30

Starting on 19 September 2007

at

The White House, Bitchet Green

Please see enclosed flier for details

For more information, please ring:

Michael Cooke 761766 or Gretel Wakeham 761534

Pascal and his Wager

Amongst his many other skills, the Frenchman Blaise Pascal (1623-1663) was a brilliant mathematician, inventor and philosopher. His early work included the invention of the adding machine, and he co-invented with Fermat the mathematical theory of probability. It was Pascal who realised the concept of a vacuum (whence, paradoxically, the unit of pressure is a Pascal, abbreviated to Pa). Later in life Pascal turned increasingly to philosophy, and his *Pensées*, published posthumously, feature some of the some of the most seminal thinking ever written about life.

The *Pensées* include what has become known as Pascal's Wager – technically he posits at least three "Wagers", but it is the last of these which is now referred to as *the Wager*. With apologies to Pascal for my inevitably very inadequate summary of some very deep thinking, Pascal applies probability theory to the need for belief in God:- God exists or he doesn't. If he doesn't, it makes essentially no difference what we do in our life. But if he does exist, then it makes all the world of a difference, eternally. On the basis of the probability of it making a difference, we ought therefore to live as if God does exist.

This is, of course, not the Christian reason for faith in God – but because Christianity and mathematics (and science!) are all gifts of the same God, we welcome and embrace this contribution by Blaise Pascal to belief.

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More of the Saints

Ethelwold - the Saint of Wessex

St Ethelwold (c.912 - 84) did great things for the church at Winchester, which in those days was the principle town of Wessex.

St Ethelwold began as a simple monk eager to restore the Rule of Benedictine in England, a major reform for the church of the time. After serving at the abbey in Glastonbury, he was sent on to restore the old abbey at Abingdon. The king thought highly of him, and used him to teach his son, the future king, Edgar.

When in 963 Ethelwold became Bishop of Winchester, he replaced the cathedral canons with monks, thus founding the first monastic cathedral in the land. This was a uniquely English institution, which remained until the Reformation.

The monastic reform quickly gained momentum: with the King's support, Ethelwold restored old monasteries such as Milton (Dorset), New Minster and Nunnaminster in Winchester, while new monasteries were founded and richly endowed at Peterborough (966), Ely (970) and Thorney (972).

Ethelwold was austere, able and dynamic. Under his leadership, the monks surpassed themselves in music, illumination and writing. When Ethelwold set the monks to work with the masons in the cathedral at Winchester, he built the most powerful organ of its time in England: it was played by two monks, and had 400 pipes and 36 bellows. In music, Ethelwold's Winchester had the distinction of producing the first English polyphony in the Winchester Troper.

Ethelwold's' monasteries also produced a surpassing new style of illumination, and his school of vernacular writing was the most important of its time: with accurate, linguistically significant translations. A major event of his episcopate was the consecration of Winchester Cathedral in 980.

Clare (1194 – 1253)

Clare was the famous virgin foundress of the Minoresses or Poor Clares. Born at Assisi of the Offreduccio family, Clare grew up to hear the teaching of St Francis of Assisi, and at 18 she renounced all her possessions and joined him at the Portiuncula, where she became a nun. Soon Francis found her and her companions a small house adjacent to the church of San Damiano, Assisi, which he had so lovingly restored.

And so it was that Clare became abbess in 1216 of a community of women who wished to live according to the rule and spirit of St Francis. The way of life was one of extreme poverty and austerity, but this did not seem to discourage anyone. For like the Franciscan friars, Clare's nuns soon spread to other parts of Europe, especially Spain, Bohemia, France and England, where four convents were

founded in the late 13th and 14th centuries.

Clare never left her convent at Assisi – she became distinguished as one of the great medieval contemplatives, devoted to serving her community in great joy, and practising Franciscan ideals, including the love of nature.

Clare was considered a powerful woman: when Assisi was in danger of being sacked by the armies of the Emperor Frederick II, Claire, although ill, was carried to the wall with a pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament. At sight of her and the pyx, her biographers say, the armies fled. This is why in art Clare is often depicted with a pux or monstrance, as on the D'Estouteville Triptych of English origin c 1360. Clare was canonised only two years after her death in 1253. The Poor Clare continue today in many countries as a contemplative order.

All in all, Clare's life was one of extreme self-denial and constant contemplative prayer. So it is hard to explain easily why Clare has been named patron saint of television. Perhaps there is a TV company somewhere who wants to launch a series called 'Help! I'm a Saint – get me out of here!'

John Bunyan – all time best-selling writer of Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only re-call Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.