

Services at St Margaret's Underriver
October 2007



Sunday	7 Oct	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	St Margaret's Harvest Festival	
		12:30	St Margaret's Parish Lunch in the Village Hall	
Sunday	14 Oct	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong	BCP
Sunday	21 Oct	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	28 Oct	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Friday	2 Nov	20:00	Service to remember those who have died and are dear to us	
Sunday	4 Nov	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:00	A Short Service for All God's Children	

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

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	Carol Smith	763561
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Cricket 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			Pilates	Moira 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		
			Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
S'oaks District Councillor	Cnelr Peter Coates	762129	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 17 October 2007

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 28 October 2007**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
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St Lawrence, Seal Chart
Parish Magazine October 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

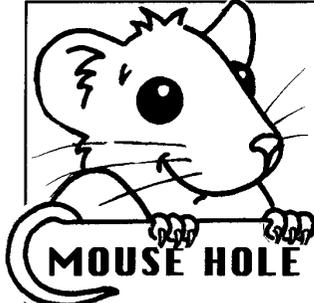
Our church website on www.sealstlawrence.org.uk is well worth a visit

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



Saturday	6 Oct	St Lawrence Harvest Supper In the Village Hall	
Sunday	7 Oct	Harvest Festival - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10 09:45 St Lawrence's Harvest Festival Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Revelation 14: 14-18 (Collection for RDA and a church and community in Parakkankvilai, South India)	
Tuesday	9 Oct	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	14 Oct	St Lawrence Gift Day - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) CW 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17:11-19	
Sunday	21 Oct	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) CW 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5 Luke 18: 1-8 09:45 All Age Family Service with Holy Baptism (with Sunday School) Genesis 32: 22-31 Luke 18: 1-8	
Friday	26 Oct	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	28 Oct	Bible Sunday - Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns) BCP Isaiah 45: 22-25 Luke 4: 16-24	
Friday	2 Nov	All Souls - A Service to remember all those who have died and are dear to us - At St Margaret's, Underriver	
Sunday	4 Nov	All Saints Sunday 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Ephesians 1: 11-23 Luke 6: 20-31 09:45 All Age Family Service with Holy Baptism (children in church) Luke 6: 20-31	

For the Children



MOUSE HOLE



HARVEST

"As long as the world exists,
there will be a time for planting
and a time for harvest.
There will always be cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night"
Genesis 8:22



TOFFEE APPLES

You will need someone older to help you make these, but they are simple to make and yummy to eat.

1. Push a stick [wooden chopsticks work well] into the top of 8 apples.
2. Put 450g / 1 lb granulated sugar and 150 ml / 5 fl. oz. water into a heavy based pan, heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved.
3. Let the liquid continue to boil until it is a golden 'toffee' colour.
4. **CAREFULLY** remove the pan from the heat and dip and cover each apple with the toffee.
5. Put the apples onto an oiled baking tray to cool. Then **EAT!**

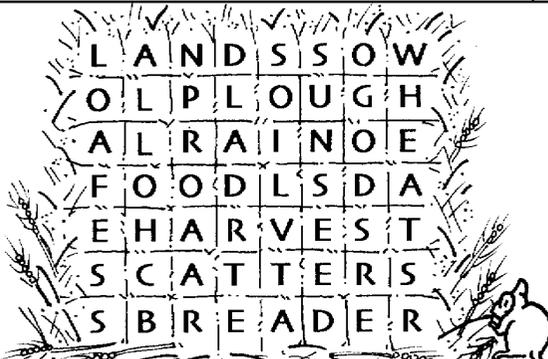
is a time to **REMEMBER** that **GOD** made the world: He made the land we live on, the air we breath, the water we drink and the food we eat.



HARVEST is a time to say **THANK YOU** to **GOD** for giving us all the things we need to live.



HARVEST is a time to **SHARE** with others all that **GOD** has given us.



Find these words in the haystack:
HARVEST PLOUGH FOOD
SEED GOD WHEAT SUN
SOIL RAIN BREAD
SCATTER LAND SOW LOAF

News from St Lawrence Sunday School

Here are three items to share from the recent planning session of our Sunday School teachers:-

(a) We are thinking of a Fun Afternoon in the early New Year (possibly 2nd February). Please pencil this date in - we'll confirm soon.

(b) Would any reader like to consider becoming a teacher for us? It would be good to have one or two more - even a man! Typical commitment is one session a quarter. (NB For obvious reasons, our teachers all need to have Enhanced CRB clearance)

(c) What do you think would be the best name for our children's work? Does Sunday School sound perhaps outdated? Maybe Sunday Seekers? Or have you other ideas? Let us know!

And do remember that the First Sunday in the month is also for all of us in church together - old and young alike! This month (7 October) it's Harvest Festival, next (4th November) it's All Saints with TWO baptisms.

Hope to see you there!

The autumn issue of the Sunday School Newsletter has been sent out - if you have a child aged (say) 4-10 and didn't receive a copy, please ask and we'll send you a copy. (Alternatively you can download it from our website!)

 Church Flowers	Flower Rotas for	 Memorial Flowers
Pat Wilson & Co	Sunday 7 Oct	Rachael O'Keefe
Pat Wilson & Co	Sunday 14 Oct	Liz Coates
Pat Wilson & Co	Sunday 21 Oct	Liz Coates
Pat Edgehill	Sunday 28 Oct	Pat Edgehill
Pat Edgehill	Sunday 5 Nov	Pat Edgehill

 St Lawrence Sunday School 		
Sun 21 Oct	"Lost and Found Things"	Elspeth and Lesley
Sun 18 Nov	"Lost and Found People"	Helen and Celeste

**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)

The Vicar's Page

"Come ye thankful people, come, / Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in, / Ere the winter storms begin ..."

Nowadays, of course, all is *not* yet safely gathered in – harvesting of one kind or another happens every month. But like many other official occasions – e.g. the State Opening of Parliament (it doesn't happen when the MPs go back after the summer recess), or the Queen's official birthday (so she can celebrate her actual birthday in family and in peace), and Christmas (Jesus was not physically born in December) – there is still a real need once a year to take time to mark particular events which are beyond time and which shape our common life.

In the case of Harvest, it literally is a matter of going back to our roots. Without proper food and drink we perish. Without the labours of those who farm, distribute, store and sell there would be no food as we know it – unless we really wanted to return to a life of hand-to-mouth (or even below-subsistence) as would have been the custom for the overwhelming majority of us for most of human history. The Good Old Days were not so good – thank God for today!

But even with human endeavour, food would not even exist without the whole eco-environment – different soil types, bacteria, rain, sun and seasons – that make up planet Earth as we still enjoy it. An amazing balance of circumstances prevails – and, as scientists tell us, all this cannot have happened just by random chance. Unless we are wilfully obstinate, Harvest surely leads us inexorably to an Other, the overall Architect – whom from other insights and graces some of us have come to know personally as God revealed in Jesus Christ.

But even for those who do not feel able yet to make that last link, Harvest reminds us that we humans are not the pinnacle of all that is – that we are but a part of a much bigger enterprise. And that fertile fact should surely result in other thoughts which could enable us to be even more fruitful. What is the purpose that the Architect has/had in developing this world as we now find it? What might we now be doing which could be running counter to the overall plan? (Over-production, over-consumption, climate change – not to mention human squabbling and downright individualism?) Are we ourselves part of an even bigger Harvest? The traditional harvest hymn continues and ends:-

"For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take His harvest home ..."
"Gather Thou thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There for ever purified,
In Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home."

With every blessing for a true harvest for each of us,

Michael

Communion before Confirmation

At a joint open session for both St Lawrence's and St Margaret's PCCs, held in Underriver, we were privileged to hear Tiffany Allen (our diocesan Adviser on Children's Work) tell us some of the background to the new/restored pattern which - after due permission - is now available to Church of England parishes. Among other points she drew attention to:-

- The 1971 Report on Christian Initiation" which affirmed that **Baptism is the complete sacramental initiation rite**. (Therefore it admits to Communion.)
- The seminal document (back in 1988) "**Children in the Way**" – with its deliberately double meaning!
- The Church of England's General Synod's approval of **Regulations 2006** (which came into force on 15 June 2006, and which superseded the House of Bishops' similar 1997 Guidelines) which allow parishes to apply to **admit children to Communion before Confirmation**.
- **Such a practice would run alongside the continuing Norm** which continues to be Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion
- The issue therefore is not "Is Communion before Confirmation possible?" (the Bishops and General Synod have agreed it is), but "**Is it appropriate in your particular parish?**" (NB Such Communion before Confirmation **MUST** already be offered to any child who comes in to, or visits, our parish from a parish where the child has already been part of such a practice.)
- **Indicators** that the practice may be appropriate for a particular parish are many, e.g. that children come to Communion services; that children "put out their hands asking to receive", and/or ask "Why can't I receive?"; that parents and/or children's leaders are asking similar questions based on what they see and observe in the children under their care; that the parish had thought carefully about the issues; that there was a commitment to suitable training.
- **Communion before Confirmation is not a topic to be considered in isolation**. It prompts a holistic look at, for example, what is the role of children in our church. What is worship? What are we doing about training? What is Confirmation? etc etc. Indeed the benefits to a parish may be at least as much in these latter areas as in Communion before Confirmation itself!

There were some qualifying questions e.g. "Does our Bishop approve?" Yes! "Is there a minimum age?" No – but general understanding (also in line with Roman Catholic practice) is that it would normally apply to children from Year 3/age 7 – but to different children at different ages.

The purpose of the PCC Agenda item was to hear the background. We deliberately had, however, no discussion – **but we would love to hear your thoughts on this possibility – particularly if you are a child, a parent or involved with children.** In due course the PCC may then decide to discuss and in turn this may lead to our

in another few months time (well, you know about British builders and their promises) and I need a Trumpet Tune to celebrate the opening".

Henry/Jeremiah said: "Landlord, another pint of wine, please".

Jeremiah/Henry said: "I think I/we can do that for you. Landlord, bring us some manuscript paper. And some more wine".

Christopher said: "No, no, this round is on me".

So Christopher departed, well satisfied, and Henry and Jeremiah started an argument as to who wrote it. An argument that continues today.

The London Shades survived the Great Fire of London, indeed it was the only city pub to survive, and also then survived the developers of the 1980's. It is still a good watering hole near London Bridge but regrettably the present landlord is unable to give any help which might settle the question.

David Walton

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Harvest Supper
Saturday 6th October at 7 pm

Harvest Festival Service
Sunday 7th October at 9.45 am



If you haven't already got your tickets (Adults £8, children under 12 £4) for the Harvest Supper, don't delay! Please contact Elspeth Cooke (761766) or Gretel Wakeham (761534) as we do need to know final numbers very soon. All are warmly invited to this enjoyable community occasion.

Profits from the evening will be donated to FARM AFRICA.

The following day, Sunday, 7th October the **Harvest Festival Service** will be an All-age service at 9.45 am at St Lawrence Church. **Please do come!**

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Remembering those who have died and are dear to us

For many years a united service has been held within our parishes on 2nd November when those who so care can remember in a formal way by prayer and with a lit candle those who are dear to them and who have died.

The service this year for both our parishes will be held at St Margaret's, Underriver on **Friday 2nd November at 8 pm**. As last year, the service will not include Holy Communion and we hope everyone will feel very much part of our extended church family. Let's mark the date and time in our dairy.

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Tea and Cakes at Dinas Hatch in aid of SAYT

Ron and I would like to thank all those who came to support our tea or sent donations in aid of Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust in August. Although we were a little crowded in the house as the weather was too dreary for the garden, there was much talk and laughter. I think the opportunity to eat cake without feeling guilty calorie wise, made it a fun occasion. Particular thanks to all those who brought cakes and fresh produce - Bob Bridle's contribution was particularly in demand.

Pat Edghill

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A Bible Quiz—Some Curious Facts

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible? A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the centrer verse in the Bible? A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the centre of his will, just send them to the centre of his Word!

For Psalms 118:8 advises:- "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

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David's Valete

For his finale, David Walton played the Trumpet Tune by . . . and then told me a short story concerning its history. He has copied this for the magazine.

David writes . . .

You asked for my completely scurrilous, libellous account of the musical composition. So here it is.

Once upon a time - it must have been around the year 1693 - two rascally musicians, Henry and Jeremiah, made their way to the London Shades for a pint of wine.

They ran into an elderly gentleman who, it seemed, was an architect.

'Ah', he said, "Glad I ran in to you gentlemen. My Cathedral should be finished

parish applying to our Bishop for the necessary permission. If you want to know more, please do ask (e.g. I have available copies of the "Information Pack produced by the Diocese.) **But for now, it's the time for reflection and feedback!**

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Thank You ...

Following our note last month about finding a good home for our no-longer-used hymnbooks, we have received the following:-

"Dear Revd Michael Cooke,

Greetings to you in the gracious name of our Lord.

We at CSI Hebich Memorial Church are most thankful to you and the congregation of St. Lawrence Church, Seal Chart for your gracious gift of 'Ancient and Modern Hymn books' which we have received through Rev. Allan Palanna. We are very pleased indeed to have the books for daily use in worship. It is our prayer that God would bless your parish and its administrators as we both continue to engage as co-workers in the same mission and ministry that we are called to do. Much thanks for your kind gesture.

With all prayers and good wishes,

(signed) Rev W E Palanna, President/Presbyter-in-Charge"

The original letter and a picture of the Revd Alan Palanna (son of the above) receiving a hymnbook are on the Noticeboard inside church.

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India Revisited.

It's two years since I lived in the rural village of Parakkanvilai, South India, but I returned this Summer with 12 teenagers from Kent. Quite a different experience and it was wonderful to be back!

They are well underway with the new church. When, in December 2004, the tsunami which devastated Asia struck the nearby coastal village, people were evacuated and came to stay in the church building.

However, the church proved deeply inadequate for their needs and they left quickly due to the lack of toilets and other basic facilities. It was then the church community decided to commit themselves to a new building project. Their mission is to build a church which can be a space for worship and a place which can serve the community in times of need.

The present church was built 70 years ago from mud and bricks. It has been gradually falling down and will soon be beyond repair. The present estimate for completion is the Indian equivalent of £60,000 – a huge amount in a place where the average daily wage is about £1.20.

Church members have pledged the money they can, sometimes promising up to a third of their income despite their daily struggle for survival.

Others give offerings out of their agricultural produce. Some have nothing to give except the promise of free labour. With most of the congregation living in poverty, the church is unable to raise the total amount of money needed from amongst themselves. They must rely on donations from outside the village if they are to succeed in their hope of building a new church.

The people of the church feel a deep connection to our community at St Lawrence's. The village sees me as one of their own daughters, and in 2005 JohnY, Gretel and Lotte Wakeham came to visit; they can attest as to the warm welcome which they received. There is a display at the back of St Lawrence's Church, with pictures of the church building from my visit this summer – please have a look and see how it is progressing.

The collection at our Harvest Festival Service on October 7th is to go to the church building appeal. If you prefer, donations can be sent via the UK-based charity, RDM Parakkanvilai Fund. Please see the display board for details. Thank you.

Ellen Wakeham

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From the Registers

29th August **Thanksgiving service for the late George Howard 'Tommy' Tucker**, late of Godden Green, and member of our church, who died aged 94. We extend to his family our deepest sympathy in their loss.



2nd September **Holy Baptism of Thomas Frank Holness**, infant son of Andrew and Lyn, both members of St Lawrence's. We wish Thomas and the family every joy in their walk with the Lord.

4th September **Burial of the late Archibald David Stirling**, late of Stone Street, and member of our church, who died aged 81. (Because of numbers, the funeral and thanksgiving service was held at St Peter & St Paul, Seal –to whom we are exceedingly thankful.) We extend our sympathy to his family in their loss.

11th September **Funeral and burial of the late Miroslawa Heyducka**, late of Ivy Hatch, and who died aged 77. We extend to her daughter Iwona and her family our deepest sympathy in their loss.

May all those who die in the Lord indeed Rest in Peace.

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Prayer Points for this month

- All involved in farming, storage, and distribution of food.
- Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust's ongoing work, and for Judith carrying the workload more on her own now that Jane has left (married!).
- Success in finding one or more organists prepared to play the organ regularly for St Lawrence's.

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News from our School

We are once again at the start of a new school year. We finished last term with a very successful concert in which we retold the Old Testament story of Daniel. We also has an emotional Leavers' Service – we were very sad to say goodbye to the year 6 children and wish them well at there new schools. As we start this term we are delighted to welcome a good number of new children to our school, all of whom are settling in very well.

In addition to our new children we are also about to welcome 3 new chickens! These should arrive in the next couple of days and are causing great excitement. They will be looked after by the children in a fox proof 'eggloo' and will hopefully provide us with a supply of eggs. A competition is underway to find names.

I am delighted with the large variety of school clubs which we have been able to offer this term, fourteen in all, including netball, football, ICT, country dancing, cooking, orchestra to name but a few. One particularly charming club is our 'board games club' which is run by our oldest children for our youngest children. They spend a lunchtime just playing board games (snakes and ladders, ludo etc.) together and I am sure both old and young learn from it.

In the classroom the children are all working very hard. Those who are in year six are starting to consider possible secondary school options. The secondary transfer process continues to be a complex process, our job is to help parents in the difficult, but very important task of finding the school in which their child is going to flourish.

This is always a very exciting time of year. The enthusiasm and energy of the staff and children after the summer break is infectious and all sort of new ideas are being discussed. I am sure I will have plenty to write about in future months. In the meantime, you can always keep up with what is going on at St Lawrence Primary School by visiting our website www.st-lawrence-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk.

Alison Saunders

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