

**Services at St Margaret's Underriver
November 2007**



Sunday	4 Nov	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	11 Nov	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		10:55	Service of Remembrance	
Sunday	18 Nov	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		10:30	United Family Communion at St Lawrence	
Sunday	25 Nov	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	2 Dec	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	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		Chris Sutton-Mattocks	762013
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	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
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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	Cnclr 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 14 November 2007

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 25 November 2007**

NB The next issue will be a double one for the two months of December and January

All contributions will be welcomed!

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St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine November 2007



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

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



Friday	2 Nov	All Souls Service to remember those who have died and are dear to us A service for both parishes at St Lawrence's	
Sunday	4 Nov	All Saints Sunday Holy Communion (said) Ephesians 1: 11-23 Luke 6: 20-31	BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service with Holy Baptism (children in church) Luke 6: 20-31	
Wednesday	7 Nov	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	11 Nov	Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday Service of Remembrance John 15: 9-17	
Sunday	18 Nov	Second Sunday before Advent Family Communion (with hymns) Malachi 4: 1-2a 2 Thess 3: 6-13 Luke 21:5-19 Preacher Bishop Michael Turnbull	CW
Thursday	22 Nov	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Sunday	25 Nov	Christ the King Family Communion (with hymns) Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43	CW
Sunday	2 Dec	Advent Sunday Holy Communion (said) Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44	BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service Matthew 24: 36-44	
Wednesday	7 Dec	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	

For the Children

MOUSE HOLE

The Man in the Tree

With Jesus passing through the town,
A crowd of people gathered round,
But as Zacchaeus couldn't see,
He ran ahead and climbed a tree.

Jesus stopped as he passed by,
And saw Zacchaeus there up high,
Said "Dear Zacchaeus, come with me,
I'm going to your house for tea".

Zacchaeus climbed down to the floor,
And walked with Jesus to his door,
Amazed the Lord would want to be
With such a liar and cheat as he.

Zacchaeus, sorry for all he'd done,
Said "Lord I'll pay back everyone,
Half I own I give to the poor,
Those I've cheated get four times more."

Jesus said "Today you are saved!"
Zacchaeus replied "May God be praised!"

Pick-up Sticks

'Pick-up Sticks' is a game that's been played for hundreds of years.

You can make your own *Pick-up Sticks* from a packet of wooden skewers, or for a miniature set, use a box of wooden cocktail sticks.

Colour the sticks different colours, with felt pen or paint, to represent a different number of points.
e.g. green = 5 points
blue = 10 points
red = 15 points
yellow = 20 points.

To play the game:
With the sticks in your hand, let them drop into a pile on the table. Choose a stick from the pile and try to remove it without moving the others. If successful, keep it and have another go, if not, then let someone else play. The person with the most points wins!

Read the full story of Zacchaeus in
Luke 19:1-10

Only two trees are the same age, count the rings to find out which they are.

Tree Rings

You can tell how old a tree is by its rings. Look for them on a cross section of a cut tree stump. 1 ring = 1 year

Help your Hedgehogs this Autumn

With our warmer British autumns, hedgehogs now tend to begin hibernation later – in December or January. In the meantime, it is critical that they build up enough body weight to get them through those lean, bleak weeks of January to April... so now is the time to help them, by feeding them.

The hedgehog is carnivorous and, in the wild, lives on a diet of beetles, earthworms and other invertebrates. But in the winter, the bugs are dead or buried, and the worms deep underground. So – a hedgehog would appreciate your help! But don't put out milk and bread – both are actually bad for hedgehogs. Instead, they will thrive on tins of dog-food or non-fishy cat-food and water.

And while your spiny guests are noisily munching their dinner, you can prepare a bedroom, should they decide to move in. A nice deep compost heap will keep a hedgehog warm. It is also possible to buy hedgehog hibernation nests – ask our local wildlife centre or the RSPCA for details.

 Church Flowers	Flower Rotas for	 Memorial Flowers
Pat Edghill	Sunday 4 Nov	Pat Edghill
Beryl Storey	Sunday 11 Nov	Beryl Storey
Kath Clarke	Sunday 18 Nov	No Flowers
Kath Clarke	Sunday 25 Nov	No Flowers
Jean Stirling	Sunday 2 Dec	No Flowers

 St Lawrence Sunday School 		
Sun 18 Nov	"Lost and Found People"	Helen and Celeste
Sun 9 Dec	Preparing for Christmas	Hilary, Lesley & Beryl
Sun 20 Jan	Jeremiah (1)	Elsbeth & Celeste
Sat 2 Feb	FUN AFTERNOON (2 pm - 4 pm in the Village Hall)	

**Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown
All children arwelcome — Bring Mum or Dad as well!!!**

For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Beryl Storey (451510)

The Vicar's Page

The month of November is richly blessed with some very important dates – these include **All Saints** (1st, when we remember the great saints departed and living), **All Souls** (2nd, when we remember those dear friends and 'ordinary' members of our families who laboured and are now at rest), **Remembrance** (11th, when we recall the sacrifices made by millions so that we have the privilege and opportunity to live in peace), and the **Feast of Christ the King** (the Sunday next before Advent, this year falling on 25th, when after all the trials of time we commemorate the ultimate Lordship of Jesus over all creation.)

These commemorations have at least two features in common. Clearly, we remember the fact that people die, and even where it is to glory there are issues of sadness - particularly so when the death involved someone we knew personally or who suffered so that others could live more fully. One of the characteristics of our society is that for so many death is still the great taboo, to be spoken of in hushed tones, or not to be thought about till later in life, and when it does happen it is so often minimised:- don't believe sentiments often suggested at funerals which run "I'm just in the next room" – it is not true!

Because death is the single 100% certainty in life, we would be recklessly foolish not to take proper preparation while we can in two areas:- Firstly for what follows a death (e.g. despite reminders in the past about the necessity of a proper current Will, this last 12 months year I have officiated at the funerals of two intestate people). Secondly how we live our normal life – and (*pace* insurance companies, health schemes, safety regulations) here I beg us to be less averse to risk-taking.

By coincidence, or design, I have recently come across two sayings which I think are important. We possibly know one already: "Too many people tiptoe through life in order to arrive at death safely". But the second thought I share is even more provocative – and correct: "We can create a very safe world for ourselves. A world which guards us from risks. A world which shelters us from challenges. A world where the very fabric of our routines not only sustains us but also anaesthetises us. The inner life cannot fully develop under these circumstances. Safety is not always a key to growth. But questioning, searching and risk-taking are." (Charles Ringma)

In fact, when we think about it, it was this risk-taking which characterises all those we celebrate on those dates mentioned above – saints alive, martyrs, parents, friends and of course Jesus. Without their risk-taking, gloriously vindicated, where would we or our world be? Dare we do less?

With every blessing,

Michael

Oh, no! Not more Fresh Salmon

Part of the Rhine opposite St. Goar was once 94 ft deep and, at that time being much more shaded by trees, was a gathering place for fresh-water salmon.

The fish were so plentiful and easy to catch that wealthy residents fed it to their employees.

Eventually so many fish were being taken that household servants made it a condition of their employment that they were not obliged to eat salmon more than three times a week.

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News from our School

The last month at St Lawrence has been dominated by visits from OFSTED inspectors! It has been a stressful time for staff who pulled out all the stops to make sure we did ourselves justice. We need not have worried because we passed the inspection with flying colours.

Below are some of my favourite quotes:-

'Pupils of all ages benefit from good teaching and describe their lessons as fun.'

'Good leadership and management of the school is characterised by strong teamwork.'

'Pupils benefit from high quality provision which leads to outstanding personal development and well being.'

'They (the children) demonstrate highly positive attitudes..... this enthusiasm is reflected in their great enjoyment of school and all the opportunities it provides.'

'Pupils reach well above average standards in English, maths and science by the end of Year 6.'

'The outstanding care and support of all pupils is a distinctive feature of this school.'

'Older pupils show maturity in undertaking a wide range of responsibilities.'

In the parallel inspection carried out by the diocese we were described as 'an outstanding church school' and received top grades in every area.

All this is an encouraging recognition of the hard work and commitment of the staff, parents, governors and children. Well done everyone! The reports will soon be available to read in full on our website:

www.st-lawrence-sevenonaks.kent.sch.uk.

The inspection has left us exhausted but delighted, and full of enthusiasm to strive to improve our school still further.

Alison Saunders

weeks of their time. Could you help? If so, please ring 01732 456403

As for the Two Minute Silence, well, 85% of us still find it relevant today, according to a recent YouGov survey. The act of observing a Two Minute Silence began in 1919 following the Armistice at 11am on the 11th November 1918 at the end of the First World War.

Where did the idea of buying and wearing an artificial poppy as way of Remembrance come from? It began in Britain on 11th November 1921, and the idea was inspired by John McCrae's 1915 poem 'In Flanders' Fields'. The Appeal has grown since 1921 - last year it raised a record £26 million!

* * * * *

In Flanders Fields

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)

Canadian Army

**In Flanders' Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**



WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE

Prayer Points for this month

- All whose lives have been affected by the recent infections in our local hospitals, and in agriculture.
- Thanks for those whose sacrifices (sometimes of their lives) which have enabled our lives to be as blessed as they are.
- The common witness of Christians and church organisation as we work together in our wider community

November means Guy Fawkes

You may find the following helpful. Are you holding a fireworks party on Bonfire Night?

If you are planning to set off fireworks at home on Bonfire Night, you may wish to review the Fireworks Code, to help keep you and your family and guests safe....

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2007

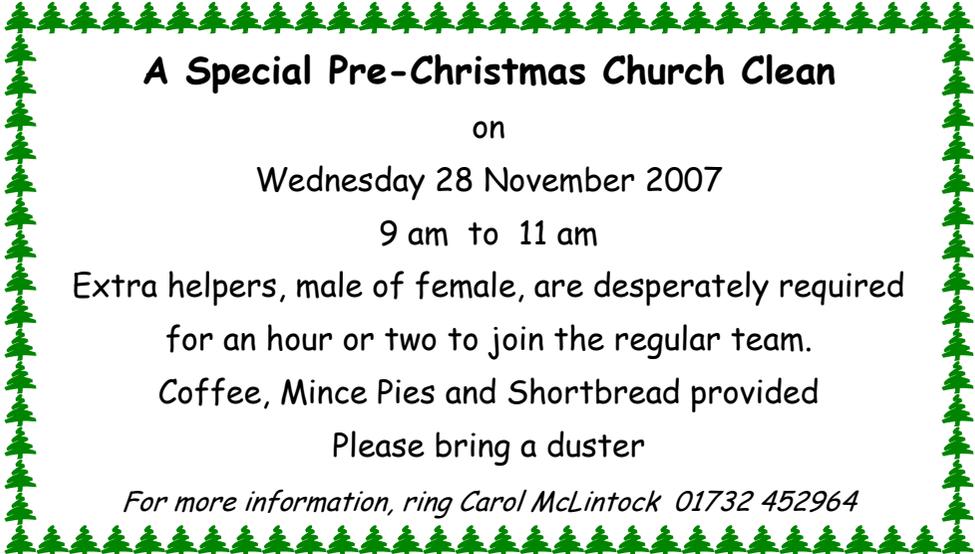
The Poppy Appeal is seeking new volunteers. This year, more than 36 million poppies, 107,000 wreaths and 800,000 Remembrance Crosses and other Remembrance items will be distributed in the UK.

It takes 300,000 staff and volunteers to make the Poppy Appeal work. That is an enormous countrywide network! But each year, the Poppy People numbers drop by thousands, as many of the older collectors retire. And so the Poppy Appeal is urgently seeking new volunteers who can give anything from two hours to two

Thank You ...

... to everyone who donated so generously at our Harvest Festival Service: £465 (in 2006 it was £275) is being sent to the Rural Development Movement in Parakkavilai in South India. Alleluia!

... to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Supper – the net proceeds of £360 are being sent to Farm Africa.



A Special Pre-Christmas Church Clean
on
Wednesday 28 November 2007
9 am to 11 am
Extra helpers, male or female, are desperately required
for an hour or two to join the regular team.
Coffee, Mince Pies and Shortbread provided
Please bring a duster
For more information, ring Carol McLintock 01732 452964

Visit of Bishop Michael Turnbull on 18th November

We are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Michael Turnbull and his wife Brenda to our United Service at 10:30 am on 18th November. (NB The usual 8am service for this Sunday will be BCP, and be held at *St Margaret's*.)

Bishop Michael Turnbull has many connections with us, parish and personal. Elspeth and I know him from the days when he was Vicar of Heslington Church (whose parish includes the University of York - it was he who popped the thought to me to consider ordination). From Heslington Michael moved to become General Secretary of the Church Army and then in 1991 to become Bishop of Rochester. In 1994 he was "translated" to the diocese of Durham. He is now retired, living in Kent.

Bishop Michael has graciously accepted our invitation to preach: do let's make every effort to join him and Brenda for what we expect to be a very significant service involving both our parishes' choirs and congregations.

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 Lawrence's on **Friday 2nd November at 8 pm**. Let's mark the date and time in our dairy.

* * * * *

Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District

Do please think of coming to and supporting CTSD's Annual Open meeting, which will be held at 8pm on Thursday 8th November, at St John's United Reformed Church in Sevenoaks (St John's Hill).

The main part of the evening is a showcase of what the various churches and organisations are doing *together* for the sake of our area – e.g. Befriending, Counselling, Youth work, common witness and outreach. We also look forward to a Question and Answers session with a Panel of some key people involved in the welfare of our community: Merle Bigden (Sevenoaks District Council), Michael Fallon (MP for Sevenoaks), Rob Marsh (West Kent YMCA, and Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust), Sue Revell (Mental Health), and Gillian Shepherd-Coates (Age Concern).

On past form, I should be able to ensure that the AGM part of our meeting will take no longer than 15 minutes – but please pray for someone to feel called to be my successor as Chairman: I am definitely stepping down after two three-year tours of fun and duty!

Michael

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More of the Saints

All Saints' Day

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians.

All Souls' Day

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain "the Beatific Vision" through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

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Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee
invites you to



Come Carol Singing



on

Friday 30th November from 6.30 pm
in

Central Sevenoaks

This is a Special Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening
at the Christmas Lights Switch-on..

We shall meet in Bligh's Court and sing for about an hour.
Bring music for harmonies Words of carols will be provided.

**Let's take this opportunity to spread the good news
about what Christmas really celebrates**