

**Services at St Margaret's Underriver  
February 2008**



|               |               |                |   |                    |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>3 Feb</b>  | 10:30<br>11:15 | Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall<br>A Short Service for All God's Children |                    |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>10 Feb</b> | 08:00<br>11:15 | Holy Communion (said)<br>Morning Prayer (with hymns)                            | <b>BCP<br/>BCP</b> |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>17 Feb</b> | 11:15          | Family Service  |                    |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>24 Feb</b> | 11:15          | Parish Communion (with hymns)   | <b>CW</b>          |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>2 Mar</b>  | 10:30<br>11:15 | Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall<br>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 |
| 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 <sup>st</sup> St Lawrence Brownies | Janet Boswell      | 01959 523953 | Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators             |                       |        |
| S'oaks District Councillor           | Cnclr Peter Coates | 762129       | Stone Street Contact                          | Janice Brooker        | 760843 |
|                                      |                    |              | Seal Chart Contact                            | Nicola Mitchell       | 764202 |

**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine  
February 2008**



**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

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 13 February 2008**

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 24 February 2008**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)  
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**Services at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart  
February 2008**



|                  |               |   |            |
|------------------|---------------|---|------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>2 Feb</b>  | <b>Children's Fun Afternoon</b><br>At St Lawrence Village Hall  |            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>3 Feb</b>  | <b>Sunday Next before Lent</b><br>08:00 Holy Communion (said)<br>2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9<br>09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church)<br>Exodus 24: 12-18 Matthew 17: 1-9 | <b>BCP</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>6 Feb</b>  | <b>Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent)</b><br>10:00 Holy Communion (said)<br>Isaiah 58: 1-12 John 8: 1-11   | <b>CW</b>  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>8 Feb</b>  | <b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)<br>At St Lawrence Vicarage   |            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>10 Feb</b> | <b>First Sunday of Lent</b><br>09:45 Family Communion (with hymns)<br>Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11   | <b>CW</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>12 Feb</b> | <b>Bible Study for both parishes</b><br>At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough  |            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>17 Feb</b> | <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b><br>08:00 Holy Communion (said)<br>Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17<br>09:45 All age Family Service (with Sunday School)<br>Genesis 12: 1-4a John 3: 1-17    | <b>CW</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>19 Feb</b> | <b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)<br>At the White House, Bitchet Green   |            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>24 Feb</b> | <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b><br>09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns)<br>Exodus 17: 1-7 John 4: 5-42   | <b>BCP</b> |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>2 Mar</b>  | <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent — Mothering Sunday</b><br>08:00 Holy Comunion (said)<br>Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41<br>09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church)<br>Exodus 2: 1-10    | <b>BCP</b> |

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

Please make [www.sealstlawrence.org.uk](http://www.sealstlawrence.org.uk) one of your favourite websites



**Church Flowers**



|               |                 |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 3 Feb  | Kate Clark      | Sunday 24 Feb | LENT—No Flowers |
| Sunday 10 Feb | LENT—No Flowers | Sunday 2 Mar  | Beryl Storey    |
| Sunday 17 Feb | LENT—No Flowers | Sunday 9 Mar  | LENT—No Flowers |



**St Lawrence Sunday School**



|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sat 2 Feb  | <b>FUN AFTERNOON</b> (2 pm - 4 pm in the Village Hall) |
| Tue 5 Feb  | Planning Meeting                                       |
| Sun 17 Feb | Jeremiah (2) Lyn & Helen                               |
| Sat 1 Mar  | Prepare Posies   |
| Sun 2 Mar  | Mothering Sunday Family Service                        |
| Sun 16 Mar | Palm Sunday Hilary & Lesley                            |

**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)**

**Exploring Christianity**

Would you like to explore in an open and small group, meeting in a home, what Christianity is about?— how Jesus can be God and man, why did he come, how can we pray better, etc, etc – with your issues and questions being part of the agenda? If so, please let Michael (☎ 761766) or Gretel (☎ 761534) know as soon as possible.

We plan to start a second 7-week course (one 90-minute session per week) in early February, and knowing who would like to take part would be so helpful in sort out a mutually good time – and giving sufficient notice to everyone.

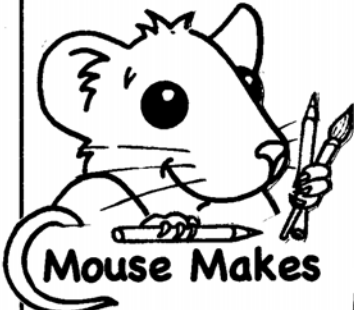
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**Good News for the Children**

In November last year I learned with regret and mentioned in the Christmas issue, that the artist at Parish Pump who drew the Mouse Hole pages had given up and that the December 2007 edition would be the last. The great news now is that she has relented and agreed to do another series entitled 'Mouse Makes' and I shall endeavour to feature these in the coming issues of our magazine.

Please tell me what you think of it.

Ed



**Mouse Makes**


A Bible bookmark to make for LENT

Before Jesus began to preach and heal and tell people about God, he spent 40 days alone in the desert praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church has set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to think and pray and learn more about God.


This time is called **LENT**

Dear LORD,




THANK YOU for

---




SORRY for

---



I PRAY for




**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven  
may your holy name be honoured,  
may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need.  
Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.

**AMEN**



Matthew 6:9-13

**To make your bookmark:** Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.

Use your bookmark each day during LENT to help you as you pray.

Loving Lent? Loving *in* Lent? The next “must have/must do” season is nearly upon us. Visit many of the shops – be they stationers, chocolate, clothing, food or even on-line – and we cannot help noticing that the pressure is on to buy something special for our loved one. All, so adverts would suggest, in memory of a certain Valentine.

There are several stories associated with St Valentine. What is certain is that he was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity, and that he died in AD269. One legend has it that he died on the same day (modern 14<sup>th</sup> February) that had been devoted by the Romans to love lotteries. In one variant St Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Another variant depends on the significance of February 14<sup>th</sup> as a feast marked by the Romans to honour Juno, the Queen of the Roman gods and goddesses. Juno was also revered as the goddess of women and marriage. On the eve of the feast of Lupercalia (which would be today's February 15<sup>th</sup>) the custom was for young men to draw lots for names of girls who would be their partner for the duration of the feast. What would happen then cannot be described in this Magazine! ... but we can understand that if Valentine was to be faithful to the one true God, he had to refuse all such pagan practices – and by implication to stand against the prevailing ethos of the state. Such a stand has always had its price – under the Romans, often the ultimate.

We certainly want to celebrate an appropriate love token both in its own right, and as a gift from God himself. Where we part company with society is over the commercialism and the prevailing ethos that we must spend, spend, spend. Some might say that the current slow-down in the economy is a sorry reminder that a society built so largely on consumption is bankrupt of spirituality, and bound to fall.

Which is perhaps where the ancient discipline of Lent may help. Forty days of quiet reflection of where we and society are heading, and an opportunity to turn back to a proper and authentic lifestyle. Forty days to realise what the sin of the world cost God, and continues to cost him. Forty days to make a difference for ourselves and those around us - including our dearest and best Valentine. Let's mark Lent as St Valentine himself would have done!

Michael

**Saint John Passion**  
**at**  
**St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks**  
**at 7.30 pm on Saturday 15 March 2008**

J.S.Bach's setting of the Passion according to John is dramatic and fast-paced. The work will be performed by The Cantate Choir, a Sevenoaks-based chamber choir, together with Vivace!, an orchestra of professional musicians specialising in baroque music. The conductor will be Robin Walker, a Royal Academy - trained conductor and organist.

The narrative of the Easter story is carried by the Evangelist (narrator) with Jesus and Pontius Pilate being the main characters, all sung by international soloists.

Appropriately the concert is being staged the weekend before Easter week and will be sung in German with English surtitles.

Tickets are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, 147 High Street, Sevenoaks.

Alternatively you can contact me on 01732 810227 as I am a member of The Cantate Choir and I will be happy to arrange and deliver tickets. *John Morris*

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***For Valentine's Day...***

**LOVE**

He held her close in his arms' embrace,  
 . . . Their eyes and their lips did meet,  
 He looked down into her lovely face,  
 . . . And her heart did faster beat.  
 They went to the kirk an it came the day,  
 . . . And the book the priest did take;  
 He in his kilt was so bright and gay  
 . . . As his promise he did make.  
 She stood at his side so white and fair,  
 . . . Her white fingers fair to give,  
 The priest handfasted them then and there,  
 . . . And he blessed them long to live.  
 O God give the joy and God the love  
 . . . To those who are lovers true,  
 Shed down benediction from above  
 . . . As in one are joined the two.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders

***Carol's Church Clean Do***

Easter is fast approaching and Carol's thoughts  
 are turning to getting our church spick, span and sparkling for the festival

The date for our Spring Clean is

**TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2008 9 –11 am**

Coffee and Biscuits will be provided

Come along for a friendly, enjoyable and rewarding couple of hours

**The more, the merrier**

***Forthcoming Events for Christian Aid***



***Lent Frugal Lunch***

This annual event will be held at St Mary Parish Centre, Kippington on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February** at 12:30 pm. Although the food for the body (roll, cheese and fruit) will be simple, there will be plenty of food for the mind.

The speaker will be Rob Cunningham from the International Department of Christian Aid. Rob is Programme Manager for South Africa and Lesotho and will tell us about the HIV work being done by the Anglican Church in South Africa. As Rob will be visiting South Africa in early February, his presentation will be absolutely up-to-date.

Everyone is welcome to come along. No tickets are required and there is no charge – just the opportunity to donate what you might have spent on your Sunday lunch to the work of Christian Aid

***Silent Auction with Coffee Morning***

Following the success of the Silent Auction held for Christian Aid in 2005, the Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid committee is organising another Silent Auction to be held on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am to 12: 30 pm** (last bids at 12 noon) at St Luke's Church Hall, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks. Coffee and cakes will be served throughout the morning.

Would you like to donate something for the auction? It could be an item or a service. Items should be new or nearly new and in good condition. For offers of services, the sky is the limit – gardening, cleaning, polishing the silver, baking a cake, an historic or wildlife guided tour of a part of Kent...

Please put your offer to your Christian Aid representative, Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766) or add to the list at the back of the church. Make a note of the date and plan to come along and join the fun on the morning

***In memoriam***

We are sad to report the recent deaths of two regular worshippers at St Lawrence’s:-

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December of **Cyril Percy Arthur Lee**, who had died aged 86, and whose funeral was held on 18th December 2007 at Tunbridge Wells crematorium

On 15<sup>th</sup> December **Gladys Freda Clark**, who had died aged 93, and whose funeral was held on 3rd January 2008 at Tunbridge Wells crematorium.

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***Quiz Evening for Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust***

Would you like to be part of a parish Team for a Quiz evening being arranged by Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust. Last time a combined parish team had a lot of fun, and we did creditably well, finishing in the upper half of the field. 7pm for a prompt start at 7:45pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Sevenoaks Community Centre. £10 per person, includes supper. Licensed drinks bar.

Please let Michael know if you are interested. (761766)

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***Prayer Topics for this month***

- For the Sunday School – for vision and enthusiasm as the number of children who come varies so much from month to month
- For those travelling on slippery paths or roads

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***Isn’t Lent early this Year?***

Yes, it is: Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is set by the date of Easter Sunday, which is the Sunday following the date of the paschal full moon for the year. In June 325 AD astronomers approximated astronomical full moon dates for the Christian church, calling them ecclesiastical full moon dates and from 326 AD the paschal full moon date has always been the ecclesiastical full moon date after March 20 (which was the equinox date in 325 AD). Thus, for our western tradition the earliest date on which Easter can occur is 22 March. The date of the Orthodox Easter differ from ours since it is based on the original calculation using the Julian calendar and converted to the equivalent date in the Gregorian calendar now in use.

The last year in which Easter Sunday was that early was in 1818 and before that in 1041. The next will be in 2285!

In 2008 we shall celebrate Easter on 23 March, still very early. Not since 1913 has it been so early and prior to that in 1856. The next will be in 2160. *Ed*

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***Lord, Prop us up in 2008***

An old farmer in the village attended the church’s New Year prayer meeting. He stood up and made one simple request for 2008: "Lord, prop us up on our leanin’ side." Intrigued, the minister asked afterwards what he had meant.

The farmer explained: “I’ve got an old barn in my field. It’s been there a long time. It’s gone through a lot of storms, and it’s stood for many years. It’s still standing, but just before Christmas I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side. I made sure it wouldn’t fall over this coming year.

"Then I got to thinking about how much I am like that old barn. I’ve been around a long time, I’ve withstood a lot of bad weather in life, and I’m still standing, too. But by the end of 2007, what with Foot and Mouth and Blue Tongue, I found myself leaning to one side a bit. So for 2008 I’ve asked the Lord to prop me up on my leanin’ side. I figure he can make sure that I don’t fall over, either.”

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***Signs & Symbols: the Fish***

Have you heard of the fish symbol used by Christians? There are a number of symbols that we deliberately use both in our churches and as Christians generally.

The ‘fish’ was used by Christians in the first century as a way to identify themselves to other believers. When persecution against the church was fierce, Christians needed to communicate in a secret way that would not attract non-believers’ attention. So they scrawled a simple fish on things: in the sand, on trees, on buildings. It told other Christians that here was a Christian. Today you can see the symbol on the back of cars, on lapel badges, as necklaces, and on various advertising signs. A fish tells you that the proprietor is a Christian.

Why a fish? The fish sign comes from the Greek word for fish – Ichthus. If you take each Greek letter as the start of a Greek word then the meaning comes out as follows:

I = Jesus:      Ch = Christ:      Th = God’s Son:      U = Our:      S = Saviour

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***Memorable Quotes***

Though our feelings for (God) come and go, his love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to him. - CS Lewis.

In helping others we benefit ourselves; we heal our own wounds in binding up those of others. – Ambrose

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### ***Ticket to Ride***

A former bishop of Exeter was renowned for his bad memory. On one occasion he was travelling by train to a certain part of his diocese. Before he reached his destination the ticket collector appeared demanding to see all tickets. The bishop groped his way through this pocket and that, inside his purple cassock and out, but no ticket could be found. Finally the ticket collector lost patience and said; 'Tha's o'right bishop. We all know you's an earnest man. It don't matter.'

'Oh indeed it does!' replied the bishop. 'Without that ticket I shan't know where to get off this train!'

\* \* \* \* \*

### ***Lost in translation***

Two American preachers were visiting in Germany and attended Sunday services. Since they couldn't speak German, they decided to do as the man sitting in front of them did.

A few minutes into the service the preacher from the pulpit said something and the man in front of them stood, and they stood also. The congregation burst into laughter. They then sat down when the man did.

At the end of the service, they met the pastor and found that he spoke English. They asked him why everyone laughed so much when they stood?

The pastor explained that he had announced that they would have a christening service that evening and would the father of the child please rise

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### ***Ash Wednesday (6 February)***

Please note the special service at 10am on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent – and plan to come and make a good and appropriate start to the season.

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### ***Thank you .....***

... to everyone who contributed over the Christmas period to special Collections at St Lawrence's, and within the parish. The amounts collected, and the beneficiaries are as follows:-

CAROL SERVICE: 16 December: £530.68 to Christian Aid, collected as Gift-Aid-able (£370.30) + Gift Aid recoverable (£104.74) + Non-Gift Aided £55.64

CAROL SINGING – 18<sup>th</sup> December £148.25 to Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust

CRIB SERVICE – 24 December 2007 £322.03 to Demelza House

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### ***St Lawrence Parish Magazine Subscriptions***

Thank you so much to everyone who has already paid your annual subscription for 2008 - it is most helpful to have the money in, in good time.

Please could I, however, encourage others who take a copy to pay their subscription too - £6 to their "deliverer" if their magazine is delivered, or if posted £9 to Mrs Rosemary Attenborough, Coldhanger, Seal Chart TN15 0EJ. Cheques should be made payable to "St Lawrence (Seal) PCC".

Hoping we can clear up all subscriptions soon! Thank you. *Rosemary Attenborough*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

As I write this it seems as though it was only a few days ago that we were taking the Christmas decorations down and packing them away into the loft above the school hall. The festive season feels like a distant memory but it is, as always, a pleasant memory. Christmas in school is a very special time and each year I feel privileged to be a part of it. The Christmas Concert was a 'Nativity with a difference', during which we explored the history of the traditional Christmas Cracker. The Carol Service was very well supported by parents and friends and the walls of St Lawrence Church almost shook when the orchestra and congregation joined to sing *O Come All Ye Faithful*. Perhaps my favourite memory is the final assembly which is just before the children go home on the last day of term. We light the hall with Christmas lights and candles, sing some favourite carols and remind ourselves of the Christmas story. It is a magical occasion.



Now, of course, all that is behind us and our new term started with great excitement when the children feeding the St Lawrence chickens discovered three large brown eggs! They were hard boiled and made into egg and cress sandwiches and we all had a nibble – delicious. Our chickens (Miss Hilda Eggden, Miss Henrietta Ruffles and Miss Hatty Feathers) live over in the field in their fox-proof enclosure. They are much loved

and the children are diligent in their care, whatever the weather.

As always, we are offering a wide range of extra-curricular clubs this term. One in particular has been very popular – the cooking club. After school every Monday a group of budding young chefs create various culinary delights. Yesterday it was mozzarella pizzas – by all accounts they were very tasty!

There is still much to look forward to this term including a science day, a history week and the three day residential trip to Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Norfolk. Life does not stand still!

*Alison Saunders*

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