

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



Sunday	2 Mar	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	9 Mar	08:00 11:15 12:30	Holy Communion (said) Choral Matins (with hymns) Informal Lunch in the Village Hall	BCP BCP
Sunday	16 Mar	11:05 11:15	Procession from foot of Carter's Hill to Family Service	
Sunday	23 Mar	11:15	Festival Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	30 Mar	08:00 19:00	Holy Communion (said) A Service of Reflection and Restoration at St Lawrence's	BCP
Sunday	6 Apr	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall 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 st 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

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 19 March 2008

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 30 March**

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Printed by Highland Printers, 23 High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0AN (01732 762131)

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



CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

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
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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

Please make www.sealstlawrence.org.uk one of your favourite websites

Mouse Makes

Mary talked to Jesus by the empty tomb.
Read: John 20:10-18

Cleopas walked with Jesus on the Emmaus road.
Read: Luke:24:13-35

Thomas saw Jesus and touched his wounds.
Read: John 20:24-29

Peter ate with Jesus by the Sea of Galilee.
Read: John 21:1-14

Thank you Jesus for being my Saviour and my friend.
Amen

Jesus is alive!

Colour this picture then carefully cut out. Glue onto card to make an Easter greetings card or a window hanging.

Mar08

From the Vicar

This year, why aren't some schools having their customary end-of-term break to coincide with Easter? It is certainly likely to cause problems in school attendance, with some parents unwilling to break their habit of using the two public holidays to make a much bigger break from work, when the family can be together for that needed post-winter holiday in the sun.

The short answer is that if the schools broke up before Easter – Easter being so early this year - the Spring term (or terms in the modern 6-terms-a-year reckoning) would be very short, and the summer term(s) unbearably long.

The deeper question is why can't Easter be set at a fixed date? - say the 2nd weekend in April – which some might think would be so much more convenient. The reason is that the date of Easter is set by *lunar* time. Practically we rely on tables of dates developed in Alexandria to work this out. Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon, after 21st March, so varies anywhere between 22nd March and 25th April.

The cause for the dependence on that particular full moon, is that Easter is intimately linked to Passover. This occurs on the 14th Day of the Jewish month of Nisan (also known as Abib), the first month in the Jewish year, which depends on the lunar cycle. Why is it called the first month in the year? – this is the anniversary of the salvation which God amazingly worked for the Jewish nation, when he enabled the Hebrew people to escape from serfdom in Egypt and start to become a new people. The event is known as the Exodus.

This is a prototype for the even greater salvation God worked over three days from what we know as Maundy Thursday evening to early on Easter Day. Unlike the Exodus, Easter wasn't just by edict or dramatic events involving others – such as the slaying of Egyptian firstborn - but in a sense God allowing himself to die through the death of Jesus. Now, it is not just a few thousand Hebrew slaves being emancipated and re-formed, but the Paschal drama affects the whole created order: Jesus' death and resurrection has cosmic implications.

So at its heart, Easter is not a matter of our holidays and convenience – what a dreadful word! – but about what loving his creation cost God: for all time, and for all - those born before that first Easter, those in every generation since and yet to come, including children at school. Indeed, it is perhaps a rare privilege that this year some of our schools will be able to include the Easter event within the curriculum, within their part in the education of children for life.

With all blessings for the coming Easter.

Michael

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

From the Registers at St Lawrence's

26 January Marriage by Licence of **John Stewart McKenzie and Natalie Francesca Coleman**. We wish John and Natalie every joy in their new life together.

1st February Thanksgiving and burial for the late **Rosemary Hamilton Garner**, member of our church electoral Roll, and who died aged 81. We extend to her husband Tony and the family our deepest sympathy.

~~~~~

***Occasional Reminders***

***Baptism***

If you haven't been baptised, is it because it didn't happen when you were an infant, and you now feel too shy to ask further? Be assured that it's never too late – indeed there is an increasingly used form of the Baptism service which is specifically for adults. And, as we probably know, some parts of the worldwide church practise Believer's baptism, i.e. such churches will only baptise people old enough to know what they are committing to. So if you are not baptised, do ask what you are missing and what is involved! It would be a privilege and joy to share with you. And in view of the following topic, don't put it off, thinking "I'll do it another year" ....

***Graveyard***

(1) Please remember that only those who currently live in the parish\*, or are on the Electoral Roll of the parish church, or who die in the parish\* have the right to be buried in the parish churchyard. We obviously consider with compassion those who die within a year or so of moving from the parish into a nursing home – but if you have plans to move away to a new life for some

***Prayer Topics for this Month***

- Ø For those taking part in Lent study courses, including our own "Exploring Christianity". May all find a deeper knowledge and love of God.
- Ø For our schools, with the issue of holidays and the Easter break.
- Ø Those who are in the media, for faithful reporting, not just sound-bites. And for those who read and watch what is broadcast – for understanding of the real issues behind the headlines, and concern for those affected

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A Warm Welcome

Please do support Dawn and Michael, the new managers of the Padwell Arms. There is a new master chef and all the food is home cooked on the premises. The pub is a super community amenity, so please do pay it a visit. *Gretel*

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***An Easter Egg with a Difference***

Tired of chocolate Easter eggs? Why not tackle a goose egg this year instead? A goose lays just 20 eggs a year, and so a goose egg is a gourmet treat. Known in France as des oeufs d'oeie, a goose egg is also a seasonal treat: geese only lay between spring and early summer.

If you intend to go to work on a goose egg this Easter – better leave yourself plenty of time. A goose egg can be three times as big, roughly the size of a tennis ball, and can take between nine and 11 minutes to boil. It requires a regiment of toast soldiers to mop up the yolk.

But food gourmets say a goose egg is well worth the trouble – and the extra expense – (last year at Waitrose they cost about £2.50 each). Goose eggs are richer, creamier, and tastier – and big enough to share with a loved one. If you don't fancy one boiled, try serving it scrambled with truffles or smoked salmon.

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Alice Bates

We are delighted that as last year St Lawrence's and St Margaret's have been asked to host for six weeks a Reader in Training. So we look forward to Alice Bates from St Matthew's High Brooms being with us for six weeks starting 9th March. Alice is married to Stephen and has three children (Helena, 19 and reading English at Leeds University; Tim, 16 and valiantly wrestling with sixth-form schedules and exams; and Philip, 13, glorying in his last year of freedom before the GCSE course sets in). She lives in Tunbridge Wells, works at Burrswood Christian Hospital in the fundraising department, and is enormously enjoying the challenges of the Readers training course. She is very much looking forward to her time with us, during which she will observe, lead prayers and preach. Welcome, Alice!

News from our School

February has been a surprisingly mild month. Maybe it is this that has encouraged our chickens to be very productive, or maybe it is just the clean, healthy air of Stone Street. Whatever the reason, the children have been very excited by the constant flow of eggs produced by Miss Hilda Eggden, Miss Hetty Feathers and Miss Henrietta Feathers. They are being sold to parents and they are very tasty!

A couple of week ago St Lawrence School took on some more ‘working animals’ – four hundred and fifty tiger worms! They are helping us to solve an eco-problem.....let me explain. Because our children all have a piece of fruit each day at breaktime, our compost bin was becoming overloaded with fruit, resulting in fermentation rather than composting. Our wormery is to help decompose our fruit waste and seems to be working very well. It also helps the children to understand scientific concepts.

We are giving science a particular focus at the moment and last Friday we had a very successful Science Day. It started with an inspirational assembly in the church led by Rev Michael Cooke, who as you are probably aware, is a very accomplished scientist. After this we had a presentation on sound by Mrs and Mrs Wood, a local husband and wife team known as ‘Sensational Science’. This involved some very high level physics but it was presented in such a clear manner that even the youngest children sat enthralled for over an hour. Following this, the older children embarked on solving a staged murder mystery (our fruit delivery man was sadly attacked in the hall!). This involved testing the cooling rate of a cup of tea, analysing ink by chromatography, testing soil samples and scrutinizing the shape of blood (red paint) splats. Eventually they were able to eliminate all the suspects and conclude that the murderer was Mrs Medhurst (Oak Class Teacher).

Meanwhile, the younger children were engaged in solving some nursery rhyme problems. Amongst other things, they had to find a way to mend London Bridge, investigate the best landing material for Humpty Dumpty and mend the hole in my bucket!

A great day was had by all and it was lovely to see the children going home buzzing, having thoroughly enjoyed this learning experience.

Alison

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**Saint John Passion  
at  
St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks  
at 7.30 pm on Saturday 15 March 2008  
[Please see last month’s magazine for details]**

more extended period, yet want to retain the option of being buried here, it is vital that before you leave you apply to the church for the necessary special permission. Ask Michael for details.

\* *NB Parish means the ecclesiastical parish of St Lawrence, not the secular parish of Seal.*

(2) If cremation is your personal wish, or is the wish of the family, please may we all remember that in general it is so much better if the funeral service can be held anywhere than at the crematorium! There, the family get effectively only 20 minutes in the chapel. It is rushed, and at a distance, and despite the best efforts of the staff one is still often aware of the preceding and following funerals. All of which suggests that holding the main service at a crematorium is often not the best choice to mark the life of a loved one, especially when there is an alternative of holding at least the service in the local church where the whole of life is celebrated – births, marriages, regular Sunday worship, the festivals. How such a church service is then combined with a prior or following committal at a crematorium is a very personal matter – but it is worth thinking about well before time. Post-death there is a rush of decisions needing to be made. Again, ask Michael if you want to know more.

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News from our Sunday School

At Sunday School on 20 January, the children listened to Jeremiah Chapter 18 versus 1 -11, which tells the story of the clay in the potter’s hands.

After the introductory prayer, Elspeth explained how potters work their clay and passed around photographs of Michael doing this and also Elspeth showed the children a pot that Michael had made. After this, the children looked at a picture and were asked to find 5 objects, where the first letter of each word made up the word CHANGE. They then played the ‘All Change Game’ whereby each had a partner standing a little way opposite them and each time the word Change was read out in the above passage, they would cross over with their partner and run to the opposite side of the room. The passage was read again and the children counted that the word Change was used 12 times in total. We learnt that God says we are a little like the clay the potter was using. Sometimes we are naughty, sometimes we do things we should not. However, God is like the potter and He wants us to be like good pots. He therefore keeps shaping us until we are just right.

The children then listened to a song around this theme and carried out some activities in the form of colouring, a word search, text where the blanks needed to be filled in and an exercise where they had to decide which was the correct word in the verse and circle it

Celeste

Forthcoming Events for Christian Aid



Christian Aid Coffee Morning with Silent Auction

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 15th 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 bake a cake or some biscuits to serve with the coffee? Or could you 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. We already have offers of 'A celebration cake made and decorated to order', 'A week's holiday in a house by the seaside' and 'An unlimited supply of farmyard manure'!

Please put your offer of home-baking or auction items to your Christian Aid representative Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766).

To make this event a success, however, we need people to come along, so make a note of the date and plan to come along and join the fun on the morning.

Special Church Services in March

These begin with a great family occasion on at our mid-morning service on 2nd March (Mothering Sunday). Although there will obviously be a "Mothers" feel, posies will be given out not only to mothers, but also to those who are now more alone: as Christians we share a common family together.

On Maundy Thursday at a united service for both our parishes (it's Underriver's turn to host this year) we shall precede the traditional service with a simplified Passover Meal. The highlight of the weekend is of course the family Festival Communion Service at 9:45am on Easter Day.

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### ***The Fifth Sunday***

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month for which we have no expected format, we will be holding a quiet evening service of reflection and refreshment - less said, more quiet. And after the service there will be the opportunity for those who want it for personal prayer. (It never fails to surprise me how many of us carry unresolved issues or concerns.)

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Those Heralds of Spring

New plant life is always a sure sign that spring is coming, but many flowers, past and present, also have symbolic meanings. For instance:

Anemone: the Greek symbol of sorrow and death, which comes from the legend of Adonis. He was killed by a boar and where his blood stained the earth, Venus, who loved him, made anemones grow. In Christian lore, anemones sprang up on Calvary at the crucifixion; the red spots on the flowers' petals signify Christ's blood.

Daffodil: well-known as the floral emblem of Wales, its origin as an alternative to the leek isn't clear, but St David's Day falls on March 1, just as daffodils begin to bloom. In ancient times, it was also known as 'the flower of deceit', because of its narcotic properties.

Hawthorn: represents hope, because it heralds a new Spring. In Greek myth, it was sacred to the god of marriage. His bridal torch was made of hawthorn. At weddings Athenian girls crowned themselves with its blossom. Romans placed hawthorn leaves on the cradles of new-born babies as a charm against evil spirits.

Narcissus: symbolizes self-love and vanity. In Greek myth, the flower sprang up where Narcissus, a beautiful youth, fell in love with his reflection in a pool and drowned trying to embrace it.

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### ***Black Mondays?***

Do you wake up on a Monday morning feeling exhausted? There's a reason: research has found that Sunday is the most sleepless night of the week.

Nearly 60 per cent of employees have their worst night's sleep of the week on Sundays, a recent survey by Travelodge has found. It leads to a lack of concentration at work on a Monday (46 per cent), increased irritability towards bosses (30 per cent) and the odd nap at the desk (20 per cent).

16 million adults in the UK claim to suffer regularly from insomnia. Most blame concerns over work. So no wonder Friday nights are the best night of the week for sleeping. Eight out of ten people get their least disrupted sleep at this time.

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The Oxford and Cambridge 2008 Boat Race

The big race this year falls on Saturday March 29th at 17.15. The first one took place in 1829, and since then it has been rowed every year except during the two World Wars. The course covers four and a quarter miles of the Thames from Putney to Mortlake, which makes it three times the length of an Olympic course.

There has only ever been one dead heat – when in 1877 the finish line judge fell asleep under a bush as the crews raced past. When he woke up and was asked the result he said: "Dead heat to Oxford by four feet."

Another famous gaffe was made in 1949 by BBC commentator John Snagge, who said; "I can't see who's in the lead, but it's either Oxford or Cambridge."