

Services at St Margaret's Underriver
April 2008



Sunday	6 Apr	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall A Short Service for All God's Children	
Sunday	13 Apr	08:00 18:00	Holy Communion (said) Evensong	BCP BCP
Sunday	20 Apr	11:15	Family Service	
Tuesday	22 Apr	20:00	Annual Church Meeting in the church	
Sunday	27 Apr	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	4 May	11:15	Family Service	

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 Hilary Denby-Jones	810227 763883	S'oaks District Councillor Seal Parish Council	Cnclr Peter Coates	762129
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Chairman	Robin Watson	833930
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris	810227	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville	763832
Organist	vacant			Chris Sutton-Mattocks	762013
Choir Director	John Morris	810227	St Lawrence Village Association		
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Elspeth Cooke	761766	Chairman	Graham Moynes	760640
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Tony Webb	xd	Secretary	Carol Smith763561St	Lawrence
	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Village Hall Management Committee		
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	Chairman	Peter Granville	763832
	Beryl Storey	451510	Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388
Church Flowers	Jean Stirling	810258	Treasurer	Marie O'Connor	xd
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker	760843
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Cricket Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
Chairman of Governors	Mrs Sarah Hudson	810050	Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	xd	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
			Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202

St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
April 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

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

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 16 April 2008

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 27 April**

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
April 2008



Tuesday	1 Apr	Bible Study for both parishes At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Sunday	6 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (said) BCP Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 Luke 24: 13-35 09:45 All Age/Family Service (children in church) Luke 24: 13-35	
Tuesday	8 Apr	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	13 Apr	Fourth Sunday of Easter Family Communion (with hymns) CW Acts 2: 42-47 John 10: 1-10	
Sunday	20 Apr	Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (said) CW Acts 7: 55-60 John 14: 1-14 09:45 All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School) Genesis 8: 1-9 John 14: 1-14	
Thursday	24 Apr	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough (venue to be confirmed)	
Sunday	27 Apr	Sixth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer (with hymns) BCP Genesis 8: 20 - 9: 17 John 14: 15-21 11:00 Annual Church Meeting	
Thursday	1 May	Ascension Day Holy Communion (said) CW Daniel 7: 9-14 Acts 1: 1-11 Luke 24: 44-53	
Sunday	4 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (said) BCP Acts 1: 6-14 John 17: 1-11 09:45 All Age/Family Service (with children in church) Acts 1: 6-14	

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - a service using traditional (17th C) language and form
CW = Common Worship - a service using contemporary (21st C) language and form



Church

Gill Benyon
Gill Benyon
Elspeth Cooke
Elspeth Cooke
Roz Morris

Flower Rota

Sunday 6 Apr
Sunday 13 Apr
Sunday 20 Apr
Sunday 27 Apr
Sunday 4 May

Memorial

Rebecca Morgan
Rebecca Morgan
Bridget Stephens
Bridget Stephens
Francesca Turner



St Lawrence Sunday School



Sun 20 Apr	Martha and Mary	Elspeth & Lesley
Sun 18 May	A Man by the Road	Celeste & Lyn
Sun 15 June	The Story of St Lawrence NB at 10:30	Helen & Beryl
Sun 09 Sept	Planning Meeting	At Beryl's
Sun 21 Sept	Peter and Cornelius	Lesley & Hilary

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)

ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in Stone Street Village Hall
at 8.00 pm on Thursday 15 May 2008

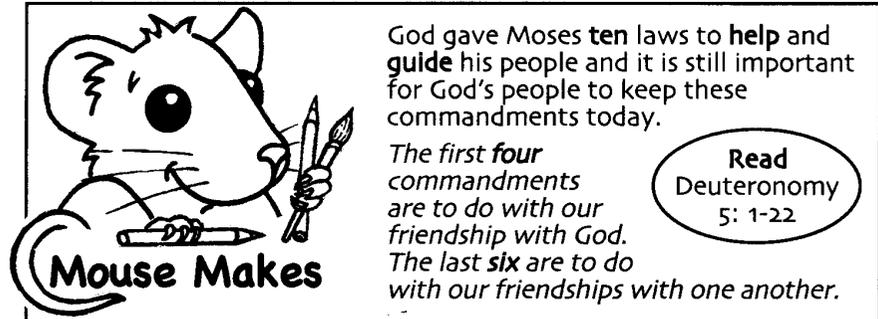
The AGM will be followed by a brief talk by

Mr Peter Mountfield

about his recently published book
“Seal - The History of a Parish”

Signed copies will be available for purchase

Cheese and Wine will be provided



God gave Moses **ten** laws to **help** and **guide** his people and it is still important for God's people to keep these commandments today.

The first **four** commandments are to do with our friendship with God. The last **six** are to do with our friendships with one another.

Read Deuteronomy 5: 1-22

GOD'S LAWS FOR LIFE The Ten Commandments	1. WORSHIP NO GOD BUT ME Put God first	2. DO NOT MAKE OR WORSHIP IDOLS Don't take away someone's life	3. DO NOT MISUSE GOD'S NAME Watch what you say!	Glue onto the back of 4	
	4. OBSERVE THE SABBATH AND KEEP IT HOLY Keep a special day to rest and worship	5. RESPECT YOUR PARENTS Don't take away someone's life	6. DO NOT MURDER Don't take away someone's husband or wife		Glue onto the back of 8
	8. DO NOT STEAL Don't take something that is not yours	9. DO NOT ACCUSE ANYONE FALSELY Don't tell lies about others	10. DO NOT COVET Don't be jealous of what belongs to others		

Make a mini book of God's Commandments:
 Cut out the strips then glue them together to make one long strip. Zig-zag fold along the dotted lines



From the Vicar

How many of us have heard of **Hope08**? In case anyone hasn't, this is a nationwide initiative commended by all the main UK church leaders for a year of united mission and outreach in every corner of our land. Details can be found in Hope08's brochures (copies are in church), or from their website www.hope08.com. As the title indicates it is **this** year, and its activities are to bring **hope** – a much-needed commodity in the UK where, according to several indices, we are in fact one of the least happy nations in Europe.

The broad idea is that churches should do more and different types of service and outreach in their communities. In some cases this will take the form of more study courses (e.g. "Alpha", or our own "Exploring Christianity") to help bring the essential and good news of Jesus into more people's lives. But "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (*James 2:17*). So this ought to be a year when churches and communities take a new look at what needs to be done practically – and then start doing something about it. So here are some starter suggestions:-

- Helping to provide advice in Debt Recovery (that's recovery from a lifestyle of too much debt, and/or practical steps to recover some of the debt itself)
- Helping to provide much-needed Child Contact Centres, where a child can meet in safety a highly estranged parent. Sadly, such broken families become more and more common in today's world.
- Helping foreign migrants learn English. Is there anybody who might like to offer time simply to be alongside a group of Poles, or Romanians, or Ukrainians, or whoever? You don't need to know their language – just English!
- Helping to alleviate the effects of closure of local Post Offices and shops. Such events may scarcely affect those of us still mobile - though individuals each motoring to do their own piece of posting or shopping or commerce isn't good for the environment, and nor is it cost-effective for small businesses to have to spend extra time "on the road". Are there some local services which volunteers could provide at a central location – perhaps in an open church? A weighing service - leave a set of scales and the infamous "5 mm slot". Some key essential leaflets? Or offering once or twice a week to take things like parcels to where they can be got into the Post Office system? Trickier – and it would need more care setting up – but is there some small-cash provision which we could make?

What are your thoughts? Should we be spurred on by initiatives like Hope08 to consider what more we could do together in and for our communities? I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael

From the Registers at St Lawrence's

3rd March Funeral and Burial of the late **Martha Evelyn Cochrane**, late of Pinehurst Nursing Home, and who died aged 94.

7th March Thanksgiving for the life of the late **Eurwyn Keith Jones**, who died aged 69 at Redhill Hospital.

Evie is Sheila Jackson's mother, and Keith is Gillian's husband, and we extend to both the Jackson and Jones families our deepest sympathy on their loss.

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Alleluia – and the God of relationship

Thank you to the keen-eyed reader, who noticed the mis-spelling of Alleluia on the front page of the March issue. But how many of our readers know what the word means?

It comes from two Jewish words "**Hallel**" (=praise) and "**Jah**" which is one of the two most frequently used words for God in the Bible). Two words for God? One is "El" – the word used thinking of God as the Almighty, the creator - so throughout the story of Creation at the beginning of the Bible the word is "El". The other word used even more frequently in the Bible is "Jah", the abbreviated form of the word JHWH (probably pronounced phonetically as Yah-way, although it has come down in English wrongly as Jehovah). Whether JHWH or Jah, the thought is of God in his deep relationship with his creation and his people. And because of the four capitalised Jewish consonants, the word is often written capitalised LORD in English Bibles. So Alleluia means "Praise the LORD" – praise God who loves the world so much that he lowered himself to come to earth, to die to save it. What a LORD. Halleluiah!

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Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me." The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

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All Fool's Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

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Could you save someone's life?

Ever wonder what you'd do if someone collapsed in front of you, or had a serious accident? If you have no idea at all, why not consider taking a course offered by St John Ambulance? One day it might mean the difference between life and death.

Each year more than half a million people are trained in first aid by St John Ambulance, on a variety of courses designed to suit people of all ages. Emergency first aid can be taught in just three hours – while a 28 hour course will equip you with a wide range of skills to help people needed first aid. If this interests you, visit: www.sja.org.uk .

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Hope08 Resource Manual

Various authors, Authentic, £2.99 - (see also the Vicar's page)

This resource guide is packed full of ideas and lessons to help churches participate in HOPE08. For many years, Christians all over the UK have been doing fantastic work in their communities, actively loving and serving those around them. Hope 2008 is about harnessing this activity through quality resources and encouragement, to motivate and enable every church, denomination and person to do more to reach people in the place where they live during this 12 month period.

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St Lawrence Brownies

At the end of February St Lawrence Brownies held a sponsored silence to raise money for Caring Partners Dogs. We had a demonstration of what the dogs can do from a trainer and her dog: it was amazing and the Brownie meeting was heaven!!!

In all, we raised £257-50p. Thank you to all who sponsored us. *Sonwy Owl*

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Some special dates for our diaries

27th April is our Annual Church Meeting, held after the morning service. Please do come and stay on to thank where things are going well, but also to contribute to discussions on where our church could perhaps be doing better for God and the community.

1st May (Thursday) is Ascension Day – one of the chief feasts in the church’s calendar. Our Communion Service for both parishes is held this year at St Lawrence’s (10 am).

14 June (Saturday) is our joint parish Garden Party.

Please let’s mark these dates in our diaries.

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Time to heal our relationship with our children

The Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) has warned that a strong lead is needed by government and organisations serving children to start to heal damaged adult-child relationship in the UK.

The rise of the compensation culture, a fear of getting involved in even obvious cases where children are in danger, such as bullying in the street, and a general culture in which children are kept at arms length from adults are examples, says CCPAS, of situations that have led to a general distancing between children and adults that has never been greater.

CCPAS, one of the UK’s leading experts in advising places of worship and organisations in safeguarding children, welcomed the government’s emphasis on improving safety on the road, at home and in addressing the very real dangers posed to children through the internet and use of mobile phones.

However, CCPAS warned that we need also to address fundamental attitudes that have become part of the problem. “This has led to such absurdities as banning conkers and egg and spoon races, calling in a parent to remove a bee sting from a child’s arm at school or put a plaster on, prohibiting teachers from holding the hand of an upset five year old in the playground or applying sunscreen on a hot day”.

Nature Notes

The hedgehogs are coming - With spring and increasing warmth of the sun, hedgehogs around the country are waking up from a long hibernation this month. They are in need of food and water as soon as they emerge, as they need to replenish lost fat reserves in time for the breeding season.

If you have hedgehogs in your garden, you can do a lot to help them. Offer them meat-based pet food and fresh water - and soon they will be repaying you by snacking on your slugs and snails. Please take care when tidying up the garden from winter mayhem – many hedgehogs suffer terrible injuries every year from strimmers, garden forks, etc.

Bluebell time - Did you know that 20 per cent of the world’s population of bluebells is found in the UK? If you are out and about the country this month, you can enjoy spectacular displays in many of the woods around our locality.

Do you like badgers? If so, this is a good month to enjoy watching the youngsters. Badger cubs usually emerge from their setts for the first time in April, and if you know of a sett locally, arrive about an hour before sunset, settle ten metres away downwind, and wait to be entertained!

Dawn Chorus - The dawn chorus peaks in April and early May. Our garden birds such as robins, blue-tits and blackbirds are advertising their territory boundaries and either inviting females to mate for the first time or returning to previous partners. The male’s singing prowess is a signal to the choosy female.

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News from Christian Aid

Successful Silent Auction - Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Christian Aid Coffee Morning with Silent Auction on 15th March in so many ways – baking cakes, providing items for the auction, coming along and bidding. I am delighted to report that getting on for £1200 was raised– a fantastic result for a very worthwhile cause.

Christian Aid Week (11-17 May) House-to-house Collection

The theme of this year’s Christian Aid Week is ‘Empowering: helping the weak to help themselves’. The House-to-house collection which we shall be having in St Lawrence Parish is an excellent opportunity to raise money which will be channelled through Christian Aid’s partner organisations to enable some of the poorest peoples in the world to build a better future for their own communities.

Could you be part of the team of collectors in the parish this year? It just involves delivering envelopes to a small number of houses early in the week and then calling back to collect them. An hour or two collecting from a few local houses could raise enough to make a significant difference to the life of someone in a developing country. The more collectors we have, the easier the task, so please give prayerful consideration to helping. Perhaps you could do it with a friend. If you can help, or if you’d like to know more about what is involved, please contact me. If you live outside the parish and would prefer to collect in your own local area, do please still contact me and I can put you in touch with the organiser for your area. More collectors are needed in all areas. Thank you.

Elspeth Cooke (Tel: 761766)

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Rogation Days

In many 2008 diaries, the words ‘Rogation Day’ are shown against 25, 28, 29, and 30 April.

Rogation days are four days traditionally set apart in the Western Church for solemn processions to ask God's mercy. The first Rogation , 25 April, was introduced as a Christian substitute for the Roman pagan celebration Robigalia, a special celebration to pray for crops.

The second set of Rogation days, the Lesser Litanies or Rogations, are the three days (Rogation Monday, Rogation Tuesday and Rogation Wednesday) immediately before Ascension Thursday.

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus

and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. The wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, ‘beating the bounds’ became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation as said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for ‘beating the bounds’ - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

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News from our Sunday School

Sixteen children gathered in the school here to hear about Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. We started with a prayer to thank God for all the wonderful stories we hear about Jesus. We then had a short bible reading followed by a game of “Pin Jesus on the Donkey” which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The children made flags to take into Church and they waved these during the last verse of the final hymn. It was lovely to see so many children, many of whom were siblings or relations of children from St. Lawrence School’s orchestra who entertained us magnificently with their playing.

Helen

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I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen

Rev I: 18

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