

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
June 2008*



Sunday	1 Jun	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	8 June	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	15 June	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
Sunday	22 June	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	29 June	10:30	The Nation's Favourite Hymns	
Sunday	6 July	11:15	Family Service with Holy Baptism	

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	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	S'oaks District Councillor	Cnclr Peter Coates	762129
	vacancy		Seal Parish Council		
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	Lizzie Veglio	see page 5		Chris Sutton-Mattocks	762013
Choir Director	John Morris	810227	St Lawrence Village Association		
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Elsbeth Cooke	761766	Chairman	Graham Moynes	760640
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Secretary	Carol Smith	763561
	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	Chairman	Peter Granville	763832
	Beryl Storey	451510	Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388
Child Protection Rep	Carol McLintock	452964	Treasurer	Marie O'Connor	xd
deputy	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker	760843
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Cricket Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
Chairman of Governors	Mrs Sarah Hudson	810050	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	xd	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953			

*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
June 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 Warden
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 18 June 2008

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 29 June**

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
June 2008*



Sunday	1 June	Second Sunday after Trinity		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		BCP
		Romans 1: 16-17, 3: 22b-28	Matthew 7: 21-29	
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (with children in church)		
		Matthew 7: 21-29		
Friday	6 June	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)		
	10:00	At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green		
Sunday	8 June	Third Sunday after Trinity		
	09:45	Family Communion (with hymns)		CW
		Romans 4: 13-25	Matthew 9: 9-13,18-26	
Saturday	14 June	Parish Garden Party		
	14:00	At Bassett's, Mill Lane, Underriver		
Sunday	15 June	United Dedication Festival Service		
	10:30	All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School)		
		1 Kings 8: 22-30	Hebrews 12: 18-24	
Wednesday	18 June	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)		
	14:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green		
Sunday	22 June	Fifth Sunday after Trinity		
	09:45	Morning Prayer (with hymns)		BCP
		Jeremiah 20: 7-13	Matthew 10: 24-39	
Sunday	29 June	Sixth Sunday after Trinity		
	10:30	The Nation's Favourite Hymns		
		A United Service for both parishes at St Margaret's Underriver		
Sunday	6 July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity		
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)		BCP
		Romans 7: 15-25a	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30	
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (with children in church)		
		Matthew 11: 25-30		

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	Flower Rota for	Memorial 
	Wedding	Sunday 1 June	Juliet Evans
	Wedding	Sunday 8 June	Juliet Evans
	Jean Stirling	Sunday 15 June	Annie Scarsi
	Jean Stirling	Sunday 22 June	Annie Scarsi
	Jean Stirling	Sunday 29 June	Sue Labrum
	Jean Stirling	Sunday 6 July	Sue Labrum



St Lawrence Sunday School



Sun 15 June	The Story of St Lawrence	Helen & Beryl
	NB at 10:30	
Sun 09 Sept	Planning Meeting	At Beryl's
Sun 21 Sept	Peter and Cornelius	Lesley & Hilary
Sun 05 Oct	Harvest Festival	

**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)**

Sleep under the Word of God

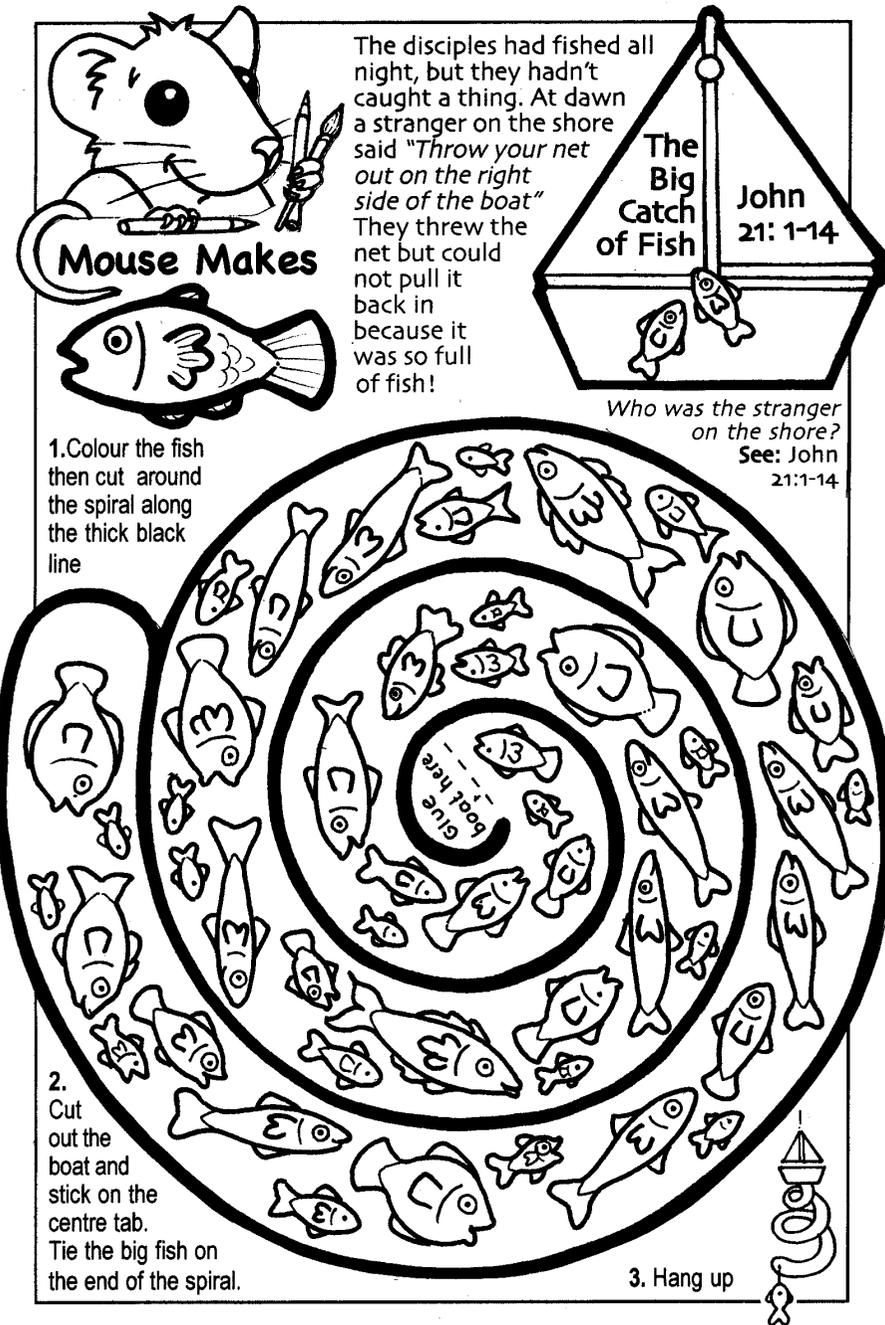
Here is a 'fun' story for parents with young children. Does your child sleep under a Spiderman duvet cover? Now he or she can sleep under the Scriptures. A new company, TruthFabric, has started making Christian bedding with words of scripture on it.

"Every child should be able to have a duvet on their bed which reminds them God is real and that they are loved by God," says the founders of TruthFabric. The Christian bedding products are ethically produced in India. Some of the profits go to an orphanage in India, and a drug rehabilitation project and a nursing home in the UK. For more details: www.truthfabric.com

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What am I?

The church's altar kneeler, woven by the West Dean Studio. Please do have a look at this original work, especially commissioned following the fire of 2005 and in use at St, Lawrence's since June last year.



From the Vicar

When someone says or does something of which you don't approve or which you would like changing (e.g. planning issue, government policy, public statement, unreasonable bank charges, or antisocial behaviour), do you

- (a) ask someone else to make the contact on your behalf?
- (b) tell them yourself?;
- (c) draw up or sign a petition?
- (a) write anonymously?
- (e) do nothing?

And whether it's you or someone on your behalf, is it better to

- (1) wait several days, and then tell them, or
- (2) tell them the same day?

Because at times we all make or receive complaints (fortunately I receive very few – though maybe I deserve more!), I believe there are some principles we may find helpful. Firstly, on the timing – do it sooner than later, for at least two good reasons! "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and (so) do not give the devil a foothold" (Ephesians 4:26). Brooding on someone else's perceived wrong can itself lead to a greater wrong in *oneself*. How many of us see such negative effects in long-term family estrangements. The later the request for change is made, the harder it can be to put things right. Indeed the deadline may have passed.

But who best makes the request, and how? The supreme example is of course God's own approach to our (mis)behaviour, and his own subsequent action:- though at various times prophets spoke on his behalf, the ultimate course was for him to come and speak and act in person (see e.g. Hebrews 1:1-2). Though we recognise that very rarely there are safety issues e.g. in discretion over confronting antisocial behaviour of some potentially violent people, God's attitude and way (verbally, and directly) should surely be the norm for us too. Anonymous contacts inevitably betray not only great cowardice, but are usually counter-productive. Also, while petitions have their place, it is a fact that they are vastly less effective than if those who sign so easily would also individually take the trouble to write even a short 5-line letter - each personal contact can add slightly different and significant nuance. Very occasionally, our complaint or request has legal or technical overtones, and then a solicitor, the CAB or another professional can be of great help. But even here an ombudsman, for example, will require that one have first personally contacted one's bank about the issue and given them the opportunity to respond.

One final aspect: wherever possible, it is good to include with any complaint something encouraging or of thanks. No one and no policy is totally evil – there is always something, however apparently small, to give thanks for – indeed doing so usually helps the effectiveness of any request. Philippians 4: 6-9 (with my italics) is food for thought: "In everything, by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving*, make your requests known to God. ... And the God of peace will be with you."

With all best wishes

Michael

Appeal for Books - Ethiopia

A year ago I was in Ethiopia, at the University of Haramaya, as observer of an in-service teacher training course, funded by a British charity. .

Linda Robertson is the VSO responsible for the University's English Language Centre and she is currently setting up an English Reading Room for the students at Harumaya. English is obviously not the students' first language - that is mostly Amharic - but English is very important for their future careers. Linda tells me she is starting the Reading Room from scratch and needs books of all descriptions and I have told her I will try to help. As there are no funds to pay for transporting the books I'm looking around for people who would be generous enough to donate one or two books which they no longer use and to post them to Linda at the University. Categories of books which would be welcomed are:-

Fiction - literary and popular poetry, short story collections

Reference books on computing, sports, countries and cultures, music, food, travel guides etc.

English as a foreign language: text books and grammar books

If you have one or two books to spare and could afford the cost of a jiffy bag and airmail postage to Ethiopia, please get in touch and I will give you the address to send to.

You can find the University - which until a decade ago was an agricultural college - on its website www.haramaya.edu.et

You could also email Linda (linrobincusco@hotmail.com) to tell her the books are on the way: that would make her day!

Thank you

Gillian Jones
01732 761466

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Danger!

The 50 most dangerous places on earth to be a Christian

For the sixth year running North Korea has again been revealed as the most dangerous place on earth in which to be a Christian, easily keeping its top spot due to the relentless way it represses Christians.

This is the key finding of the 2008 World Watch List of the worst 50 nations for persecuting Christians, recently published by Open Doors, the international charity serving persecuted Christians worldwide.

Open Doors' major new report, which is now in its sixth year, places the Wahhabi kingdom of Saudi Arabia in second place, followed closely by another country ruled by Sharia law: Iran.

From the Registers

30 April Funeral and burial of the late Florence Margaret May ('Mrs May'), late of Apple Tree Cottage, and who died aged 95. We offer our deepest sympathy to her daughter Anthea, and to all those many people who had been influenced by Mrs May, whether at her school or riding school, or in so many other ways.



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Prayer Topics for this month

- Those involved in exams (pupils, teachers and examiners)
- New-born children, especially those born prematurely: thanks too for the wonders of modern health
- Those caught in natural disasters, and where things are so much worse by human folly and selfishness; thanks for those working in Aid Agencies

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Are you a mouldie? Want to talk to your nang children?

Can you understand a teenager? Not psychologically – probably no one can do that. But quite literally – what language are they speaking these days?

If you find your teenager increasingly hard to understand, you might like to buy a new book, 'The A-Z of Teen Talk', to help you make some sense of your offspring. Here you can learn the meanings of such gems as 'vanilla' (boring); 'jamming' (hanging around); 'za' (pizza); and 'antwaky' (unstylish). Then there's 'flat roofin' (stressed); 'elton' (a toilet); 'klingon' (irritating younger sibling); 'mouldie' (parent); 'nang' (excellent, brilliant); 'wafwaan' (what's going on); and 'rago' (okay).

The book was researched at Cheltenham Ladies College over the course of a year, and written by 13 year-old Lucy van Amerongen, who also gives three golden rules that all teenagers seem to obey instinctively: never make eye contact when talking to a 'mouldie' (parent), always mumble inaudibly, and always include the word 'like' in, like, every sentence, like. Rago, like?

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St. Margaret's and St Lawrence's Annual Garden Party

Saturday 14 June 2008

2pm - 5pm

at Bassetts, Mill Lane, Underriver

STALLS INCLUDE

RAFFLE, TOMBOLA, FLOWERS, CAKES,

PLANTS AND PRODUCE, BRIC-à-BRAC,

BOOKS & TOYS

TEAS and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

CHILDREN'S RACES

If you are able to help on the day (particularly on bric-a brac or toys)
or have items to donate please call

Rosemary Cole - 01732 763107 or Hilary Denby-Jones - 07776 136678

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

After last years successful Antiques and Collectibles Stall

Tony Webb is planning a repeat.

This time it will be called Something Old/Something New

If you have any possessions, either old or new,
(unwanted gifts for example) that you would like to donate,
please get in touch with Tony Webb, on 01732 763436,. who is especially
looking for items that could be sold for £5 and above.

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How to get there

Drive down Carters Hill, continue through Underriver and turn left at the T-junction signposted to Hildenborough. At next junction take the right fork, again signposted to Hildenborough. Pass Great Hollenden on right and Vines Lane on left. Bassetts is on the left about 300m past Vines Lane .

The Bishop of Shrewsbury, Alan Smith said, "We need to support our fellow Christians in other countries, many of whom are suffering or whose lives are under threat."

At best, Christians living in countries featuring on the World Watch List 2008 can expect discrimination in the workplace, in education, physical and emotional abuse or a ban on holding church services. At worst, and this is a regular occurrence for Christians living in any of the worst ten nations, they may be thrown into jail and – all too often – are murdered.

Islam is the majority religion in six of the top 10 countries: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Maldives, Afghanistan, Yemen and Uzbekistan. Three countries have communist governments: North Korea, Laos and China. Bhutan, which has just ceased being an absolute monarchy, is the only Buddhist country in the top ten.

Many of the nations that feature on the World Watch List are signatories to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religious expression.

In many countries, such as North Korea, Libya, Jordan and Belarus, persecution has grown significantly worse over the past 12 months. In Pakistan, which has a sizeable Christian minority, believers are more closely monitored than before as radical Muslim influence grows.

In the Palestinian Territories, Rami Ayyad, the manager of a Bible Society book-shop, was tortured and murdered by extremists in October last year. In Turkey last April, three Christians, Tilmann Geske, Necati Aydin and Ugur Yuksel were bound, tortured and their throats slit.

2008 World Watch List North Korea; Saudi Arabia; Iran; Maldives; Bhutan; Yemen; Afghanistan; Laos; Uzbekistan; China; Eritrea; Somalia; Turkmenistan; Comoros; Pakistan; Qatar; Vietnam; Chechnya; Egypt; Zanzibar Islands; Iraq; Azerbaijan; Libya; Mauritania?; Burma (Myanmar)?; Sudan (North); Oman?; Cuba; Brunei; India; Algeria; Nigeria (North); Djibouti; Turkey; Kuwait?; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; United Arab Emirates?; Jordan; Morocco; Belarus; Palestinian Territories; Ethiopia?; Syria; Bahrain; Tunisia; Indonesia; Bangladesh; Kenya (North East); Colombia? (conflict Areas)

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Erratum – and an Apology

In last month's "From the Vicar" I cited "Munich (1938)" as an example a host nation's attempts to "use" the Olympics. It should of course have been "Berlin (1936)" – my brain must have jumped to another (in)famous national event in 1938! Indeed, the main point I was trying to make is even more so with Berlin and yet another capital city!

Michael

Some special dates for our diaries

14 June (Saturday) is our joint parish Garden Party, held this year in Underriver.

15th June (10:30am, Sunday) is St Lawrence’s Dedication Festival Service, when we will give thanks for the founding of our parish, and commit ourselves afresh to service. There will be a Sunday School, and we shall also be joined by members of St Margaret’s. Let us together make an even greater joyful noise to the Lord.

Please let’s mark these dates in our diaries.

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What am I?

I tell a story. The most amazing story in the world, into which each of our lives is woven.

I begin with the first day of God’s creation: light. The golden glow of light that started the world After the light are first strands of life: blue representing water; a few leaves. The leaves start green and go through the seasons, changing colour, as we move through life. The golden light and the blue of the water are still evident, as God sustains the life of the world and all life.

Occasionally there is a faint coloured square, an unusual shape in the overall flow of my design: at times we are at odds with our surroundings and those around us; we’re not in harmony, but we are still part of the story and God’s plan.

At my centre is the gold outline of a cross. Christian belief rests on Jesus Christ being at the centre of all life. The cross is almost hidden and you have to look hard to find it: for many it will be invisible, as they go through life not pausing to ask, or look at who is there at the centre.

Finally the pattern of leaves decay, as do our mortal bodies, but there is the reassuring glow of a wonderful future, as the light of heaven floods our eternal lives. I end, as I began, in God’s light.

Along my edge are words from Revelation 22:2 “...the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” this takes us back to themes of creation, the tree of life and God’s blessing on the world: for the world to be whole in Him. It also signifies St. Lawrence’s, one leaf among many, and how the prayers that are offered here, can effect and bless places far beyond our small church.

The stories of those who worship here and who pass by, are all part of the greater story. Alleluia!

Gretel

The answer to Gretel’s conundrum is at the foot of Page 11

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Israel celebrates 60 years as a country - 14 May 1948 - 14 May 2008

Israel lies on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, bordered by Lebanon in the north, Syria and Jordan in the east, Egypt on the southwest, as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The population of about 7.2 million are mostly Jews. Israel is the world’s only Jewish state. It is also home to Arab Muslims, Christians, and Druze, and various minority groups.

The modern state of Israel has its roots in the Land of Israel, a concept central to Judaism for more than 3000 years. At the end of World War 1, the League of Nations approved the British Mandate of Palestine, with the idea of creating a “national home for the Jewish people”. In 1947, the United Nations approved the partition of the Mandate of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The Arab League rejected the plan, but on 14 May, 1948, Israel declared its independence.

The Arab-Israeli War followed, which Israel won. Since then Israel has been in conflict with many of the neighbouring Arab countries. Since its foundations, Israel’s boundaries and even her very right to exist have been subject to dispute. Israel has signed peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and efforts continue to find a peaceful way forward with the Palestinians.

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Anyone for tennis?

The Bitchet Green grass tennis court will shortly be available for the Summer season. This is a lovely facility for local residents and their families. However, it does need more support, both in terms of members and volunteers for its maintenance, or we are in DANGER of losing this charming court.

It is priced very reasonably at £25 annually for families; £28 for families and friends. There is no booking system you just turn up and play! What better way to help entertain children and grandchildren over the long holiday.

Please see the enclosed leaflet for details, or contact Ian Lister (762416)

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Baptism and Confirmation preparation

Might it be right for you or for one of your children to become more involved with God? Or, more correctly, let him more into our lives?

We are starting a mini-series “Finding out more about Christian Belonging”. These 4 – 6 sessions could lead to Baptism (adult or child), or Confirmation. Might you be interested? If so, could you let Gretel (761534) or Michael (761766) know – soon! We would tailor any series to age and expectation – indeed we may need to run two groups! We would hope to start either before the summer break or very early in September.