

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



Sunday	6 July	11:15	Family Service with Holy Baptism	
Sunday	13 July	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	20 July	10:30	St Margaret's Patronal Festival United Family Service	
Sunday	27 July	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	3 Aug	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	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	01634 244700		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	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
July 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 16 July 2008

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

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
July 2008*



Tuesday	1 July	Bible Study for both parishes at 20:00 Westover, Mill Lane, Underriver	
Thursday	3 July	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 10:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
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	
Sunday	13 July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) CW with the ministry of healing and wholeness Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23	
Tuesday	15 July	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 20:00 At St Lawrence Vicarage	
Sunday	20 July	Ninth Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) CW Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 10:30 St Margaret's Patronal Festival (at St Margaret's Underriver) Isaiah 43: 1-7 Matthew 10: 16-22	
Tuesday	22 July	St Lawrence School Leavers Service 09:30	
Sunday	27 July	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns) BCP 1 Kings 3: 5-12 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52	
Friday	1 Aug	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 10:00 At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	3 Aug	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21 09:45 All Age/Family Service (with children in church) Matthew 14: 13-21	

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



Flower Rota for



Church

Memorial

Jean Stirling	Sunday 6 July	Sue Labrum
Audrey Ellis-Gibbons	Sunday 13 July	Sue Coombe
Audrey Ellis-Gibbons	Sunday 20 July	Sue Coombe
Margaret Bridle	Sunday 27 July	Elspeth Cooke
Margaret Bridle	Sunday 3 Aug	Elspeth Cooke



St Lawrence Sunday School



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)



***St Lawrence Pre-School**
Village Hall, Church Rd, Stone Street
Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0LL.*

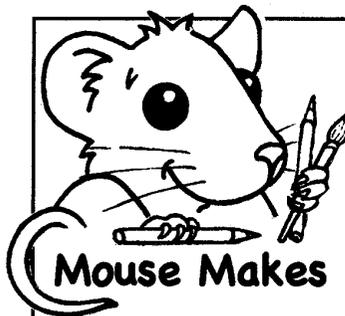
*A small pre-school for children aged
between 2½ and 5 years, set in a rural location.*

*Open Mon-Fri 9.15am to 12.00
Tues and Thurs 12.00 to 3.00.*

*Our qualified and dedicated staff enjoy helping the children de-
velop to their full potential within the guidelines of the Early
Years Foundation document.*

*As from September we have limited places available, if you require more
information or a visit, please contact*

Mrs Mandy McCracken at Pre-School on 01732 763354



Mouse Makes

Jesus had many friends and followers, but he also had 12 special friends known as the 12 disciples. Jesus spent three years with them travelling around the country teaching them all about God and his kingdom.

Read Luke 6:12-49

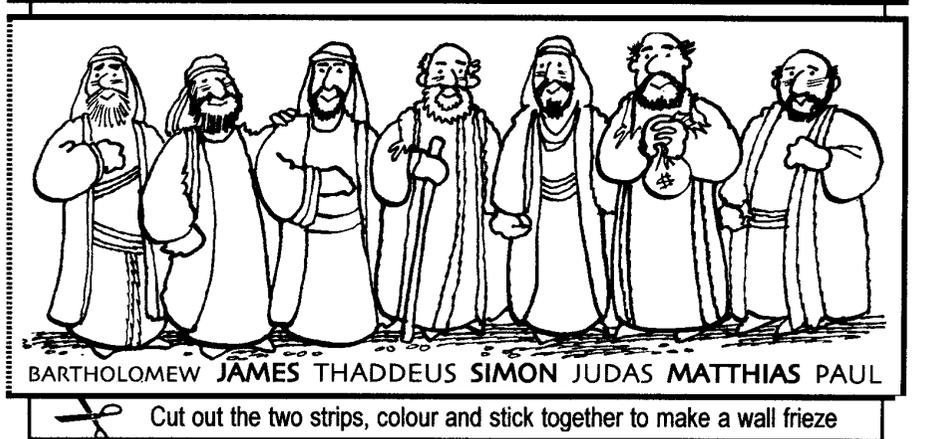
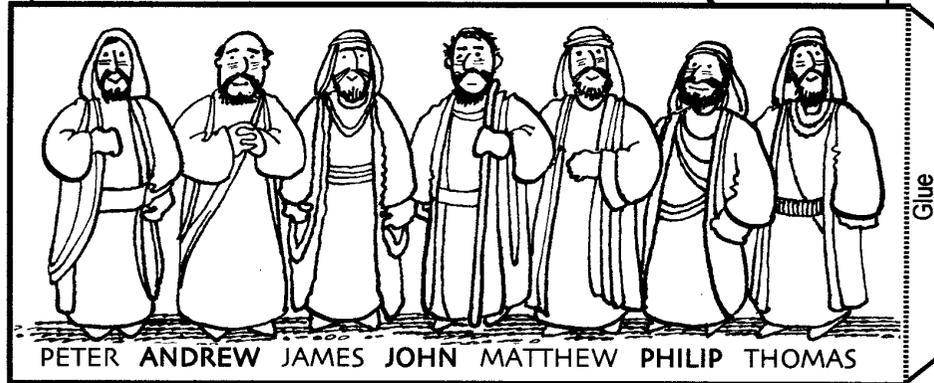
After Jesus' death the 12 became known as the APOSTLES.

Read Acts 1:12-26

Judas, who betrayed Jesus, was replaced by Matthias and Saul (also called Paul) became the apostle to the Gentiles.

Read Acts 9:1-22

DID YOU KNOW?
Disciple means 'follower' and Apostle means 'messenger'



From the Vicar

Your 8-year old British-made washing machine (original cost £250) has its first-ever breakdown - it stops spinning. Do you reckon the machine has had a fair innings, and so buy another? (If so, do you still buy the equivalent but more efficient model, now only £230, and/or do you think about whether it is still made in Britain – actually, it is!) Or do you have it repaired? (Likely cost £50 to £100, provided you can get some “heavies” to help take it to the excellent local repair man.)

Whether to replace is an even harder choice when the item in question is not yet broken, but has become inefficient by comparison with the latest offerings. With the head of the Russian energy giant Gazprom predicting that the price of a barrel of oil will double within the next 18 months (and costs of petrol, gas, heating oil and electricity leaping correspondingly) how do we decide when or how to replace our car, boiler, computer, or white-goods item? Or indeed stop using some of them!

One starting point would be to learn* the true cost of running a particular consumer item, and then do a cost/risk analysis. But should my decision be based just on *what is good for me?* What obligations have we to wider society, and future generations – our own children and grandchildren included? What combination of land-fill and exhausted reserves are we bequeathing them? John Donne’s famous lines which begin “No man is an island ...” take on a whole new level of meaning, now that we recognise what we are collectively doing to the environment – with the consequent climate change we are already certainly experiencing.

All this is compounded by what I saw recently when walking from Dunton Green back to the parish. There was litter here, unconsumed food discarded there, broken windscreen (under the railway bridge), a new Ferrari with engine expansively and deliberately revealed in its see-through cover, dozens of rubbish sacks awaiting collection but clearly not properly sorted for recyclable materials, cars roaring past – what a insight into society, even in a nice place like Sevenoaks District!

What I write could sound bleak – but there is in fact an even greater dimension, which is both more awesome still, and yet alone has the power to help us in our decision-making. The Bible is very clear that even our sense of relationship with wider society isn’t the really Big Issue:- “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24). So what we call our “carbon footprint” is also about trampling on God’s property. Can there be any grounds for us doing that? And if not, what needs to change – starting now with each of us?

* PS Each 10 watts worth of item left on “standby” (TV, monitor, video, ...) incurs electricity costs of about £9 per year. And if you don’t know what your fridge, computer, kettle (frighteningly expensive if you boil it several times a day and forget to use only part-fills!), pond-pump, rabbit-scarer or any other intermittently-running appliance is consuming, do please consider borrowing our power meter! It works for any appliance which connects via a 13A socket, and will tell you the true number of kWh being used.

Michael

Christian Aid Collection



Thank you so much to those who collected and those who gave during Christian Aid Week's house-to-house collection in the parish. The amount collected was £1,555.54 (£1,858.75 including Gift Aid). This excellent total represents an increase of 13% on last year's

total. Well done everyone!

Elspeth

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News from our Sunday School

The text we studied in Sunday School on 18 May was from Luke Chapter 18 versus 35-43 and was the story of blind Bartimaeus, in which Jesus refers to more than just physical blindness. We asked the children to close their eyes and say what they could hear, explaining that when people are unable to see, their other senses are often more keen. They also played a game where they reached inside a bag, without looking, took out the item and tried to guess what they could feel. Tom Hordle read the text and then discussion took place around how beggars would often be found at the city gate where people passed in and out, asking for money. Blindness and diseases of the eye were common in those days, and were quite often caused by flies. The blind man realised that the number of people was larger than normal that day and cried out. Once he realised it was Jesus he cried out louder but, instead of asking for money, asked for 'mercy' meaning help. He believed that Jesus would help him and Jesus told him that his faith had made him better. Helen had drawn a large outline of an eye on a piece of stiff paper which the children filled in with green and blue scrunched up pieces of tissue paper which they thoroughly enjoyed, and discussion took place around how precious and beautiful eyes are. This was then taken into church at the end of the morning service and was displayed at the back of the church.

Celeste and Helen

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St Lawrence Exhibition – In church now

When Michael and I go on holiday, we keep a lookout for 'St Lawrence's' – churches dedicated to him or works of art in museums we visit. Over the years we have collected a variety of photos. Some of these are on display in St Lawrence church along with some pictures and information about St Lawrence gathered from other sources. Do pop into the church over the next couple of weeks to see the exhibition. St Lawrence is one of the major saints of the church and has been a popular subject in art from the earliest days.

Elspeth

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Using honey to help cure wounds is not new. It was first used by the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians. Now, it seems, a number of doctors in Bangor, North Wales, agree with them.

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Celebrations as Festivals mark Common Worship's completion

The concluding volume of the largest liturgical publishing project ever carried out in this country was published this Spring. 'Common Worship: Festivals' is a comprehensive liturgical resource for use in the Church of England, containing material to help churches celebrate saints' days and other festivals and holy days.

People remembered in the book's rich collection of material range from Alban, who became the first recorded British Christian martyr after he gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from arrest in around the year 250, to Josephine Butler, the social reformer who played a major role in improving conditions for women in education and public health before her death in 1906.

'Common Worship' is the biggest project ever undertaken by the Liturgical Commission, supported by Church House Publishing. From the sample booklet printed in the spring of 2000, to this final volume published in the spring of 2008, almost 60 different publications have been completed - an average rate of nine separate items each year.

Somewhere in the region of 1.6 million printed items have been produced in total, plus more than half a million information leaflets and booklets distributed to parishes at the turn of the millennium.

To give an idea of its scale, for the standard volume alone - which includes comprehensive material for morning, evening and night prayer; Holy Communion and Holy Baptism - the printers used:

* 2500 miles of paper, weighing 300 tonnes; * 190 miles of ribbon; * enough binding material to cover 4.5 football pitches. Laid end-to-end, all 1.6 million items would stretch 335km (based on an average A5 height of 21cm), lining the roads for the distance between Lambeth Palace and Bishopthorpe Palace, the offices and homes of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York respectively.

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A Special Place

The Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador are a very special place indeed. Almost half of the plants and most of the reptiles living there can't be found anywhere else on earth.

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Why you should talk to yourself

Do you talk to yourself? Do you worry that you talk to yourself? Well, don't. Apparently it is NOT the first sign of madness, but is actually very good for your brain and mental well-being.

New studies published in Early Childhood Research Quarterly have found that 'self-talking' can aid concentration, help solve problems and lift depressive moods. 78 per cent of children performed simple tasks better when they spoke to themselves than when they were silent.

And a year-long study of 500 people by Nottingham Trent University has found that talking to yourself ranks in the top three methods of coping with the stress of commuting to work - along with singing to yourself and humming to yourself.

But while talking to yourself is good – be careful what you say! Don't discourage yourself or say things like: 'I can't.' 'I won't.' 'I'm not.' It won't help anyone – least of all - you!

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Drawn to Faith

When I see your sea surging so wonderfully, and I reflect that I cannot understand the origin of water or its measured movements, I am drawn to faith – because only you could have created the sea and its waves.

When I see all the trees and flowers in the earth, and I reflect that I cannot understand how they grow and multiply, I am drawn to faith – because only you could have created the trees and flowers.

When I look at myself, and I reflect that I cannot understand how my mind and body work, I am drawn to faith, because only you could have created mankind.

Ignorance of myself does not prevent me from knowing and worshipping: on the contrary, ignorance of the mysteries of myself and of all things around me tells me that I depend wholly on you to create and sustain life.

Hilary of Poitiers c310 – 367 Brought up a pagan, he converted and was made a bishop

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Honey, honey

Next time you cut yourself, reach for the honey jar. Treating cuts with honey has worked where even antibiotics have failed, suggests a new study. Wounds can become sterile in three to ten days.

Scientists believe that honey's healing power is due to the enzyme glucose oxidase, which produces hydrogen peroxide, an antiseptic, while the high sugar concentration inhibits bacterial growth. Some hospitals are already using Medihoney, a honey-based dressing, to treat patients.

Some special dates for our diaries

Sunday 20th July Festival Family Service (NB 10:30 am) for both our parishes at St Margaret's, when we have the privilege of hearing Professor Sam Berry (Professor Emeritus of Genetics at University College London) speaking on Eco-congregations - see also the Vicar's page!

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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?

There's still time to join either the adult or young people's courses "Finding out more about Christian Belonging". Each will last 7 or 8 sessions, and could lead to Baptism (adult or child), or to Confirmation. But let us know your interest soon!

Please telephone Michael (761766) or Gretel (761534)

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From the Registers (St Lawrence's)

- 17 May Marriage after Banns of Gareth Ben John Atkinson and Helen Barbara Sutton
- 24 May Marriage after Banns of Matthew John Stratten and Bolette Christina Bendix Petersen
- 31 May Marriage after Banns of Edward John Lindsay Davies and Victoria Mary Alice Pearson
We wish all three couples great joy in the new start in their lives.
- 3 June Funeral and burial of the late Gertrude Caple, who died aged 85 in Otford. We extend to her family - particularly to her sons Ted and Richard – our deepest sympathy in their loss.



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Prayer Topics for this month

- Those affected by the sharp slow down in the economy – especially we remember the elderly and those with children
- The people of Burma and China following the natural disasters, and the decisions their governments are (or are not) taking
- Those we know in our parishes whose health is failing
- Those looking forward to their holidays – and those unable to do so

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Your Life Expectancy

Life expectancy in Britain has reached its highest level ever for men and women. Boys and girls born now in Britain can expect on average to live to 76.9 and 81.3 years of age respectively.

Life expectancy is also at its highest for those who reached 65 between 2004 and 2006. Men who have reached 65 can expect to live for another 16.9 years, and women for a further 19.7 years.

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Bibles – Made in China!

30 years ago the Bible was banned in China, but now China has one of the biggest Bible factories in the world and a new, expanded printing facility is soon to make China’s ancient capital, Nanjing, the Bible centre of the world.

The Amity Printing Company – a joint venture with the Bible Societies – will be producing 23 Bibles every minute to keep up with growing demand for the Bible in China. In 2007 it printed six million Bibles. Since the new press opened in May, that will leap to a potential 12 million – most of which will be distributed throughout China. Last December its 50 millionth Bible was produced.

About 55,000 churches distribute the Bibles that come off Amity’s production lines. Some are free and all are made affordable. A pocket edition of the Bible costs about 68p and Chinese Christians can receive the full-size Bible at a subsidised cost of £1.16.

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Parish Garden Party on 14 June

Thank you so much everyone who came and contributed to wonderful and enjoyable afternoon at the united Garden Party held on 14 June. A special thank you to John and Heather Clemence for loaning us your lovely garden; to the stallholders and organisers; and to God for the just-right weather. We are delighted to announce that in addition to the fun (which is the more important aspect) some £2,680 was raised, to be split between the two parishes.



News from our School

We are now well into the Summer Term and the weather is just beginning to be really ‘summery’. This always inspires us to start to enjoy many of the traditional summer activities. In particular, our maypole has been brought out of winter storage and, as always, the children’s efforts at maypole dancing has made many a rambler pause in their walk past the school!

Recently the year six children (10 and 11 year olds) took the annual SATs tests. These are rather unpleasant necessities which have to be tackled each year, however, the children have worked very hard and cheerfully, and we expect some very good results. It is, of course, vitally important for the education of each child that we focus strongly on the basic skills of reading writing and arithmetic which these tests assess. However, we also believe in activities which broaden the child’s experience and we have many such activities planned for the rest of the term.

A good example of this is the emphasis we put on sport. The top and middle classes are receiving cricket and rugby coaching once a week and we hope to enter teams in the district tournaments later this term. Last week our swimming team excelled by winning the small schools’ section of the district swimming gala in Swanley. In addition to these events the children are also eagerly anticipating sports afternoon, this is always a significant occasion in our annual calendar.

We are very involved in the Sevenoaks Summer Festival this year. The whole school will be performing a selection of songs from the musical ‘Alice’ on the ‘Schools Stage’ on Saturday, 21 June. We are on at 11.00 outside Laura Ashley – do support us if you are free.

In addition, a large number of our children are involved in two other festival events - ‘The Music of Children’ and ‘Passit On’. Both concerts promise to be great occasions; details are in the festival brochure.

We always try to be extremely welcoming to all visitors and last week was no exception even though the visitor was rather unusual! Robbie, the horse came to school to visit our youngest children to help them with their topic on farming. They were enthralled and Robbie behaved beautifully – he looked surprisingly at home on our school playground.



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