

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
August 2008*



Sunday	3 Aug	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	10 Aug	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with canticles)	BCP
Sunday	17 Aug	11:15	Short Family Service	
Sunday	24 Aug	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	31 Aug	11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	7 Sept	11:15	Family Service	
		16:00	Young People's Confirmation Group (at the Vicarage)	

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	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	Cricknet 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
August 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

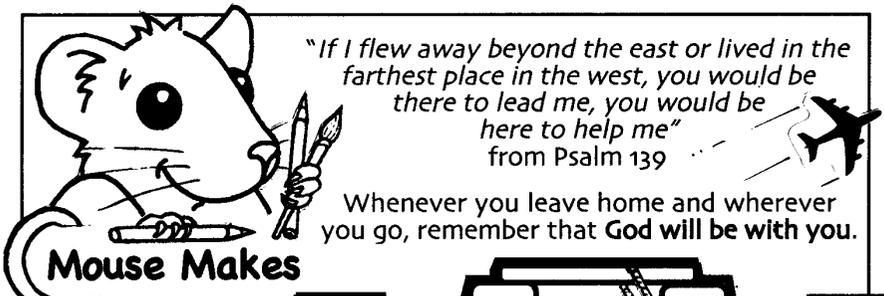
Please make www.sealstlawrence.org.uk one of your favourite websites

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to brian@bсутton0.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)
 Printed by Highland Printers, 23 High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0AN (01732 762131)



"If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be here to help me"
from Psalm 139

Whenever you leave home and wherever you go, remember that **God will be with you.**

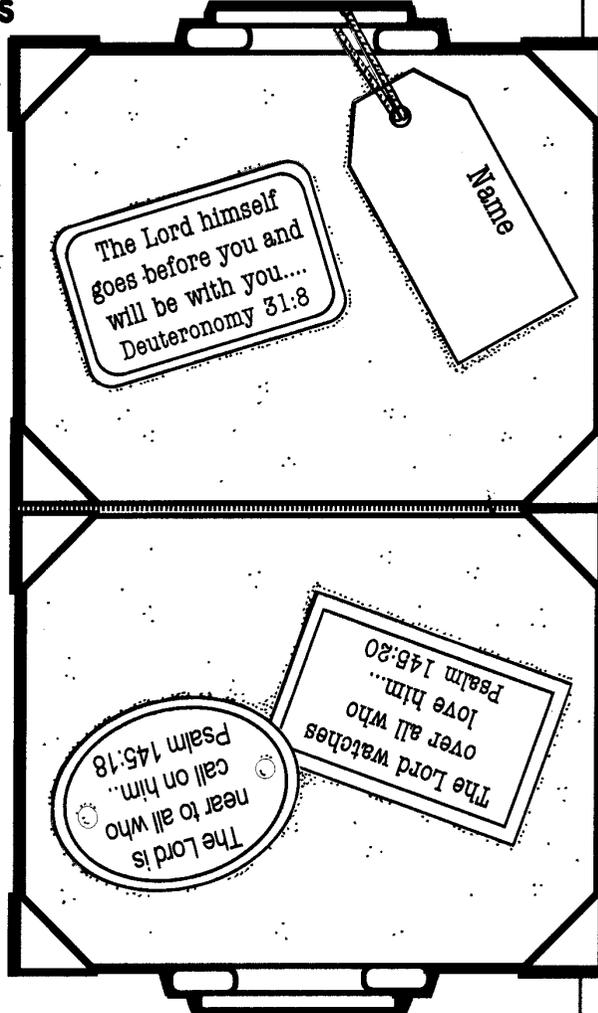
Mouse Makes

The Long Journey

The Lord said to Abram:
"Leave your country, your people and your father's home and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless the nations"

So Abram left, as the Lord had told him... He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all their possessions and they set out for the land of Canaan.

Read Abram's story in Genesis chapters 12-25.



Glue the suitcase to thin card, cut out and fold in half. Write inside what you would take with you on a long journey.

From the Vicar

I wonder what memories you have of holidays past – or indeed (for those fortunate enough) you will be bringing back this year?

I share a memory from the holiday Elspeth and I had last year. In the heart of the sunniest part of France – which is why they built it there - at Odeillo in the Cerdagne plateau in the French Pyrenees, stands something very unusual:- a solar oven. This is a 50 foot concrete cube, behind which is an enormous 1,800 m² concave mirror – that's approximately 45 metres in each direction. As you can imagine, a reflector of that size can be seen from miles away (km away in France). But it's only on getting closer that we saw the underlying structure – a field the size of at least 2 football pitches, and consisting of 63 monster flat mirrors - heliostats - which rotate according to the sun's position, and so maintain maximum reflection at the massive parabolic mirror. The cumulative result is the focussing of a megawatt of solar energy into an 80 cm space, causing the temperature to exceed 3500 degrees C. Dependent on the sun, but also on mirrors turning in time!

I was reminded of this memory as I heard today the Parable of the Sower – in Matthew 13 we see that 4 verses describe the farmer's seed falling on unproductive ground – on a path (eaten by birds), on stony ground (no depth), amongst thistles (choked by the weeds) – with only one verse devoted to the seed which falls on good ground and produces a staggering 30-, 60- or even 100-fold yield. What a prodigiously generous God who doesn't mind wasting his gifts, provided some bear really big harvests.

And the link between the solar oven and this parable? None directly – except that with each of us made in the image of God to reflect his glory I wonder how much more of God's gifts could be harvested if we acted like those flat mirrors – and worked together to help focus God's love on even one or two otherwise cold people. For, as I meet people, I find many who - to draw on another analogy from the parable - have no root, and who don't yet feel God's warmth, or even have an inkling that he is the source and destiny of everything and everyone.

I wonder: perhaps there's a memory of our own which, with insights from others, can inspire us to help warm chilly souls, and help them to experience something of the real stuff of life – God's own light and life.

With all blessings,

Michael

St Lawrence Pre-School

Our pre-school is very small and friendly; we have 7 staff (mostly 3 in a day) and a maximum of 15 children. The children are all aged between 2½ and 5 years and usually move on to one of the local schools in the area like St Lawrence, Ightham or Borough Green. We are set in a rural location at the bottom of Church Road; we use the small room of the Village Hall and have fabulous equipment and toys. The children all learn through their play and the vast experiences we try to give them during their time with us. We work to a theme each term and at present are working on a theme of ‘people who help us’ starting with the emergency services. We have asked Sevenoaks fire department if they would like to visit us with their fire engine.



The last year has been very exciting for us as we have worked on themes of ‘water’ and conducted various experiments with water like trying to make it go up hill. We have also made filters to clean water and made a bottle where we poured oil and water together to see what happens! We have also looked at a theme of our family and invited all of the dad’s to come into pre-school for a day to play and see what we do, as well as telling us what they do when they go off to work. We produced a wonderful Christmas play this year and invited all of our mum’s and dad’s along as well as the St Lawrence reception class, to watch. Very soon we will be practicing for the Olympics’ or at least our own version called ‘sports day’. We use the school field and have a wonderful time running races, hopping and jumping and if the weather is good we may even have an ice lolly to cool down.

In September we will be opening each morning from 9:15am to 12:15pm and on two afternoons (Tuesday and Thursday) from 12:15pm to 3pm. The afternoon sessions are great fun because we play all sorts of games. We play bingo, board games and memory games which are fun but also help the children to develop their maths and language skills. Every day we use the large range of two wheeled bikes (with stabilizers) in the playground and play on the climbing frame and balancing equipment we have.

We try to arrange two outings each year for the children and their families, we have just visited Legoland and later in the year we may go to a pantomime. As you can see we try to involve everyone in the pre-school, parents run the pre-school committee and help us to raise funds. We encourage the parents to stay with their younger children to help to settle them for the first few weeks. The children always seem happy to come to pre-school and enjoy the range of activities we provide, if you have a pre-school child and would like to come along and visit please contact me at pre-school on 01732 763354.or 01732 847990.

Mandy

+++++

an old Christian site in Canterbury. There is good reason to believe that this is the very place where St Martin’s Church stands today, almost certainly named after Martin of Tours (died 397), the former soldier turned monk who evangelised Gaul.

If this is indeed the site where Queen Bertha and later her husband Ethelbert worshipped, then what a Christian heritage is here. Just think of it! In this year of grace 2008 we can stand by St Martin’s Church and know that, without a break, Trinitarian worship has been offered on this site for at least 1400 years! That makes St Martin’s the oldest place of continuous worship in the land.

From Canterbury Augustine and his monks began their evangelism and in a short time King Ethelbert professed the Christian faith and was baptised. Ethelbert’s kingdom stretched as far north as the river Humber and he readily gave permission to Augustine to carry the gospel across his kingdom.

Many pagans were converted to Christianity and while Bede’s story that Augustine baptised ten thousand converts on one day is certainly an exaggeration, there is no doubt that the work of evangelism made great advance.

Augustine only lived a few years after his arrival in England. He died in 604/605, having been earlier consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. That made Augustine the first Archbishop of the English Church in a line that stretches from Augustine to the present Archbishop, Rowan Williams. Because Augustine had made Canterbury his headquarters and began building a church there, Canterbury was known as his ‘seat.’ The Latin word for ‘seat’ is cathedra, hence Canterbury Cathedral.

Down the centuries Canterbury Cathedral has reflected the tides of history in the country. In the 12th century King Henry 11 took notice of a well-educated young man who was an agent for the Archbishop, Theobald. The young man’s name was Thomas Becket (1120-1170). Henry made him Lord Chancellor of England and the two men became close friends.

When Theobald died Becket was made Archbishop in 1162. But if Henry thought that Becket would do whatever the King wished he was soon disappointed...

+ + + + +

Don’t know nothin’

When Columbus started out, he didn’t know where he was going. When he got there, he didn’t know where he was. When he got back, he didn’t know where he had been. And he did it all on other people’s money. Can’t help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

+ + + + +

Pilgrim Places - Canterbury

The Christian Church was born in the city of Jerusalem in the great events of our Lord's death and resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It spread rapidly across the Roman world and other cities became important Christian centres. These included Antioch, Ephesus, Alexandria, Constantinople and Rome.

At the beginning of the 6th century a small town in southeast England was added to that illustrious list – Canterbury in Kent. It seemed more likely that London or Winchester or Lincoln would have become the centre of English Christianity but a missionary's decision to make Canterbury his headquarters gave the honour to a town formerly fairly insignificant. That missionary was Augustine (died 604/605 AD), a Benedictine monk from a monastery in Rome and not to be confused with the much better known Bishop Augustine of Hippo in North Africa (354-430).

Augustine was selected for this mission to England by Bishop Gregory of Rome. We are not sure why Gregory initiated this mission but there is a well-known story about it. This story, or legend, is told in the Venerable Bede's great work on English Church History, 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People'. Bede tells us that while Bishop Gregory was visiting the Forum in Rome, he saw children for sale in the slave market. Noting their fair complexions and blue eyes, he asked who they were and was told they were Angles, captured in their home country, England. Gregory is alleged to have replied with a Latin pun. 'Non Angli, sed angeli,' 'not Angles but angels.' Gregory sent Augustine and forty other monks on a mission to England to convert the native peoples to Christianity.

Of course this was not the first time the Christian faith reached Britain. The gospel had come to these islands at least three hundred years before Augustine's mission. Who brought the Good News to our ancestors is uncertain. It might have come with Roman soldiers or traders, for the Romans had occupied the country as early as 43 AD.

More likely, however, it was Christian missionaries from Gaul (France), our nearest neighbours across the English Channel, who first evangelised our pagan forefathers. When an important Church Council was held in Arles in France in 314 AD, the records show that three English bishops attended, indicating that early in the 4th century Christianity was well enough established in England to have at least three bishoprics.

Augustine landed in Kent in 597AD and made his headquarters at Canterbury. Ethelbert, King of Kent, had married Bertha, a Frankish Christian, and although he was not a Christian, he allowed Bertha to practise her faith.

She had brought her chaplain, Bishop Liudhard, with her and they worshipped at

A Joyous Celebration

I went twice to Colombia, in 1974 and again in 1984. The first time I received the impression of a happy-go-lucky people still living in the 19th Century, but with 20th Century toys. They maintained their religion, their traditions, their food and their popular culture - but with the hand of US imperialism lying heavily upon them. I noticed that some European manufacturers - Renault and Volkswagen - were able to assemble cars in the country, but otherwise all cars were American. No British cars - with one exception. I was delighted to see that many of the taxis were very old Morris Minors (with split windscreen!) still trundling happily up and down the Andes.

By 1984 all these had disappeared, and colonisation by the USA was complete. All-important transactions were negotiated in dollars and no bank would look at my sterling. The latest popular music was straight out of American television and their own popular culture had been largely shovelled away out of sight. The newspapers were full of advertisements from distraught parents for their missing children. All property owned by professional people was protected by armed guards. Colombia was said to be the only democratic country in South America, and yet the people walked in a state of fear - not from the government, but from drug-dealers and guerrillas. Their big neighbour condemned the use of drugs with the right hand yet did good business with the left. I did not know and do not know whether the anti-government forces are genuinely opposed to what they might see as an abuse of power; or whether it is their protest against US domination; or whether like all revolutionaries in history their aim is simply to get power and money for themselves; a depressing picture.

So when two weeks ago I landed at El Dorado International Airport, I wondered what I was going to find.

Bogota has swollen enormously from 1 million to 10 million inhabitants. Much (but not all) of the old shanty quarter has gone, and has been replaced by modern flats. There is an atmosphere of greater prosperity - despite the Indians and others peddling on street corners or driving quaint horses and carts along the busy Avenidas. The Bendy Bus has arrived and has a special carriageway of its own down the middle, like the old trams!

We were celebrating my in-laws' Golden Wedding, and the celebrations included several features, which everyone attended. An evening party at which local musicians played and sang traditional songs which everyone knew from their childhood. (What happened to our English traditional culture?).

The next morning there was Mass, which everyone attended. The chapel was packed with at least twenty standing outside (not being familiar with 'hora inglesa!') It was a military chapel and was notable for its cleanness and simplicity, not dissimilar to the Guards' Chapel in London. There was no organ, but a young

man set up an electric keyboard. When the 'bridal procession' arrived, reproducing the events of 50 years ago, the young man and a violinist struck up a spirited rendition of the music used 50 years ago - 'Land of Hope and Glory'!!! I went up with the others to the altar, and an astonished priest gave me a blessing. I chatted to him afterwards, he was intrigued to know where I came from, and when I told him 'England', his immediate reaction was 'Buena gente' (nice people). This was a reaction I heard several times in Colombia: I hope we stop trying to lose this certificate. After Mass, a dinner/reception at which we all danced – traditional Latin-American.

But there was one more visit to make. We hired a car and made the journey into the mountains to the sacred lake of Guatavita. The old village had been demolished to create a new lake with a dam; but as before, mad dogs and Englishmen could still trek up to the top of the mountain and enjoy the magic spectacle of the dignified place of worship of the ancient Muisca tribe. This was where the new cacique (chieftain) was anointed with honey and gold, and inaugurated his reign with the rite of diving into the lake, accompanied by votive gold ornaments thrown from the sacred raft. He was 'El Dorado' (the gilded man) from whom the legend originated. Still largely untouched, apart from the great slit in the mountain made 200 years ago as a monument to the greed of modern treasure-hunters (fortunately still largely unfulfilled), the lake itself is full of algae which give the surface different exotic colours according to the season of the year. When I went it was a shimmering green.

I was glad to go back, and gladder still to see a return to human values in a society where the Church is still important.

David Walton

+ + + + +

Some Special Dates for our Diaries

4th October Harvest Supper

+ + + + +

From the Registers

4th July Funeral and burial of the late Mary Lawrence, who died aged 85. We extend to her family our deepest sympathy in their loss.



+ + + + +

Prayer Topics for this Month

- Those away on holiday – and those unable to have a holiday.

+ + + + +

News from our Sunday School

It was the Patronal Festival in church so we had our own programme about St Lawrence.

We started with prayers and a short story, referring to pictures from Michael (the same pictures as were being considered in church) showing various interpretations of St Lawrence's appearance and what he wore, and with emphasis on the poor and needy. We then had a treasure hunt in the school garden dressed as lame, blind and poor.

Indoors we made jewels and seated in a circle on the floor we had a little chat about St Lawrence and the older ones realised he was a martyr.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

All six seemed very happy.

Lynn & Beryl

+ + + + +

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?

The good news is that, at the time of writing, we have 5 adults and 5 young people who have expressed an interest in a Confirmation group ("Finding out more about Christian Belonging") – and separate sessions (each of 7 or 8 sessions, meeting weekly) will begin this September. If you think you might be interested in joining, do please have a word with one of us soon – there's no obligation implied by asking for more details.

Michael (761766) or Gretel (761534)

+ + + + +

Christian Aid Cake and Preserve Stall

Christian Aid is having a Cake and Preserve Stall at Chipstead Village Fete on **Saturday 6th September** and we would be most grateful for contributions of cakes or preserves to sell. Chipstead has not had a Village Fete for 20 years and is keen to revive the tradition, so we want to have a really well-stocked stall to encourage the village committee. All proceeds from the stall will go to Christian Aid.



If you would like to donate something, please contact Elspeth (761766). Thank you.

+ + + + +

No wise man ever wished to be younger. - Jonathan Swift.