

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
October 2008*



Sunday	5 Oct	11:15	Harvest Festival	
		12:15	St Margaret's Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall	
Sunday	12 Oct	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	19 Oct	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	26 Oct	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	2 Nov	11:15	Family Service	
		18:00	A service of commemoration for those who have died and whom we see no longer. A service for both our parishes	

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
	Elspeth Cooke	761766	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	Cricketer 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	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
October 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 15 October 2008

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 26 October**

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
October 2008**



Saturday	4 Oct	St Lawrence Harvest Supper In The Village Hall - Proceeds will go to FARM-Africa	
Sunday	5 Oct	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity - Harvest Festival 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46 09:45 Harvest Festival Family Service Psalm 65: Luke 12: 16-21 [Collections are for the Rural Development Movement's work in Parakkavilai in South India]	
Tuesday	7 Oct	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Shepherd's Cottage, Heaverham Road, Kemsing	
Sunday	12 Oct	Twenty First Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) CW with Ministry of Healing and Wholeness Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14	
Tuesday	14 Oct	Bible Study for both Parishes At Kettlehill House, Underriver	
Sunday	19 Oct	Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) CW 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22 09:45 All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School) Isaiah 45: 1-7 Matthew 22: 15-22	
Thursday	23 Oct	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	
Sunday	26 Oct	Bible Sunday - Twenty Third Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Morning Prayer BCP Nehemiah 8: 1-4a 8-12 Matthew 24: 30-35	
Sunday	2 Nov	All Saints Sunday 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Revelation 7: 9-17 Matthew 5: 1-12 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Matthew 5: 1-12 18:00 A service of commemoration for those who have died and whom we see no longer. A service for both our parishes at St Margaret's, Underriver	

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

Bridget Stephens
Bridget Stephens
Jean Stirling
Jean Stirling

Flower Rota for

Sunday 5 Oct
Sunday 12 Oct
Sunday 19 Oct
Sunday 26 Oct
Sunday 2 Nov



Memorial

Liz Coates
Liz Coates
Charlotte Sinclaire
Charlotte Sinclaire
Annie Scarsi



St Lawrence Sunday School



Sun 5 Oct	Harvest Festival	
Sun 19 Oct	Abraham (1)	Celeste & Elspeth
Sun 16 Nov	Abraham (2)	Lyn & Sam
Sun 14 Dec	Christmas People	Helen & Lesley
Thu 8 Jan	Planning Meeting at 21 St Edith's Road, Kemsing	
Sun 18 Jan	Four Friends	Celeste & Lyn
Sun 15 Feb	Zacchaeus	Elspeth & Lesley

**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 Elspeth Cooke (761766)

Stop Press for Children

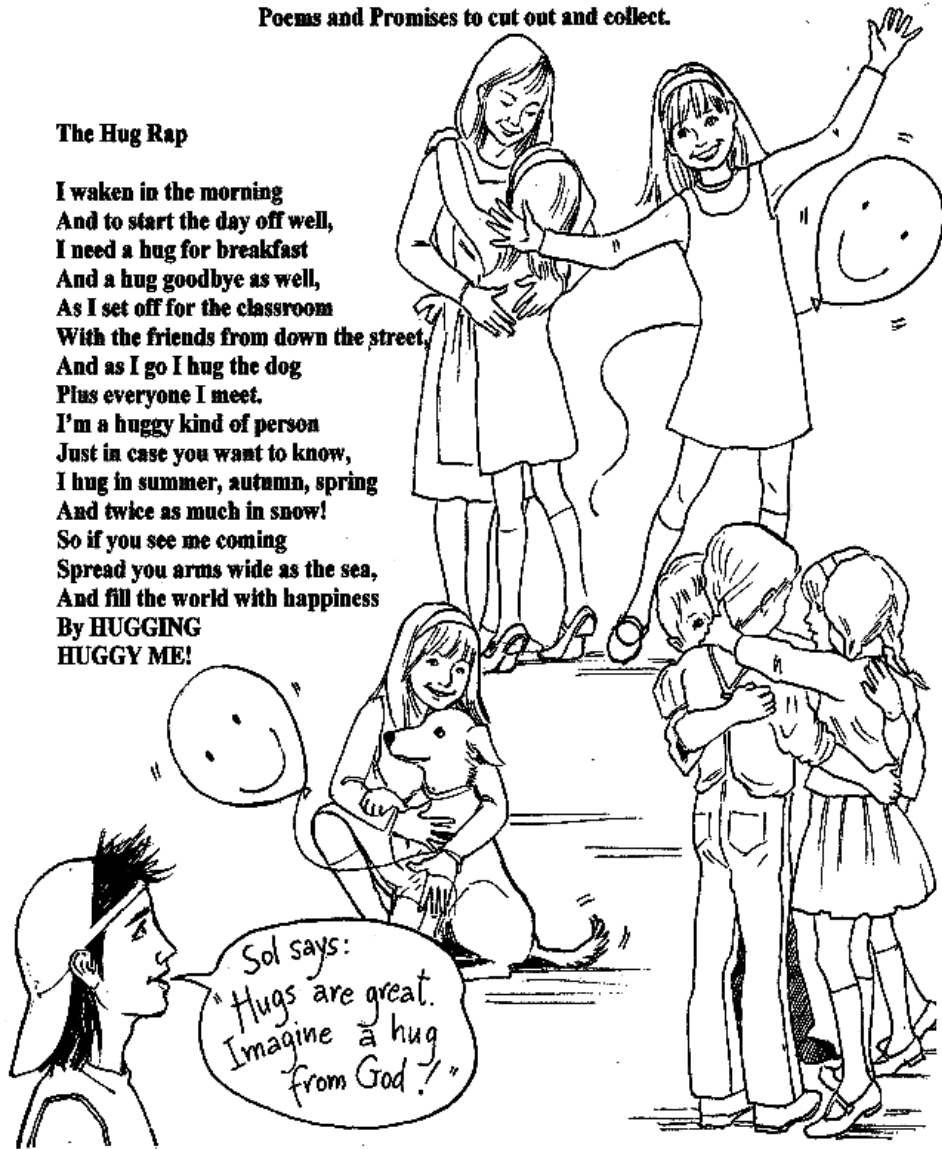
Great News! We've just heard that Roly Bain, probably Britain's most well-known Christian clown, has accepted an invitation to come to our next Children's Fun Afternoon planned for Saturday 31st January. Mark this date in your family diaries. More details next month!

Rainbow Rhymes

Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.

The Hug Rap

I waken in the morning
 And to start the day off well,
 I need a hug for breakfast
 And a hug goodbye as well,
 As I set off for the classroom
 With the friends from down the street.
 And as I go I hug the dog
 Plus everyone I meet.
 I'm a huggy kind of person
 Just in case you want to know,
 I hug in summer, autumn, spring
 And twice as much in snow!
 So if you see me coming
 Spread you arms wide as the sea,
 And fill the world with happiness
 By HUGGING
 HUGGY ME!



He will care for his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, hugging them as he carries them.
 (Isaiah 40:11a, The Message)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by

The Vicar's Page

I wonder if you too saw the excellent "Britain from the Air" series of programmes produced by Andrew Marr. Space allows me here only to share two of many insights which impressed me: (1) Day and night, and in all weathers, helicopters are flying beside National Grid's overhead powerlines, using heat-sensing cameras to detect 'hot-spots', indicative of where a failure would soon occur if immediate repairs were not arranged. The courage of the pilots in working hour after hour so close to lethal voltages was awesome. (And I don't want to think of the linesmen who would later be working on those lines!). Or, (2) on our roads all those lorries, each scheduled to be at its own specified rendez-vous within a one-hour window so that it can meet up with its pre-prepared cargoes which are already on the way from up to a mile away within vast warehouses. Any hint of a traffic jam on the M25 would mean an even bigger clog-up on the country's production lines.

These excerpts, and many others, have caused me to reflect on what an ever thinner line our society is treading between order and chaos. Even for those lorries restricted to the outer lanes, life is actually lived "in the fast lane". As are so many personal relationships. Some might say we are trying impossibly to live at the speed of light – no wonder there are breakdowns.

Against this otherwise depressing trend, it is wonderful to report that there are increasing numbers of people who realise that the above fast life on the brink is a travesty of what we are made for. To cite an example from many: in our parish alone, two groups of people – one adult and one teens – are meeting weekly to explore who God is. So far we've had amazing discussions about Creation, and Design (of the world); God's love in Jesus (look up John 3:16 to see how that affects everyone!). We are realising that there is another way – we might call it the "Be still and know that I am God" way – for which this world was made, even if it often goes in the opposite direction. On past experience, most of those taking part in these courses will probably want to take some positive step of extra commitment to God, and we are looking forward to Confirmations probably later this month.

For those of us not on such a course, but who long for respite from the fast lane, why not come to the next Healing and Wholeness service being held at St Lawrence's on 12th October? A quieter hour in which to receive God's peace and restoration.

With all blessings,

Michael

Pilgrim Places - Whitby

The Christian faith in England has long been associated with places like Glastonbury, Canterbury, York and London. But the town of Whitby, on the north Yorkshire coast, can also lay claim to its own historic Christian roots.

Overlooking a vast expanse of the North Sea, and with its rocky headland and high cliffs, Whitby is one of the favourite seaside attractions in the north east of England. With some narrow winding streets and its associations with Captain James Cook, Whitby has an olde-world feeling about it. More recently it has been one of the locations for the TV hospital drama *The Royal*.

High on the headland stand the ruins of St Hilda's Abbey and that's the clue to its link with early British Christianity. Hilda was connected by birth to King Edwin of Northumbria and sometime around 627 AD she was converted to the Christian faith. After missionary work in Co Durham, she was appointed by the Christian King Oswy of Northumbria as the first Abbess of the newly-founded Abbey at the place later named Whitby.



The Abbey soon had a reputation as a great centre of Christian missions and learning but it was a gathering of royalty, bishops and monks that was to give Whitby lasting fame. The occasion was the Synod of Whitby in 664AD, a gathering of Britain's Christian leaders that would determine the shape of Christianity in these islands until the Reformation. That story, however, begins much earlier.

It would be exciting to know exactly when the Christian faith arrived in these islands and who brought it to us. There have been many suggestions but a very probable answer is that Christian missionaries from Gaul (now France) crossed the English Channel to bring the Good News to our pagan ancestors. A probable date is sometime in the early third century, between 200 and 250AD, though it might have been considerably earlier.

A hundred years later the faith had spread widely and there were Christian settlements in many parts of England and Wales. Ireland was evangelised in the 5th century and, in turn, Irish missionaries took the gospel to Scotland.

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stiffness, but not every patient will experience all of these (many people have a slight tremor which is not connected with Parkinson's). Other symptoms may include sleep difficulties, bladder or bowel problems, memory loss and changes to sense, smell and taste.

The main aim of many treatments is to replace the missing dopamine (a kind of hormone) in the brain. A drug called Levodopa, a natural amino-acid, is often very effective when first used but less so over time. A number of other drugs have proved useful and a form of surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation can help some patients. It involves implanting a wire, with four electrodes at its tip, in target sites in the brain. A small battery implanted in the person's chest generates electrical signals for the stimulation, which alleviates symptoms.

Various health professionals, working as a team, can do a lot for patients. They may include occupational and speech therapists, for example, and physiotherapists. The Parkinson's Disease Society provides support and advice to patients, carers and families – and has 330 local branches throughout the UK. It also funds research into the disease and the search for ways of preventing it.

The charity also runs a confidential, free, helpline staffed by specialist advisors. Anyone in need of advice can call 0808 800 0303 (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 9pm and Saturdays until 5.30pm). There's also a website: www.parkinsons.org.uk

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Dud egg

A goose may one day discover that no matter how long she sits on it, a golf ball isn't going to hatch. Kevin Lacey, who owns Leberston Golf Club near Scarborough, England, discovered a pair of geese on the first fairway hovering over a golf ball. While mama goose sits on her "egg", the gander stands guard. Lacey says the gander hisses and fans his wings whenever anyone gets too close, which makes it difficult for golfers who want to play through. "A vet suggested I try to remove the golf ball, but getting anywhere close is a problem," said Lacey.

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An Ethiopian Prayer

You have created all creatures with your word
You carry them all without being weary.
You feed them all without ceasing.
You think about them all without forgetting any.
You give to all without being diminished.
You water all the earth without running dry.

*A Traditional
Ethiopian
Orthodox
Crucifix*



From the liturgy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church

The Push

A man and his wife were awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man got up and went to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, asked him for a push.

"Not a chance," said the husband, "it is three o'clock in the morning!" He slammed the door and returned to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answered.

"Did you help him?" she asked.

"No, I did not, it is three in the morning and it is raining cats and dogs out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," said his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and should be ashamed of yourself!"

The man sighed, but did as he was told. He got dressed, and went out into the pounding rain. He called out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes," came back the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" called out the husband.

"Yes, please!" came the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" called the husband.

"Over here, on the swing."

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Parkinson's Disease

The feast day of St Luke the Physician falls in October, so the following article by Philip Barron would be timely.

Parkinson's Disease is named after Dr James Parkinson (1755-1824), a London doctor who was the first person to give a clear description of the condition. There is a blue plaque to his memory outside the house in Hoxton Square where he lived and practised.

The disease is usually diagnosed after the age of 60, although one in 20 sufferers is under 40 at the time of diagnosis. It occurs when the cells in the brain that control movement are lost and it affects talking, walking, swallowing and writing. About 120,000 people in the UK have the disease. There is no cure, but much can be done to relieve symptoms.

The three main symptoms are tremor, slowness of movement and muscle

Harvest Supper ***Saturday 4 October at 7 pm***



Harvest Festival Service ***Sunday 5 October at 9.45 am***

It is only a few days until the Harvest Supper, so if you have not already got your tickets, please don't delay as we need to make the final catering arrangements. The Harvest Supper is always an enjoyable community occasion for all the family. There will be musical entertainment and a quiz and all are warmly invited to come. The supper will be held on Saturday 4th October at 7.00 pm in St Lawrence Village Hall. Tickets (£8 adults, £4 children under 12) can be obtained from Elspeth Cooke (761766) or Rosemary Cole (763107) Profits from the evening will be donated to FARM AFRICA.

The following day, Sunday, 5th October the **Harvest Festival Service** will be an All-age service at 9.45 am at St Lawrence Church. **Please do come!**

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Harvest Supper

FARM-Africa has been St Lawrence's chosen charity for the monies raised at the Annual Harvest Supper for a number of years now. It seems the most appropriate way to directly help the peoples of East Africa improve their food production in areas where there is extreme poverty. So whilst we are enjoying our Harvest Supper, which will be held on 4 October in Stone Street Village Hall at 7pm. Tickets are available from Rosemary Cole or Elspeth Cooke (£8 Adult, £4 Child), we can think that in a small way the peoples of East Africa are at least getting more to eat than if we had done nothing at all. Most Africans are smallholder farmers - relying on just a few hectares to feed their families and grow surplus crops for sale.

Farm-Africa invests in new technologies and combines them with key skill training and access to water to irrigate land. These are the corner stones to helping these farmers find a permanent way out of poverty - enabling them to be self sufficient and feed their families.

We quote from a FARM-Africa brochure: "FARM-Africa provides simple, practical support that equips farmers with the skills and tools they need to provide for their families, and their wider communities. Our aim is simple: to Give Poverty the Boot and help farmers in Africa to celebrate bountiful harvests for years to come. We want to make sure future generations don't have to depend on handouts of aid.

Farm-Africa works directly with the farmers in East Africa. By finding out what sort of help they want and need, we can work with them to find the best ways to produce enough food. Our staff are experts, and can provide livestock like goats,

sheep and chickens, equipment like seeds and ploughs, and training in how to look after animals and make sure they stay healthy”

Please visit www.farmafrica.org.uk to find out more about FARM-Africa.

For those who have not attended before, ticket price includes a two-course meal and entertainment. Drinks are available for purchase from the bar.

Please do try to come along and support this worthy cause. Everyone, including children, are most welcome

Ron Drury/Tony Webb

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Notice for Flower Arrangers and Church Cleaners

There is a large cover for the altar rail kneeler and the sanctuary kneelers that is kept in the seat of the chancel pew by the vestry door. Please remember to use this when cleaning the church or arranging the flowers to protect the kneelers from accidental damage. Thank you.

Roz Morris

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Flower Arrangers

Are there any budding flower arrangers out there? At the present time the list of arrangers is getting somewhat depleted so we would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to join us. We normally do 2 weeks together as the flowers usually last for that length of time with just a little bit of attention in the second week. We are all amateurs and do it for fun so nobody need feel intimidated! If you would like to know more of what is involved or would like to take the plunge and be in the rota for 2009 please give me a ring on 811422.

Sheila Jackson

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St Lawrence - 2008 Gift Day Appeal

Thank you so much to all who have generously contributed towards this years gift day appeal. So far we have received £7,070 including gift aid recoverable from the Inland Revenue. The appeal is still open, so if you had been intending to contribute please do and so help us provide a firm foundation for the next 12 months work and service. Meantime, I can let you know that the date for the five-yearly inspection of the structure of the building has been fixed for this coming November - we must hope that nothing more than the inevitable minor snags will be found needing attention.

Hilary Denby-Jones

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Thank you

. . . to those who donated cakes and preserves for the Christian Aid Stall at Chipstead Village Fête on 6th September. Despite a very wet and windy afternoon (the gazebo blew away!), all the cakes were sold and £140 raised for Christian Aid.

Elsbeth Cooke

All pictures received will be displayed in church. We pick the best design we receive – if there are two good ones we might be able to include both! And “winners” get their picture on our cards, as well as a mystery prize. We expect to distribute the cards themselves with the December parish magazines.

Michael

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23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Pace–setter, I shall not rush
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind
And his guidance is peace
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day
I will not fret, for His presence is here
His timelessness, His all importance to keep me in balance
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility
My cup of joyous energy overflows
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in His house for ever.

This variation of the 23rd Psalm was written by a Japanese lady, Toki Myashina, and originally appeared in the Baptist Times and the Manvers St., Bath magazine in the mid 1960's.. Our thanks to Sheila Jackson for sharing it with us.

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	Quizaid Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee invites you to a Fun Quiz Night for all the family
Where?	Christ Church URC Hall, Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks
When?	Saturday 11th October , 7:00 pm for a 7:15 pm prompt start Tables of 6 – why not make up your own table, or we can team you up with others.
Cost?	£10 to include a Fish and Chip Supper.. Please bring your own drinks
Tickets?	Please apply to Teresa Lane 01732 459901
More Info?	Contact Elspeth Cooke 01732 761766

Update on St Lawrence Graveyard

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who has already written in response to our appeal last month for views on how the ashes of those who have been cremated should be buried and marked in St Lawrence's churchyard.

To remind you of the background:- Our church council had proposed individual memorial tablets laid flat, but the Diocesan Advisory Committee have responded that they have not recently recommend such a practice; instead they suggest a number of larger upright stones with multiple names on them, and no local designation.

Quite apart from the larger up-front costs of providing and updating such stones, we believe the diocese's proposals take no account of everything that we have heard about families' natural wishes for good local designation, and the possibility for later members of the family to be added on the same memorial. Our proposal also has the virtue of easier maintenance.

This is, of course, not just a matter for our Church Council but for everyone living in or connected with our parish.

So can we repeat - **If YOU have a view on whether the graves for ashes should be separately or communally identified, or indeed have other insights, please let us know in writing**, as we may well appeal but would then need all the support we can show.

Michael

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Children: Help design our parish Christmas card!

No, Christmas doesn't come for quite some time yet, but we do need to think ahead! So here's a chance for you to be the person who provides the picture which is on the front of our parish Christmas card! The deadline to receive your pictures is **Sunday 2nd November** (in church, or sent to the vicarage). But please don't wait till then – do it soon!

Parents: So that the design can be printed clearly, here are some suggestions for your child:-

- Draw it on A4 paper (we'll scale down). A landscape orientation makes a more stable card than portrait, though either can be used
- Keep it simple – good solid outlines
- If using colour, just colour a few items, brightly.
- Keep the subject matter Christmassy (so not a picture of our church, lovely though it is!) – baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, crib, stars, shepherds, or angels. But try not to include all of these, or the picture will probably be too cluttered.

St Lawrence Stitchers

The first major project by our sociable, hardworking group is complete and should be in church in October. Part of the project is a beautiful set of cushion and matching kneeler for the Minister's seat which have been expertly stitched

by several members of the group but mainly by Rosemary Attenborough (kneeler) and Ethelwyn Osborne (cushion). These matching pieces feature many pairs of stylised fish swimming through a trellis and each piece has a pair of open books with the initials PJA on the sides. Funding for this set was from the generous donations given in memory of Philip Attenborough and his memory is symbolised both by the books and the fish, representing his career in publishing and his passion for fishing. The fish is also the Anglican symbol for Christ.



Two other pieces the group have been working on are a pair of congregational kneelers which are higher than the norm in recognition of the fact that several of us are becoming less agile and require a higher position for the knees when praying.

The success of the stitching group, which includes local friends who are not all regular attenders at St. Lawrence's, has prompted us to continue meeting to stitch two new projects.

We were all delighted to hear that Ellen Wakeham has an appointment as curate at St. Lawrence Church, Scunthorpe and our stitching group will be designing and making her first celebratory stole. We have discussed with Ellen her ideas and thoughts for the style and size of the stole which her father, Johny will draw and we will embroider then make up the stole ready for Ellen's appointment next June.

Additionally, the PCC has agreed for the group to design and make cushions for the pews in the chancel. The design will be inspired by and reflect the colours and style of the new woven altar and sanctuary kneelers, and will be stitched in tent stitch using wool on canvas. Funding for these new pew seats has been generously donated by Rosemary Attenborough. These latest projects will keep our happy group busy for the next few years. If you want any further details about the group or our projects please contact me on 01732 810227.

Roz Morris

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News from our School

We are once again at the start of a new school year. Last term finished with a flourish; our summer concert was a musical version of Alice in Wonderland and was great fun. There were many outstanding performances: the Mad Hatter (Jack Young) was as mad as his name suggests, big Alice (Lucy Moore-Smith) and small Alice (Lily Young) where both full of poise and charm, The Griffin and The Mock Turtle (Ellie Drescher and Michaela Pugh) were suitably eccentric, The Queen of Hearts (Lily Watts) was quite terrifying and the King of Hearts (Jack Rodaway) totally subservient! I could go on because, as with all our productions, every child had an important part to play and they all performed beautifully and sang their hearts out. Alice in Wonderland was the first children's book ever written and the concert was a celebration of stories, creativity, imagination and the sheer pleasure of sharing this in performance.



The last day of term was, of course, our Leavers' Service – we were very sad to say goodbye to the year 6 children and wish them well at their new schools. As we start this term we are delighted to welcome a good number of new children to our school, all of whom are settling in very well. As the years pass the families in our school community change, but it still continues to be a very happy school and there is a very strong sense that, to quote a parent 'once a part of St Lawrence, always a part of St Lawrence'.

This is always a very exciting time of year. The enthusiasm and energy of the staff and children after the summer break is infectious and all sorts of new ideas are being discussed. I am sure I will have plenty to write about in future months. In the meantime, you can always keep up with what is going on at St Lawrence Primary School by visiting our website, which is:

www.st-lawrence-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to reinforce the fact that as a school community we do really value our links with St Lawrence Church. We appreciate the support, encouragement and prayers of the church members and I hope that during this year we will be able to strengthen these links. *Alison Saunders*

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Prayer Topics for this month

- Thanks to God for all the gifts of his creation, and for all involved in farming, storage, and distribution of food.
- Students starting a new university term
- Ellen Wakeham now on the final year of preparation before her ordination.

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Remembering those who have died and are dear to us

The first two days of November mark two important occasions in our church and family life. **1st November is All Saints Day**, when the church remembers the countless great saints both of the past and those still alive. Liturgically we shall celebrate this on the nearest Sunday (November 2nd) at our morning service. Look forward to seeing our churches in festive white!

But **2nd November is also "All Souls Day"**, the day when we are invited collectively to remember and give thanks for those known personally to us whom we love and who have died. We therefore hold also a special service in the evening (6pm, this year at St Margaret's Church – though the service is for both our parishes), where in prayer, music and the lighting of individual candles we remember in love those we see no longer. As last year, the service will not include Holy Communion and we hope everyone will feel very much part of our extended church family. Let's mark the date and time in our diaries.

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Burrswood's Diamond Celebration: 5th October

To celebrate 60 years of healthcare and ministry at Burrswood Christian Hospital and Place of Healing there will be a Thanksgiving Service at Rochester Cathedral. The Revd David Flagg will be leading the service, with Bishop John Perry preaching. All are welcome to join in this special Evensong celebration. Refreshments will be served in the South Transept after the service.

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From the Registers

24 August Burial of Ashes of the late Paul Caple, who had died aged 45. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, especially to Hayley and Jack on their loss.



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