

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver  
November 2008*



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Nov</b>	11:15 18:00	Family Service A quiet reflective service of commemoration of those who have died and whom we see no longer.	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9 Nov</b>	08:00 10:55	Holy Communion (said) Service of Remembrance	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16 Nov</b>	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall A Short Family Service with Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23 Nov</b>	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30 Oct</b>	11:15	Holy Communion (said)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7 Dec</b>	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 vacancy	763883	S'oaks District Councillor	Cnclr Peter Coates	762129
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Seal Parish Council		
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Chairman	Robin Watson	833930
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris	810227	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
Organist	Lizzie Veglio	01634 244700	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville	763832
Choir Director	John Morris	810227		Chris Sutton-Mattocks	762013
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Elspeth Cooke	761766	St Lawrence Village Association		
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Chairman	Graham Moynes	760640
	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	Secretary	Carol Smith	763561
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
	Elspeth Cooke	761766	Chairman	Peter Granville	763832
Child Protection Rep	Carol McLintock	452964	Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388
deputy	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Treasurer	Marie O'Connor	xd
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker	760843
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Cricket Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson	810050	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	xd	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
1 <sup>st</sup> St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to [brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk)).

**to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 19 November 2008**

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 30 November**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine  
November 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](http://www.sealstlawrence.org.uk) one of your favourite websites*

**Services at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart  
November 2008**



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Nov</b>	<b>All Saints Sunday</b> 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Revelation 7: 9-17 09:45 All Age Family Service (with Holy Baptism and children in church) Matthew 5: 1-12 18:00 A quiet reflective service of commemoration of those who have died and whom we see no longer, (At St Margaret's, Underriver)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4 Nov</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> 20:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6 Nov</b>	<b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 10:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9 Nov</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Advent—Remembrance Sunday</b> 10:30 Service of Remembrance Collection for Royal British Legion John 15: 9-17	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16 Nov</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b> 08:00 Holy Communion (said) 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 09:45 All Age Family Service (with Sunday School) Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18	<b>CW</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20 Nov</b>	<b>Prayer Time for Both Parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 14:00 At The White House, Bitchet Green	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23 Nov</b>	<b>Christ the King</b> 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) Ephesians 1: 15-23	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30 Nov</b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b> 09:45 Hope in Advent - a service with input from those recently confirmed Isaiah 64: 1-9; 18:30 United Choral Evening Service for Advent In SS Peter and Paul Church, Seal	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>Advent Communion at Home</b> 10:00 Venue will be notified in Pew Sheets	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Isaiah 40: 1-11; 09:45 All Age Family Service (with children in church and St Lawrence School Orchestra) Mark 1:1-8	<b>BCP</b>

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 2 Nov	Annie Scarsi
Beryl Storey	Sunday 9 Nov	Annie Scarsi
Kate Clark	Sunday 16 Nov	(No Flowers)
Kate Clark	Sunday 23 Nov	(No Flowers)
Kate Clark	Sunday 30 Nov	(No Flowers)
Kate Clark	Sunday 7 Dec	(No Flowers)



**St Lawrence Sunday School**



Sun 16 Nov	Abraham (2)	Lyn & Sam
Sun 14 Dec	Christmas People	Helen & Lesley
<b>Thu 8 Jan</b>	<b>Planning Meeting at 21 St Edith's Road, Kemsing</b>	
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)**

**We shall remember them**

During World War One, some of the worst fighting took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. After the complete devastation, the poppy was the only thing which grew on the land. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, was deeply inspired and moved by what he saw. He wrote these now famous verses.,

**In Flanders' Fields**

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

In Flanders' Fields  
Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' Fields.

*John McCrae, 1915*

## Calling all Children: Saturday 31 January 2009

The parish will be hosting a **Fun Afternoon with a Circus Theme at 2 pm**. To lead the Fun Afternoon, which is for children of all ages from 4 upwards, we are privileged to have with us **Roly Bain**, who is widely considered Britain's foremost Christian clown. A brilliant slackrope act is his party piece, but he combines humour, circus, pathos, slapstick and storytelling in order to amuse, challenge, move and teach. His gentle anarchy turns the church and the world upside down, and as the Church's jester he is able to tell the truth in new ways and get away with it. Roly will also teach us some of his skills with workshops during the afternoon.

Because Roly is a full-time freelance professional clown (he's also an Anglican priest) we do need to cover his costs, and we are therefore asking for a contribution of £4 per child (or £10 per group of siblings) who come. We expect the Afternoon to be a sell-out – so we will have to operate on a first-apply first-come basis. **PLEASE mark the date in your diary now, and BOOK ASAP**, so we can make the necessary preparations.

If you haven't been sent a booking form, they can be obtained from the vicarage (01732 761766) or from the table at the back of St Lawrence's church.



# Faith Fun Foolishness

PS We can read more about Roly at [www.rolybain.co.uk](http://www.rolybain.co.uk)

## The Vicar's Page

I wonder if, like me, your blood pressure rises when you see on screen something which is inaccurately or unhelpfully portrayed. Although it's rare for me to be so moved, because I don't actually watch much film or TV, I did see the recent series "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" (what a terribly sad story) – when at least one of the following statements were made or implied:-

- A. You can only be buried in a consecrated churchyard if you are baptised.
- B. Children who have been well parented generally tell their parents if they are being abused.
- C. You can be a Christian without regularly going to church.
- D. Churches tend to grow when worship is more relaxed.

Before reading further, please pause – and consider whether you think the above statements are True or False.

\* \* \*

The facts may surprise some of us. (A) is False, though it may have been true at the period featured by Thomas Hardy. Even though it is a privilege for the church to be able to help at the last rites for all in our parish, be they saints or sinners, there is still every good reason to be baptised (or confirmed) – not least for God's own sake.

(B) is also False, which certainly surprised me when I was confronted by it at a recent training day on issues connected with Child Protection. Which is why in their care for and work with vulnerable people voluntary bodies need the strictest standards – as we too try to ensure in our church.

(C) is widely-held as True, but is nearly always False! It is true that there may be temporary periods in all our lives when it is not possible to get to church – I think of those in hospital, or those travelling in places like outer Mongolia, where local congregations are not exactly widespread – but, for most of our readers, worship with others in church is much more possible every week than is practised. Although, sadly, human families can and all too often do live largely separate lives, God's family is of a much higher order. So, family and friends coming to lunch are not really a valid excuse for us staying away! – timer switches can surely be made to work wonders for scheduling cooking. On the other hand, if Sunday seems the only possible day for some secular activities (e.g. for children), the church also may need to think of being together in other ways and at different times of the week. For the language of worship is not "I, me, my" but "We, us, our" – in Christ who is rooted in God. In all senses, "We are members one of another", writes St Paul; equally we are together for mutual encouragement and support. That doesn't mean that every moment is enjoyable to everyone all of the time, but if we believe in the transcending power of God then we should not be surprised that the only universal feature of all growing churches throughout the world is the presence of joy and laughter in the congregation. Are you surprised that therefore (D) is True?! And if practised, what might it mean for us?

With all blessings,

Michael

### ***A Reminder to the Children***

If you want to enter the competition to provide this year’s parish Christmas card, which we send to everyone in the parish, you’ve got till Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to get your artwork to church, or sent to the vicarage.

Here’s a reminder of what helps make a card suitable for reproduction: **Keep it simple** (good solid outlines), use **colour sparingly and brightly**, keep the **subject matter Christmassy** (i.e. not a picture of the church, but instead subjects like baby Jesus, Mary, crib, stars, shepherds or angels. )

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### ***An Historical Exhibition***

St John's Church in Quaker's Hall Lane, Sevenoaks is holding an exhibition of the history of the St John's area to celebrate it's 150th anniversary. The opening times are as follows:

|                     |   |            |    |         |
|---------------------|---|------------|----|---------|
| Friday 31 October   | - | 10:00 am   | to | 3:00 pm |
|                     | - | 6:00 pm    | to | 8:00 pm |
| Saturday 1 November | - | 10:00 am   | to | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday 2 November   | - | 12:00 noon | to | 5:00 pm |
| Monday 3 November   | - | 10:00 am   | to | 3:00 pm |
|                     | - | 6:00 pm    | to | 8:00 pm |
| Tuesday 4 November  | - | 10:00 am   | to | 3:00 pm |
|                     | - | 6:00 pm    | to | 8:00 pm |

*Hilary Darque*

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### ***Special Dates in November***

The month of November is one of those times, like Easter, which has the most glorious highs as well as some of the most solemn moments in life.

Beginning with All Saints Day (1<sup>st</sup>, but marked on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>), we pass through Remembrance Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> – don’t forget the start time of 10:30am), and the feast of Christ the King (23<sup>rd</sup>) – the reminder of the glorious climax towards which Creation has been leading.

This year **Advent Sunday** also falls in November (30<sup>th</sup>) – the start of a new season of hope and expectation. We have invited those who are expecting to be confirmed\* in October to contribute to our morning worship; and in the evening the choirs of our own St Lawrence’s, with St Margaret’s and Seal Parish churches are combining together to lead at a unique evening service (6:30pm) of light and darkness at St Peter & St Paul, Seal. Please plan now to come.

\* As the Confirmation takes place after this has gone to print, the names have to wait to be published in next month’s magazine.

Brass Trio. They are a highly entertaining group of musicians who held the staff and children totally engrossed as they performing a varied programme of music and explained how brass instruments evolved over the centuries. In the evening they put on a concert in St Lawrence Church, which was equally entertaining and well attended.

As always, we are keen to keep the name of St. Lawrence School firmly on the map and I am aware that it is the time of year when parents are thinking about which school they are going to send their children to next September. On November 4<sup>th</sup> we have an Open Morning (9.15-11.45) when there is the opportunity to view the school in action. This is aimed at prospective parents but anyone who is interested in our school is extremely welcome

*Alison*

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### ***Prayer Topics for this month***

- Those involved in the **financial services industries**, and those affected by the ongoing **unfolding** of previously assumed perpetual growth.
- Those who struggle with **Winter Time** – less sun, more change, fewer visits, and more illnesses exacerbated by cooler damper weather.
- Those who have recently taken **big decisions for God** – among them those who will have been confirmed on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

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### ***Hand-written on the wall of Mother Theresa's room***

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;  
 Forgive them anyway.  
 If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
 Be kind anyway.  
 If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
 Be successful anyway.  
 If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
 Be honest and frank anyway.  
 What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
 Build anyway.  
 If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
 Be happy anyway.  
 The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
 Do good anyway.  
 Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
 Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
 You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>) at our morning service. In fact, at St Lawrence’s we expect to be witnesses to the making of a new saint as she is baptised. Look forward to seeing our church in festive white!

But **2<sup>nd</sup> 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), where in prayer, music and the lighting of individual candles we remember in love those we see no longer. Although this year the service is at St Margaret’s, it is for both our parishes. 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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**News from our School**

It seems unbelievable that we are already nearly six weeks into the new school year. The children are all working very hard and there is a very purposeful atmosphere around the school. We have welcomed several new families into our school community and we hope that they already feel very much at home. The integration of the new children has been helped by our ‘buddy system’ in which a year 6 child (10/11 year old) is paired up with a reception child. The older children are taking their responsibility very seriously and the parents of the new children have told me how much this has helped their children’s first few weeks at school.

A significant event of the early part of this month was our Harvest Celebration. This year the theme was ‘Food’. The children sang songs about food and thanked God for our food, as well as remembering those who were not as fortunate as us. To this end, each child did some chores at home to earn money which they brought to the Harvest Service. Our aim was to raise £108 because this is enough money to pay to train an African farmer and buy him a set of tools and some seed. We easily achieved our target.

Last month we enjoyed a visit from The Welsh



**News from Sayt - People**

We have a new SAYT youth worker, Phil, who will split his work between SAYT and St Mary's, Kemsing. He has recently come from Woking in Surrey where he was a church caretaker, but originated in Durham! He has been working his way south ever since via North London, Watford, Kingston-upon-Thames, Hereford and South East London. He has been involved in youth work for the past 11 years in churches, Christian youth work organisations and the YMCA. We welcome Phil to the area and hope that his stay here will be rewarding.



We are pleased to announce that after much asking, begging and going down on one knee we now have a Minute Secretary and a new Treasurer. Caroline Berry from St. Nicks is taking the minutes and Chris Stiven from VEC is doing the sums. Many thanks to Jean Pierre-Darque for being our Treasurer for 3 years.

**Activities** - Over the last year the behaviour of the young people who come to the Greatness detached session has really improved. So, to show our appreciation, 4 of the youth workers took 7 young people to Broadstairs for a day in August. The trip was open to anyone who has attended regularly in the last 12 months. We had a fantastic day, the sun shone (most of the time), the rain held off, 3 brave people went in the sea and between us we had ice creams, fish and chips and a surprising amount of cockles!!!

**Wilderness School** - Instead of expecting the boys to come to us, we go and find them! This means that we (Phil, David and Judith) spend our Tuesday lunchtimes wandering around the playground and field talking to the young people we meet about anything and everything. To advertise this David Garrett and Judith did a week's worth of assemblies during the summer term and we are slowly building relationships.

**Bradbourne School** - To start off the new school year at Bradbourne Christian Union we have decided to run a Youth Alpha course. This is similar to adult Alpha, but has 3 different streams to chose from - Tech (film clips/computers etc), Active (running around/games) and Ute (short and sweet!). We will take bits from all 3 as we look at the core elements of Christianity. So far the response has been really positive, with some good questions and interesting and honest discussion.

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**What I Believe**

Christ could not imagine people believing in his teaching of humility, love and universal brotherhood, quietly and deliberately organising the murder of their brother men.

*Leo Tolstoy*

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**Places of Pilgrimage - The Chapel of St. Peter-on-the-Wall, Bradwell**

Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex is a quiet little village on the south bank of the River Blackwater, and is probably best known for its nuclear power station. Some eighteen hundred years ago there was another important development a little way down stream from the twentieth century power station; this was the Roman fortress of Othona.



Like so many of these fortresses, Othona gradually decayed when the Romans left these shores and all that remained was a pile of stones and the very substantial foundations overlooking the river estuary just a few feet above the saltings.

In the early days of the fifth century, shortly before the fall of Rome, St Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland and a century and a half later St Columba did likewise in Scotland. In 635 AD, St Aidan, from the Iona foundation, crossed the north of England to set up the monastery at Lindesfarne. Aidan gathered around him a dozen or so young Englishmen, whom he trained as missionaries to spread the Celtic Church throughout the land. Amongst these, was Cedd who was invited by King Sigbert to travel south and in 653 he landed at the site of the old Roman fort of Othona. A year later he built the chapel dedicated to St Peter on the old fortress foundations.

St Cedd acted as an interpreter at the Synod of Whitby in 664 and later founded missionary and monastic communities at the old Othona site and also at Lastingham in Yorkshire. It was here, in 664, that St Cedd died from the plague, a fate also suffered by a number of his East Saxon followers who travelled northwards to pay their respects to his memory.

What happened to the monastery on the banks of the Blackwater, is not known; it may well have fallen to the rape and pillage of the marauders from across the North Sea, but the church remained and was certainly in use for many years until a new church was built in the nearby village of Bradwell. The Chapel of St Peter then became a chapel-of-ease until the middle of the fifteenth century when a survey was carried out on behalf of the Bishop of London. At that time there was a chancel, a nave and a small tower with two bells. The survey reported that nothing was known of its history.

The chancel was repaired by the Rector and the nave by the local inhabitants and the Rector found a priest to say Mass on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; the building remained as a chapel-of-ease until the latter days of the sixteenth century. The tower continued to be used as a beacon for shipping in the estuary.

At some time in the next century, the chancel was demolished and the nave converted to use as a barn.

In the early days of the twentieth century the religious significance was again recognised and trustees were appointed by the Diocese of Chelmsford . On 22 June 1920 St Peter ad Muram was reconsecrated by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

On the first Saturday in each July, Christians from all over Essex and beyond make pilgrimage to this place to celebrate the witness of this church, probably the oldest in England, and that of St Cedd, who built it in 654AD, to bring the good news of Jesus to the East Saxons. From the beginning of July until the end of September each year the Othona Community from Southminster hold daily services in the chapel. BS

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**90th Anniversary of the end of the First World War**

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. This November marks the 90th anniversary of the end of The Great War, and the Royal British Legion is honoring the memory of the War’s heroes with a unique tribute. It is planting a Flanders’ Field of Poppies in the ground where they fell.

The Royal British Legion is inviting people to join ‘our salute’ by sending a personal message, which will be written on a poppy. You are invited to participate either by ringing 0845 8451945, or by visiting the website <http://www.poppy.org/content/Flanders-Field-1114.shtml> for an online order service.

The poppies will be planted beside the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres for Armistice Day on 11 November. The British Legion urges: “Help us to create this tribute, and our special Flanders’ Field will be awash with scarlet.”

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**Thank You .....**

... to everyone who donated £318.63 so generously at our Harvest Festival Service. Together with £62.75 of Gift Aid recoverable from the Inland Revenue and £18.62 from PCC’s own funds, we are sending £400 to the Rural Development Movement in Parakkanvilai in South India. Alleluia!

... to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Supper – the net proceeds of £381.38 are being sent to Farm Africa. Praise the Lord!

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As peace is of all goodness, so war is an emblem, a hieroglyphic, of all misery.

*John Donne*