

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
February 2009*



Sunday	1 Feb	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	8 Feb	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		11:15	Choral Matins (with hymns)	BCP
		12:30	Parish Lunch	
Sunday	15 Feb	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Family service for all God's Children	
Sunday	22 Feb	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Weds	25 Feb	10:00	Holy Communion (said) For Ash Wednesday	CW
Sunday	1 March	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

Be sure to make www.sealstlawrence.org.uk one of your favourite websites

Churchwardens	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	S'ooks 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	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	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			

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 11 February 2009

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 22 February 2009**

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)

*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
February 2009*



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

Services at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during February 2009



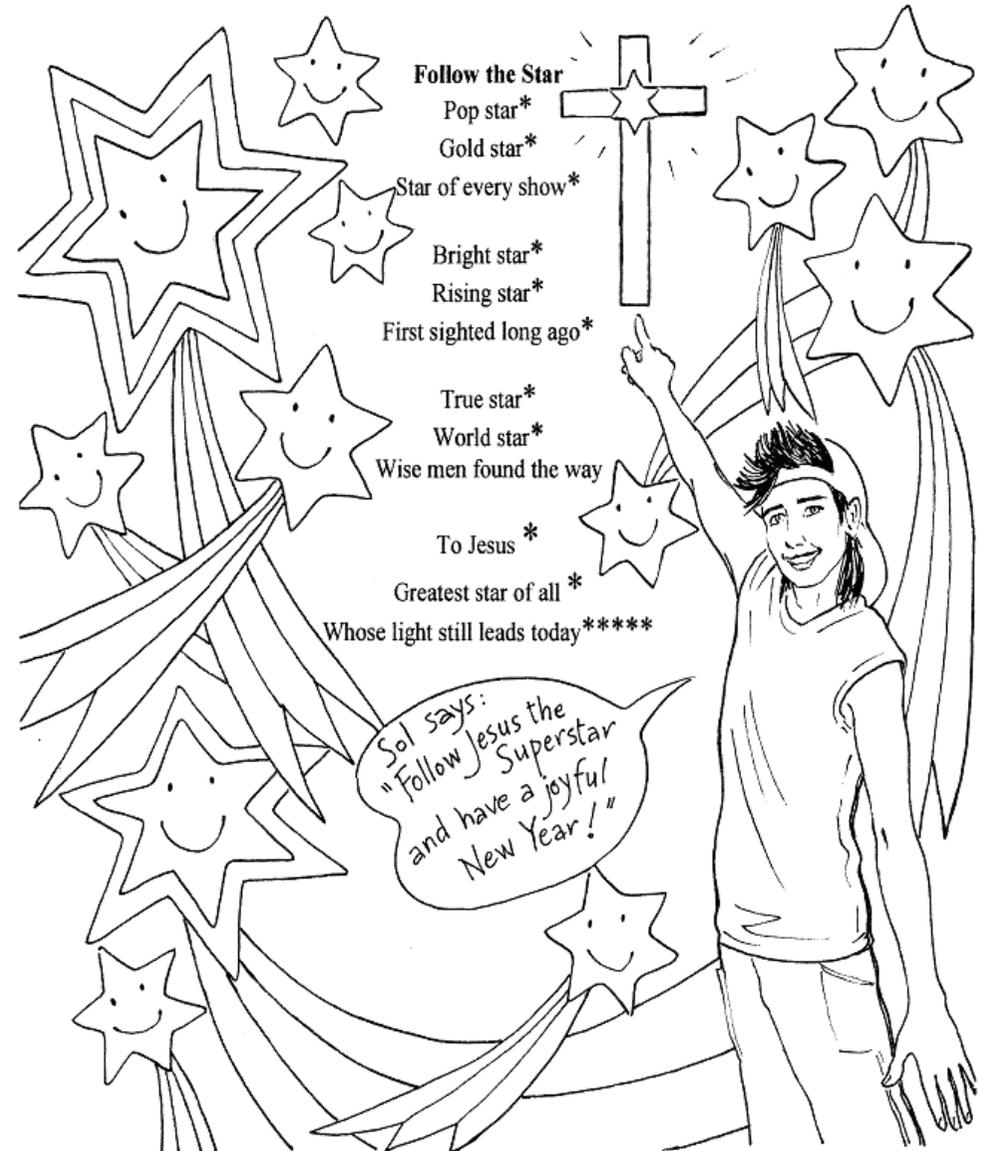
Sunday	1 Feb	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Candlemas Sunday	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		Revelation 12: 1-5a	Mark 1: 21-28
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church) (The Revd Roly Bain)	
		Luke 2: 22-40	
Thursday	5 Feb	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	10:00	At The Tudor House, Coach Road, Undedriver	
Sunday	8 Feb	Third Sunday before Lent	
	09:45	Family Communion (with hymns)	CW
		1 Cor 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
Sunday	15 Feb	Second Sunday before Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
		Colossians 1: 15-20	John 1: 1-14
	09:45	All Age/Family Service (with Sunday School)	
		Genesis 2: 4b-25	Luke 8: 22-35
Tuesday	17 Feb	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	14:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	22 Feb	Sunday next before Lent	
	09:45	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	BCP
		2 Kings 2: 1-12	Mark 9: 2-9
Wednesday	25 Feb	Ash Wednesday	
		Holy Communion (said) At St Margaret's	CW
		Joel 2: 1-2 12-17 2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10 John 8: 1-11	
Sunday	1 March	First Sunday of Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church)	
		Mark 1: 9-15	
Thursday	5 March	Prayer Time for Both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	10:00	At St Lawrence Vicarage	

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

For the Children

Rainbow Rhymes

Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.



Follow the Star

Pop star*

Gold star*

Star of every show*

Bright star*

Rising star*

First sighted long ago*

True star*

World star*

Wise men found the way

To Jesus *

Greatest star of all *

Whose light still leads today*****

Sol says:
 "Follow Jesus the
 Superstar
 and have a joyful
 New Year!"

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!
 (Matthew 2:10 NLT)

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

Thoughts for a New Year

In this year of remembering Darwin: If evolution is true, why do mothers still only have one pair of hands?

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

For 2009, I'd like to be the ideal mother, but I'm too busy raising my kids.

~~~~~

|                                                                                  |        |                       |  |                                                                                    |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |        | <b>Church Flowers</b> |  |  |  |
| Sunday                                                                           | 1 Feb  | Kate Clark            |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sunday                                                                           | 8 Feb  | Kate Clark            |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sunday                                                                           | 15 Feb | Kate Clark            |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sunday                                                                           | 22 Feb | Kate Clark            |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sunday                                                                           | 1 Mar  | Lent - No Flowers     |  |                                                                                    |  |

|                                                                                  |         |                                                 |  |                                                                                    |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |         | <b>St Lawrence Sunday School</b>                |  |  |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 1 Feb   | All in Service with Roly Bain the Clown         |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 15 Feb  | Zacchaeus                                       |  | Elsbeth and Lesley                                                                 |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 15 Mar  | Jesus and his mother                            |  | Helen and Sam                                                                      |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 22 Mar  | Mothering Sunday                                |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 5 Apr   | Palm Sunday                                     |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 12 Apr  | Easter Day                                      |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 26 Apr  | Thomas and Trust                                |  | Lyn and Sam                                                                        |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 17 May  | Paul on Damascus Road                           |  | Elsbeth and Hilary                                                                 |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 21 Jun  | Peter as the rock.                              |  |                                                                                    |  |
|                                                                                  |         | The founding of the Christian Church            |  | Celeste and Helen                                                                  |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 10 Sept | PLANNING MEETING At 21 St Edith's Road, Kemsing |  |                                                                                    |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 20 Sept | Parable of the Sower                            |  | Lesley and Hilary                                                                  |  |
| Sun                                                                              | 4 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 Elspeth Cooke (761766)**

## The Vicar's Page

Firstly - Elspeth and I both thank you for all the kind cards you sent us for Christmas – and subsequently all the offers of help during our bout of 'flu. We are only sorry that this is the first public opportunity to say this. How good it is to be in the midst of a true extended family. Thank you.

Influenza, though, is something Elspeth and I have never experienced before like this. A day or two ill here and there maybe, but *real* 'flu, with a week in bed and at least a week afterwards of feeling yucky and without any energy. What a waste of a fortnight and more of one's life! Not to mention missing out on Christmas dinner, the fun of the family, and the expected year-end rest. Yet still parish life carried on – we received one call from a family about a death; another couple of calls about marriages in 2009 and 2010; not to mention the need to get hymns planned for January, .....

And all the while, plenty of time between sleeping and snoozing to reflect on 'flu itself. I wonder: did they get 'flu back in 0AD (or 4BC, if we want to be more precise)? If they did, and I suspect 'flu has always been around, what did people do, being made to travel at the behest of a foreign government's dictate? No chance to snuggle into a bed – assuming you could even find one! (No room at the inn!) And how do people in 2009 in other less well-off countries cope? With no Lucozade, or paracetamol? And sometimes the risk of appalling water which might make 'flu turn into something very much nastier.

Thinking theologically: why does a perfect God allow 'flu at all? Quite apart from it causing a mass of misery to humankind the world over, and the waste of time and resources, what about 'flu which upsets planned major family events? Maybe those who can't get to a baptism or a wedding? Or even (as in our case) 'flu which runs the risk of making the church celebration of Christmas that much more parlous? Did God really want to make his Son's own birthday celebration a little more muted this year?

We are now into big questions of why does naturally occurring evil exist? And not only 'flu, but even bigger nasties like floods or earthquakes.

One theological answer to such questions is that we admit we don't know why such evil exists – though we should continue to wrestle with the issue. We do know, however, that one important issue is how we face it. We can curse God, or even in sickness find something to thank him for. How we react to evil is in fact part of the way of removing the power of evil. And that's my February thought for all of us to begin puzzling about as Lent approaches!

Michael

### ***SAYT Coffee Morning***

A big thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning at Shepherds Cottage. There were very generous donations for the bring and buy which was a great success. Thank you also to those who could not be there but still gave a donation. We all enjoyed a coffee and mince pie and a chance to chat with friends. Just over £300 (without adding the gift aid element) was raised for SAYT which was wonderful.

*Carol L and Rosemary C*

~~~~~

Carol's Church Clean Do!

A noble band of helpers turned out on a very cold and miserable Wednesday morning, to tackle the Church Christmas clean. Most had been, or were, ailing somewhat - even one with a stick, bless him!

Nevertheless, we toiled happily and were in good spirits.

The outside tap was frozen up, so it took some time to fill up the urn from the tap in the loo - Coffee was still on time, which was the main thing!

I think Michael shamed us all, by finding an Easter egg! Oops! Will he "dine out" on that for years to come?! (He'd better NOT!)

Anyway, MANY thanks Brian and Mary, Elspeth and Michael, Rosemary A., Rosemary C., Bridget, Carol L. and Ethelwyn.

Carol McL

~~~~~

### ***Collections at St Lawrence's Services over Christmas***

Thank you to all who contributed so wonderfully to the two open collections held over the Christmas period:-

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December (Carol Service): £456.02, including £100.32 reclaimable from the Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid scheme. The total has been sent to Christian Aid.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> (Crib/Christingle service): £458.03, including £25.34 reclaimable from the Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid scheme. The total has been sent to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

~~~~~

From the Registers at St Lawrence's

No entries this month, though we record with sadness the funeral service on 13th January of the late Geoffrey Rushant at Tunbridge Wells crematorium. We extend to his widow Selma and the whole family our sympathy at this very sad time.

~~~~~

### ***Prayer Points for this month***

- **Those who are alone** or have no family with whom to share the darker months of the years - and for those who provide shelter and friendship.
- **Those affected by the downturn in the economy:** those fearful for jobs, houses or impact on savings, and above all those who were already at the margins of society.
- **Those struggling with the effects of getting older**

~~~~~

Wood is Good – well, some varieties and sometimes!

Of the energy used in the home, on average in the UK, some 83% is for heating. Attractive though open fires are, they are not an efficient form of heating, with up to 80% of the energy going straight up the chimney. Indeed, when not in use an open flue is a significant source of heat loss. Nevertheless, for those of us with open fires who cannot rise to wood stoves and biomass boilers, here's some advice in the form of a poem (slightly abbreviated) on the merits of different kinds of wood:-

Logs to burn, logs to burn,
 Logs to save the coal a turn.
 Here's a word to make you wise
 When you hear the wood-man's cries.
 Never heed his usual tale
 That he has good logs for sale
 But read these lines and really learn
 The proper kinds of logs to burn.
 Beechwood fires are bright and clear
 If the logs are kept a year.
 Oak logs, too, if dry and old,
 Keep away the winter cold.
 Chestnut's only good, they say,
 If for long 'tis laid away.
 Birch and Fir logs burn too fast
 Blaze up bright and do not last.
 Elm wood burns like churchyard mould
 E'en the very flames are cold.

Birch and Fir logs burn too fast
 Blaze up bright and do not last.
 Elm wood burns like churchyard mould
 E'en the very flames are cold.
 Poplar gives a bitter smoke
 Fills your eyes and makes you choke.
 Applewood will scent your room
 With an incense like perfume.
 Yew logs will heat well
 But a Scots log it's a crime to sell.
 Holly logs should be burnt green
 Then a good fire will be seen.
 It is by the Irish said
 That Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
 But Ash wet and Ash dry
 A king shall warm his slippers by.

(Anon)

(from an article in "Society Matters", December 2008 on the option to reduce carbon emissions by using energy from a sustainable source. The author, Ian Smith, also adds that he is unable to elaborate on the industry of burning churchyard mould ...)

~~~~~

Change. One example is in India, itself one of the fastest growing emitters of carbon. They are working with 10,000 children, who are encouraged to help their schools and communities make changes in their everyday behaviour, such as saving energy and using less water, which will reduce the adverse impacts of Climate Change.

The help, support and prayers that Christian Aid receives from the churches throughout Sevenoaks and District is truly appreciated, but **it is always possible to do more**. It is not only financial resource which is needed, but campaigning support as well. There is to be a major conference in December 2009 in Copenhagen, where the protocol reached will replace Kyoto. As the world's largest economic bloc the European Union will have a major impact at this summit, and the deal struck will be the world's principal weapon against global warming. If you have access to the internet, please go to the Christian Aid website – [www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange) – and **take the Copenhagen pledge**. It can also be done by postcard \* and one thing is sure - this form of campaigning has been shown to have an impact on those concerned, and is something that we can **all** do so easily.

On behalf of Christian Aid, its partners in over 50 countries in the world and many of the world's poorest communities, may I thank every one of you most sincerely for all that you do in whatever way that you do it, and I pray that you will continue to do. **Together, we CAN make a difference.**

John Lane Chairman, Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee

Postcards are available at the back of the church.

For further information please contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766)

~~~~~

Lent 2009

(1) Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent is on 25th February – this year our service for both churches is at St Margaret's (10 am)

(2) As a new initiative this year, the Deanery has arranged on the following Wednesday evenings a series of Lent Lectures, based on the "I am" sayings of Jesus:- 4th March - 1st April.

The speakers will be the Rt Revd Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge (4th March); Revd Canon Gordon Oliver, Bishop's Officer for Ministry and Training (11th); Revd Canon Jean Kerr, Bishop's Officer for Mission and Unity (18th); The Ven Peter Lock, Archdeacon of Rochester (25th); The Ven Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge (1st April).

The Lectures will be held at St Mary's Church, Riverhead, and are for all members of congregations in the Deanery. Let's mark the dates in our diaries.

Prayer Points for this month

- **Those who are alone** or have no family with whom to share the darker months of the years - and for those who provide shelter and friendship.
- **Those affected by the downturn in the economy:** those fearful for jobs, houses or impact on savings, and above all those who were already at the margins of society.
- **Those struggling with the effects of getting older**

~~~~~

### **News from our School**

I would like to start by wishing all our friends at St Lawrence Church a happy and healthy New Year, and by thanking you for all your encouragement and support throughout 2008. I cannot emphasise enough how much we appreciate our connections with the church, both our relationship with the people and the opportunity to use the church building. Over the Christmas period, with our Carol Service and Concert, it almost became a second home to us! The Christmas decorations have not long been down but the festive season feels like a distant, but pleasant, memory. It is now time to move forward and to consider things that we will achieve this year.

This term started eventfully with a layer of snow on the very first day. It was not quite enough for our traditional snow sculpture competition but still plenty to make our woods look quite magical and to inspire a lunchtime game of 'Narnia'.

Over the last few years we have spent considerable time and effort promoting our small school and this appears to have paid off. We are now full in every year group except year 5 (9/10 year olds). This is a comfortable position to be in and means that there is no doubt that we are viable for the foreseeable future. However, it does not mean that we will stop our work ensuring that the people of Sevenoaks know about St Lawrence School.

There is still much to look forward to before Easter, including an 'Art week', a science presentation, an orchestra concert and several sports events. It promises to be another busy term.

*Alison*

~~~~~

A New Venture

At a recent PCC meeting, there was a discussion about an initiative called "The Eco-Congregation", an environmental toolkit for churches. The initiative is designed to help churches identify and affirm their existing environmental ministry and prioritise what they would like to do next and identify supportive resources. The eco-audit can be placed in the context of 'The Five Marks of Mission', which is a model first formulated by the 1988 Lambeth Conference to

help churches identify their strengths and weaknesses.

The Marks of Mission are as follows:

1. To proclaim the good news of the kingdom, e.g. preaching.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers, e.g. children’s work, membership/Alpha course.
3. To respond to human need by loving service, e.g. pastoral visiting.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, e.g. supporting a housing charity, promoting for trade.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation: to sustain and renew the life of the earth, e.g. having energy efficient premises, wildlife garden.

- Calculating your carbon footprint
- Reducing energy use in the home
- Using your car less
- Recycling
- Reducing unwanted junk mail
- Make your home energy efficient
- Natural gardening
- Ethical shopping
- Ethical finance
- A greener lifestyle generally
- Inspiring books to read
- Inspiring stories

Therefore, we will be publishing over the year some topics which, hopefully, everyone will find useful and/or inspirational in pursuing the eco-congregation agenda.

If anyone thinks they have eco-tips they would like to share, please send pass them to the editor.

Hilary

~~~~~

### ***Identity Fraud***

Don’t let them steal your identity. It could happen to you. Identity theft can take many forms and we must all be on our guard. Plastic card fraud alone cost £535 million in 2007 and there is also a great deal of cheque fraud (counterfeit or forged cheques or real cheques that are altered) and other scams.

One would think that by now everyone would know that banks will never ask a customer for their account details over the internet, yet ‘phishing’ by criminals using fake messages that can look convincing still goes on. Any reply to such an e-mail will go to some crook’s computer in a faraway country.

Illegal copies of genuine debit or credit cards are often used, as well as lost or stolen cards. A card-holder may be unaware of a fraudulent purchase until his next statement arrives, but many card issuers now have sophisticated ways of spotting unusual spending patterns when dodgy purchases are made.

Also common is card-not-present fraud, where thieves obtain genuine card details in the real world and make purchases by phone, mail-order or on the

internet. Businesses accepting these cards are unable to check the card’s physical security features.

Properties with communal letterboxes are vulnerable to mail non-receipt fraud (where cards are stolen in transit) although this has declined with the introduction of CHIP-and-PIN. The banking industry works closely with the Royal Mail to identify fraud hot-spots. Card issuers may use secure couriers to deliver to high-risk postcodes.

Believe it or not, many people still write down their PIN and keep it in their purse or wallet near their card. The risk is obvious.

If you have reason to think that you have been targeted, it is a good idea to contact a credit reference agency such as Experian and buy (for a small fee) a copy of your credit report. Every year thousands of people take this step after becoming victims of fraud. To protect yourself in advance, take a look at the Home Office website [www.identitytheft.org.uk](http://www.identitytheft.org.uk)

~~~~~

Climate Change – Going Beyond Talking the Talk

You can **FORGET** “Make Poverty History”, because Climate Change will make Poverty **PERMANENT**.

It was with these words that Daleep Mukarji, opened a Breakfast Briefing in London entitled “Climate Change – Going Beyond Talking the Talk”.

No other single issue presents such a clear and present danger to the future welfare of the world’s poorest people, and those who cause the least damage suffer the most.

Climate Change creates intense weather conditions such as floods and hurricanes, often leading to loss of lives and disease as well as loss of homes and livelihoods. Although extreme weather has always occurred, Climate Change is causing it to become both more frequent and intense. When these unfortunate disasters occur, Christian Aid – through its partners world-wide – is usually amongst the first to be able to offer relief and practical support to those worst affected.

Climate Change is also a driver of poverty. Increasingly unreliable rainfall contributes to reduced harvests. Long-term changes in sea levels, temperature or rainfall can make it impossible to pursue traditional livelihood options at all. Christian Aid is working with communities across the world to help reduce the impact that such extreme weather has on them. For instance, their partner in Mali focuses on rural development and is helping the people to adapt to their changing environment. They provide plots of irrigated rice fields and teach community farming techniques, so that they are able to cope despite losing their traditional livelihoods.

Christian Aid and its partners are also helping to raise awareness of Climate