

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
March 2009*



Sunday	1 March	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	8 March	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	15 March	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	A Short Family service for all God's Children	
Sunday	22 March	11:15	Family Service (with Communion)	CW
Sunday	29 March	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	5 April	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:05	Walk with a pony/donkey from the foot of Carter's Hill to . . .	
		11:15	Short 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	Cricket Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
Chairman of Governors	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 18 March 2009

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 29 March 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
March 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 March 2009



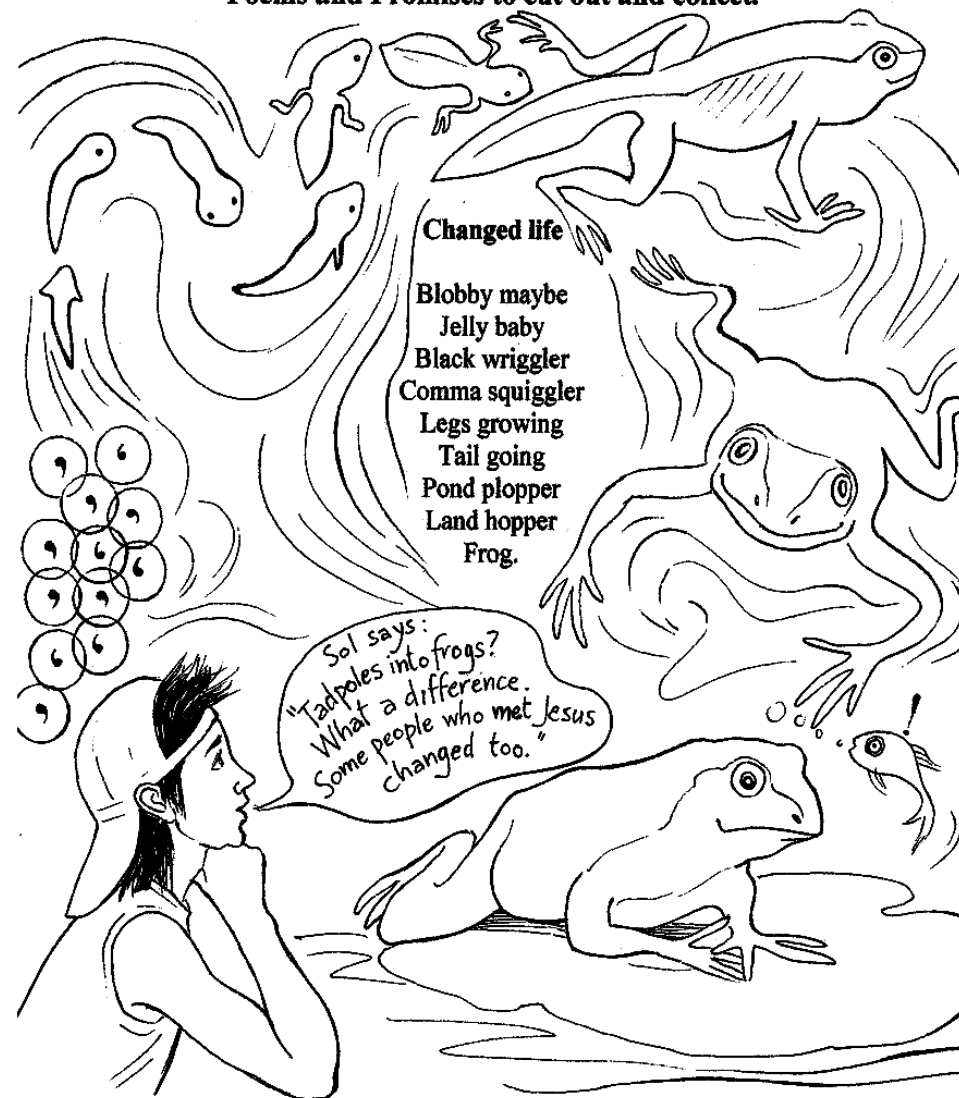
Sunday	1 March	First Sunday of Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church)	
		Mark 1: 9-15	
Thursday	5 March	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	10:00	At The Vicarage.	
Sunday	8 March	Second Sunday of Lent	
	09:45	Family Communion (with hymns)	CW
		Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 31-38
Sunday	15 March	Third Sunday of Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
		1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	John 2: 13-22
	09:45	Morning Prayer (with hymns) (with Sunday School)	BCP
		Exodus 20: 1-17	John 2: 13-22
Tuesday	17 March	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	14:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	22 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent—Mothering Sunday	
	09:45	All Age Family Service for Mothering Sunday	
		Psalms 122	
Sunday	29 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
	09:45	All Age Family Service with a Celtic Theme	
Tuesday	2 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins)	
	10:00	At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Sunday	5 Apr	Palm Sunday	
	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		Philippians 2: 5-11	Mark 11: 1-11
	09:20	Walk with a pony from the foot of Church Road to . . .	
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church)	
		Mark 11: 1-11	Philippians 2: 5-11

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.



Jesus said...Here he is, Zacchaeus...the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost..(Luke 19:9,10 The Message.)

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

The Great Sun (from a Normandy Crucifix of 1632)

I am the great sun, but you do not see me, I am your husband, but you turn away,
 I am the captive, but you do not free me, I am the captain you will not obey.
 I am the truth, but you will not believe me, I am the city where you will not stay,
 I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me, I am that God to whom you will not pray.
 I am your counsel, but you do not hear me, I am the lover whom you will betray,
 I am the victor, but you do not cheer me, I am the holy dove whom you will slay.
 I am your life, but if you will not name me, Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.

Translated by Charles Causley

The Vicar's Page

I have a confession which is especially relevant for this month, which falls in the season of Lent: I am at least partly responsible for causing later production this month of your Parish magazine. I had thought copy-date was a week later ...

I am so sorry – and I really mean it – because my lack of due diligence will have caused others extra work. And as I write, this “S” word seems to be all around us, not least on the lips of those in our banking and financial services industries who have been appearing before a Parliamentary Select Committee. Without going in to all the depressing details, it does appear that some so-called important people have made the most monumental mistakes, quite forgetting what banking ought to be about, and at the same time living out a culture which lines their own nests extraordinarily comfortably. Their saying sorry is cold comfort to the millions of others, who will have to pay for this for decades to come. And it's no comfort to know that those who have profited can't take it with them – and indeed will be called to an ever bigger explanation at their Day of Judgement.

But mistakes are sins, of whatever kind. We are used to calling them as such when we deliberately do something wrong (murder, steal or any other of the 10 Commandments), or when we knowingly fail to do something that is right (Love your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength – and Love your neighbour as yourself): most of us fail miserably on this sin of omission or partial fulfilment. NB For those who wonder about the word “miserably”, it does have a second meaning: the Latin "miserere" means have mercy (on me) , so miserable is not all gloom - there is hope.


But the third category of sins is that connected with things we aren't even naturally aware of. But, as they say: “Ignorance of the Law is no excuse!” We know this applies to things like road-traffic offences. But it also applies far more widely – e.g. not realising the impact of our actions on people in other countries (global warming), or not realising what God is calling us to do or be.

These sins of ignorance are perhaps the hardest to understand. It's one reason why there is this season of Lent, which is not so much giving up excess consumption of the frills of life like chocolate, but a deep hard look at what life is about. Then, and only after some hard work, can we expect to recognise some new aspects which we hadn't thought of. And having done so, we must then do something about it – follow that calling, change that life-style.

I am indeed sorry – and I intend to use this coming season to have a harder look at life. Would you too do the same, this Lent?

With all blessings,

Michael

		Church Flowers			
Sunday	1 March	Lent - No Flowers			
Sunday	8 March	Lent - No Flowers			
Sunday	15 March	Lent - No Flowers			
Sunday	22 March	Beryl Storey			
Sunday	29 March	Lent - No Flowers			
Sunday	5 April	Lent - No Flowers			
<hr/>					
		St Lawrence Sunday School			
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			
<p>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)</p>					

Charity begins at . . .

Charity may well begin at home but as far as your Parochial Church Council (PCC) is concerned it should extend far beyond our own doorsteps. On behalf of Seal St. Lawrence the PCC makes annual charitable donations to a number of local, general and overseas charities.

Local Charities

School Leaver Bibles: Gideon Bibles: Burrswood: Scott Project

On our doorstep so to speak, we present a bible to every final year student leaving the St Lawrence Primary School, which immediately adjoins the Church grounds. In addition to this provision of bibles we support the Gideons who place bibles in local hotels, hospitals, colleges, universities and care homes.

Burrswood near Groombridge is a Christian Hospital and place of healing. Through the delivery of medical expertise, nursing care, counselling and prayer, many continue to discover the benefits of treating the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

The Scott project was founded to provide a caring home near Tonbridge to enable residents with special needs to benefit from a structured environment, tailored especially to help them reach their full potential through learning and leisure.

In addition to our regular giving individuals and groups in the Church work to raise £1500 annually to help further the aims and activities of the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT).

General Charities

Demelza House: St Luke's Hospice: Church Army: Royal British Legion

Demelza House is an eight bedded hospice offering respite and end of life care to children with life-limiting illnesses. The hospice is located at Sittingbourne. Our small contribution helps to supplement the enormous gift of TIME so freely given by volunteers in excess of *one thousand hours* per week!

St Lukes Hospice provides medical and surgical facilities for present and past members of the clergy. Their structure is undergoing significant changes with the transfer of facilities to a mainline hospital. Much of the professional care will continue to be provided without remuneration. Your PCC feels that St Lukes continues to be a charity worthy of our support.

The Church Army Evangelists share the Christian faith through words and action. They seek to bring to people the love of God made known in Jesus Christ, which can bring about change and hope in the lives of individuals and communities.

The Royal British Legion receives support from the Remembrance Day collection with a small addition from our church funds.

Roly Bain

What amazing skills Roly has! The Parish took a leap in faith last year and booked at some cost the country's foremost Christian clown to lead our Parish Children's Fun Afternoon. There, some 33 children from school, parish and church enjoyed learning to balance poles vertically, spin plates (don't try with china, yet), racing with treadle walkers (also called Fun wheels – "Sturdy plastic foot platforms connected by 2 bent cranks to 4 small wheels; you fall off a lot at first"), and working with a Diabolo. If anyone wants to buy for home use any of the circus and juggling equipment used, I note that they are available at very reasonable cost from www.butterfingers.co.uk. There are also pictures available of the afternoon – if you are interested, please have a word with Michael.



On the Sunday Roly enacted the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – how we wish we too had been there. Then he gave one of the most memorable addresses for a long time – explaining and demonstrating the "Slack Rope of Faith". How he managed to avoid the candelabra between the transepts choir stalls is still a mystery to me. And if we think it was all fun, his speaking was exemplary in being truly all-age – with some very serious asides for the adults too about what it means to be a Christian in today's world. His prayers using bubbles were also particularly moving.



Well done one and all - and particular thanks to Roly. No doubt we will look forward to him coming again in the future.

~~~~~

## ***Mothering Sunday***

There is an old Jewish saying: "God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers".

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

~~~~~

Special Services in March

In a break with the usual monthly service pattern, because March 22nd is Mothering Sunday, the service that day will be an All-Age/Family service with the customary distribution of poises not only to mothers, but to other members of our congregation too. Do come! (Children note the opportunity to prepare these the previous afternoon at 3:30pm, in church.)

Though it is on a third Sunday in the month, the service the previous Sunday 15th March will be Morning Prayer (BCP) – but WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL. On 29th March, a fifth Sunday in the month for which we have no expected format, we shall be holding an All Age/Family Service with a Celtic theme, taking inspiration from the abbey's worship on the peaceful island of Iona.

~~~~~

### ***Reader-in-Training***

We are delighted that St Lawrence's and St Margaret's have once again been asked to host a Reader-in-Training. Brian Banks, who worships at St Andrew's Paddock Wood, will be with us for six weeks starting on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Brian is a quality officer at a university and at his home church has been a churchwarden and held various other posts. During his time with us, Brian will observe, lead prayers and preach. We look forward to welcoming Brian.

~~~~~

The curious habits of car thieves

Car thieves, it seems, will steal just about anything from cars. Last year in addition to the usual assortment of CDs, Satnav systems, MP3 players, jackets, mobile phones, laptops, cameras, sunglasses, handbags and golf clubs, they helped themselves to a cat flap, dog food and celery.

According to recent car insurance company reports, last year one car thief even stole a bag of homework. Another staggered off with a gazebo. But prize for the bravest (or most foolhardy) must go to the thief who broke into a van to steal.... the large Rottweiler dog who was guarding it!

~~~~~

### ***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 who have made mistakes – and others who suffer as a result:** 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**

### ***Overseas Charities***

#### ***Christian Aid: Farm Africa: RDM Parakkanvilla: USPG***

Christian Aid continues to be our major overseas charity. Our donation is partly supported by the Carol service collection. Elspeth also very efficiently and quite separately from our other charitable giving, coordinates the local distribution and collection of envelopes during Christian Aid week.

Through the Farm Africa project we help to buy about 15 goats, which provide milk and meat for poor African families. We celebrate our Harvest Supper knowing that the funds raised will help to provide some of the poorest families in the world with their own harvest.

Many of us struggle to pronounce RDM Parakkanvilla. We have learnt more about this initiative in an extremely poor region of Southern India through Ellen Wakeham who spent several weeks working and teaching there. Our donation has helped to build a very basic but much needed Church building.

Following a suggestion by the late Phillip Attenborough, we nominate a small amount annually to support any special appeals such as Darfur, Bangladesh and the Myanmar cyclone.

Anyone can give to a charity of their choice at any time. Please consider using the blue envelopes in pews, naming the charity and facilitating the reclaiming of tax.

If you wish to nominate a charity, which you would like the PCC to consider supporting, please contact me or any Church officer.

*Eric Jackson*

~~~~~

Christian Aid Lent Frugal Lunch

You are cordially invited to come to this annual event which will take place on Sunday 15th March at 12:30 pm at Christ Church URC Hall, London Road, Sevenoaks. A simple lunch (roll, cheese, apple) will be served. No advance booking is required and there is no charge, but participants will be invited to make a donation, equivalent to what they might have spent on Sunday lunch, towards the work of Christian Aid.



The theme of the lunch will be 'Climate Change – Countdown to Copenhagen' and in a break with tradition, we shall not be having a speaker this year. Instead we shall be showing a short film about Climate Change in preparation for the Copenhagen Climate Change conference to be held in December this year. We shall be providing an opportunity for those present to complete postcards to the Prime Minister or to write to their MEP about the need for decisive action at the conference. Please do come. For further information contact me.

Elspeth Cooke

Eco-Congregation

The period of Lent is approaching fast (and hopefully you read this before or close to the beginning of it!). It is a time when many of us decide to give something up, often chocolate, alcohol, coffee, cakes etc. We deny ourselves something that we enjoy in order to remind ourselves of Christ's sacrifice. This Lent why not think of 'giving up' something that will help the environment rather than the waistline? Ideas could include:

- cut down the number of miles driven in the car each week;
- switch from drinking bottled water to a refillable container of tap water;
- force yourself to walk round the house each night to switch off all those appliances on standby;
- turn the heating down by 1 or 2 degrees;
- refuse to buy fruit and veg in plastic packaging, either buy from a shop with paper bags, or a farmers market or join a veg box scheme, or at the supermarket "take some extra bags, preferably paper and stay away from those clear poly bags and only purchase loose products which get weighted at the till." (See <http://www.thenag.net/crowds>)

All of these things involve a sacrifice because they make our lives less convenient. What is appropriate will depend on your personal situation, what is appropriate for one person may not be for another, but as the climate stewards webpage says "Action is a journey. The important thing is to start, to lay down a marker. Then persuade and inspire lots of others to do the same."

If you are interested in reducing your carbon footprint and would like a 'before and after' number you could use the very basic carbon footprint calculator on the 'climate stewards' webpage

<http://www.climatestewards.net/cs-int-en/offset/carboncalculator.html>.

Next month we will be posting tips for reducing energy use in the home, so if you have any top tips feel free to send them to the editor. *The PCC*

EASTER CHURCH CLEAN

on

Wednesday 1 April, between 9 am and 11 am

Extra helpers will be welcomed with open arms and coffee!

Please do come along and enjoy yourself

(This is not an April Fool)

The Favourite Wedding Hymn

Amazing Grace is the number one hymn chosen by the 400 couples a month planning their wedding through the Church of England's new online ceremony planner at www.yourchurchwedding.org

More than 1,300 couples have registered with the 'listen and choose' online innovation, which launched in October 2008 when a new law, initiated by the Church of England, made a church wedding more possible for more people.

The ceremony planner at www.yourchurchwedding/planner gives 25 choices for special hymns for weddings and 12 readings from the Bible. Choices are captured in a draft printout which merges the names of the bride and groom into the marriage service. Couples can then use this draft as a discussion starter when they first meet their vicar.

John Newton's Amazing Grace is the most popular wedding hymn choice, closely followed by Make Me a Channel of Your Peace based on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi. Number three is the schooldays favourite All Things Bright and Beautiful.

~~~~~

## ***News from St Lawrence School***

It has been an exciting first half of term! Located at about the highest part of the hill, the school has had as much snow as anyone locally - which certainly gave parents and staff challenges, but the children much joy. In particular they made various snowy sculptures on the school playing field - the in-activity this year was igloos.

We've also had a very successful and enjoyable Art Week. Children and staff have had a great time working with clay with an artist in residence. Other activities have included marbling paper, collage, and "Picasso" pictures. (Being Picasso, various aspects of his work can be well emulated by children!) There was also a visit to the National Gallery in London (where the children studied pictures, bought postcards), and not least we hear that a banner for our St Lawrence Church has also been prepared. I have no details yet, so I wait with as much anticipation as anyone.

The core education of what used to be known as the 3Rs has of course continued, as have Assemblies - the theme for the last weeks has been St Paul's travels - lots of gripping stories there about being blinded, riots, shipwrecks - as well as good news Paul shared.

Finally, despite all this busyness, weatherise and human, we are glad to report that the chickens continue to lay well!

*Michael Cooke (Foundation Governor)*

~~~~~