

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
April 2009*



Sunday	5 April	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:05	Walk with pony/donkey from foot of Carters Hill to	
		11:15	Short Family Service	
Sunday	12 April	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		11:15	Festival Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	19 April	18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	26 April	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	3 May	11:15	Family Service	CW

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

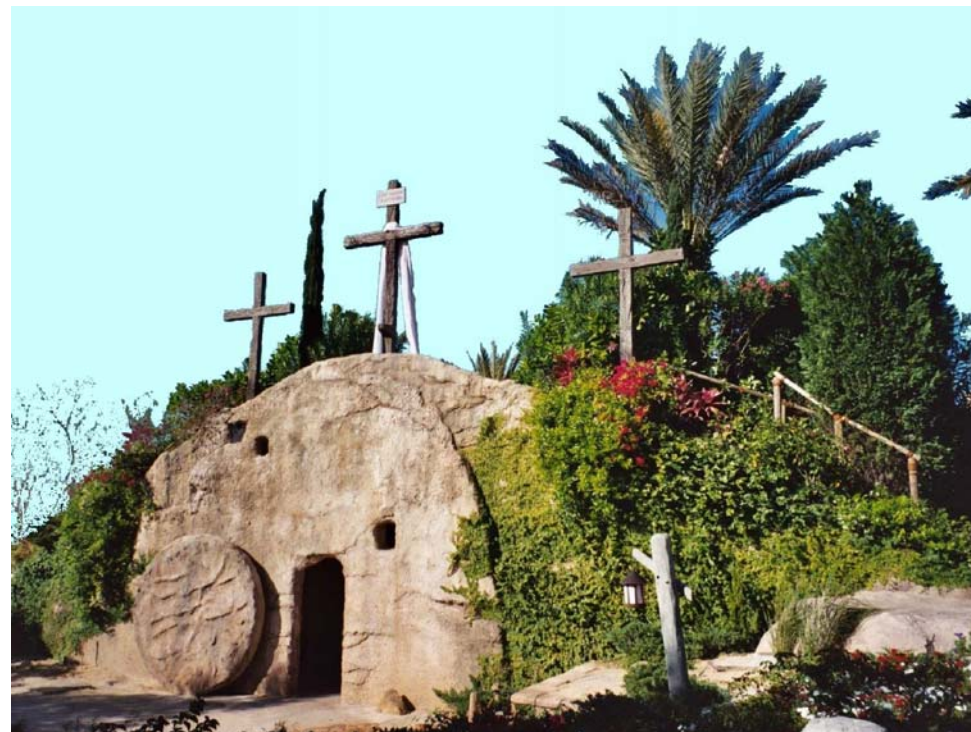
Churchwardens	Hilary Denby-Jones	763883	S'ooks District Councillor	Cnclr Peter Coates	762129
	vacancy		Seal Parish Council		
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Chairman	Robin Watson	833930
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	xd	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	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 McKracken	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 15 April 2009

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 26 April 2009**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
April 2009
CHRIST IS RISEN
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!*



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 April 2009



Thursday	2 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Thrums. Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Sunday	5 April	Palm Sunday Holy Communion (said) BCP Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 11: 1-11 09:20 Walk with pony from foot of Church Road to 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Mark 11: 1-11 Philippians 2: 5-11	
Thursday	9 April	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion (said) CW Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14 1 Cor 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	
Friday	10 April	Good Friday 9:00 Devotional Walk from St Lawrence's to St Margaret's 11:15 Devotional Service for both Parishes John 18: 1-19: 42	
Sunday	12 April	Easter Day 09:45 Festival Family Communion (with hymns) CW Acts 10: 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8	
Friday	17 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	19 April	Second Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) CW Acts 4: 32-35 John 20: 19-31 09:45 Morning Prayer (with Sunday School) BCP Exodus 14: 10-31 15: 20-21 John 20: 19-31	
Sunday	26 April	Third Sunday of Easter 09:45 Family Service Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Luke 24: 36b-48 11:00 St Lawrence's Annual Church Meetings	
Thursday	30 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	
Sunday	3 May	Fourth Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Acts 4: 5-12 John 10: 11-18 09:45 All Age Family Service (Children in Church) John 10: 11-18	

For the Children

Mouse Makes

Nailed on a cross, condemned to die,
They said that Jesus was telling lies.
But he is risen for all to see!
He came to save us, **Jesus came to save me!**

THE EASTER STORY

To make your Easter Story Teller
glue the page onto thin card. Colour in then carefully cut around both circles. With the help of an adult, pierce a small hole through the black dot in the centre of both circles. Push a split pin through the top circle and again through the bottom circle to join together. Spin around to tell the Easter Story.

1. Into Jerusalem Luke 19:28 - 48
2. Condemned to die Luke 22:47 - 23:25
3. Nailed to a cross Luke 23:26 - 49
4. Laid in a tomb Luke 23:50 - 56
5. Risen from the dead! Luke 24: 1 - 12
6. Jesus is ALIVE! Luke 24 - 13 - 53



Flower Rotas for

Church Flowers

Lent—No Flowers	Sunday 5 April
Annette McKellar	Sunday 12 April
Annette McKellar	Sunday 19 April
Roz Morris	Sunday 26 April
Roz Morris	Sunday 3 May



Memorial Flowers

No Flowers
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi

Those little grey cells....

Exercise even helps to keep your brain fit, by reducing the amount of sugar in the body as you age. According to recent research at Columbia University Medical Centre, memory loss can be partly due to those rising blood-glucose levels. Certainly high blood sugar can lead to diabetes and stroke.

When did you last have your blood glucose level checked?



St Lawrence Sunday School



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

Happy Easter! And it's no surprise that I focus this month on what belief in the Resurrection means.

Let's start, though, on *apparently* easier ground: the request of others that we believe in a range of things:- our politicians' wisdom to solve a global financial crisis, gravity, cholesterol levels as important to our health, global warming as being to a large extent induced by mankind's use of fossil fuels.

I won't comment on our **politicians** – except their difficult job is made much harder by lack of support and prayer. My use of the last word indeed begs the question as to whether you think prayer makes any difference. **Gravity**: we know it is true, though quite why a body is attracted to another body is beyond most of us to explain. I'm not a doctor, so I don't *know* that **cholesterol** does matter – but the evidence from others seems pretty convincing to me.

Global warming? There have been fluctuations in global temperatures and CO₂ levels over the millennia – but will we bury our heads in sand over irrefutable evidence? For example, that produced from the Antarctic where eminent scientist Chris Rapley OBE (formerly leader of the British Antarctic Expedition, and now Director of the Science Museum in London) took cores of ice, and analysed the CO₂ levels trapped in the ice laid down year-by year over 500,000 years. The range of CO₂ found has fluctuated between 180 and 280 parts-per-million over all this period of time – except over the last 150 years when it has shown an ever steeper climb to (now) 380 ppm. This is so far outside the previous statistical range that something is afoot. And, starting at exactly the time when the industrial revolution began, it is accelerating. Some may not find this convincing – the effects have hardly begun here in Britain. But they will! When global sea levels rise 1-2 metres whole swathes of East Anglia, and even parts of Kent will be submerged – as is already happening calamitously in some Pacific atolls and very populous areas like Bangladesh.

We can believe, then, in some things we know are true but don't understand (like perhaps gravity). We can disbelieve things that are true (like global warming) because they don't seem to affect us yet. And the **Resurrection of Jesus?** The evidence from the New Testament, and the changed lives of Christians then and now who had every reason to disbelieve, is overwhelming. And since the Resurrection is true, then He, who is alive, does and will affect us. If not apparently now, then at death. St Paul writes "as of first importance, Christ died ... was buried ... was raised on the third day ... and appeared ..." (1 Corinthians 15:3). And therefore ... and in the rest of that chapter we can read the consequences for ourselves, for the whole of creation, even the powers beyond this world. Even, by implication, for our prayers!

"Christ is indeed raised from the dead!" Alleluia! Indeed, Happy Easter!

With all blessings,

Michael

Sponsorship Wanted

Samantha and I are planning to do the London to Brighton classic mini run on the 17th May. We want to use this to try and raise some money for St Lawrence Pre-School, and SAYT. There will be a mention in the pew sheets and sponsorship forms at the back of the Church.

We need to be at Crystal palace by 5 am on the day, and will travel in convoy with about 2500 minis taking part, before arriving for the day on Madeira drive in Brighton, where the sea front will be reserved exclusively for London to Brighton participants.

Ron Drury

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## ***The Church Garden Party***

**will be held on**

**Saturday 16th May 2009**

**from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**at**

**Fishponds**

**(the entrance is on the A25 just past The Crown Point Inn)**

**by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs J McKellar**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Antiques & Collectables - High Quality Bric-à-Brac**

**Books - Cakes & Refreshments - Flower & Plant Sales**

**Raffle - Side-Shows - Tombola - Toys**

**Children's Games and Races**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**St Lawrence School Orchestra**

**will play during the afternoon**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Admission £1.00 (Children Free)**

**\* \* \* \* \***

***Can you Help? Please see Page 6 for more information***

believers. That is, they are Jews who are also Christians. An article in the February-May 2009 issue of CWR Today puts the total as between 10,000 and 15,000 people in some 120 congregations.

The number is increasing quite rapidly. In 2000 there were only about 60 such congregations, with perhaps a total attendance of about 9,000 people, though some would say fewer than this. Seven new congregations a year on average is an encouraging number in view of such difficult circumstances in which to operate – or is such growth partly due to the rigour and uncertainty of living in Israel? God often gives blessing despite the circumstances, and not always because of the circumstances.

Each congregation of about 100 people needs supporting with our prayers. Let us pray both for the peace of Jerusalem and the growth of the church there.

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Crime Prevention

It is a sad fact that burglaries cause a lot of grief and take up a significant amount of police time. Neighbourhood Watch Associations have an important role in reducing crime, but we can all help the police by taking appropriate precautions in respect of our own property. So here are a few tips based on the advice of crime prevention officers:

1. Letter boxes can be used by criminals to extract goods close to the door, commonly door or car keys, or even to work vulnerable locking devices from the inside. So letter plates should not be closer than 400mm from the door lock (an internal cover plate provides additional security). Some people who have a letter basket remove the bottom it, allowing mail to fall to the floor (preventing theft of the mail).
2. To make a door secure, a rim latch (Yale type) on its own is not sufficient. The door should be fitted with a 5-lever mortice deadlock, though insurance companies will accept a rim automatic deadlock. The rim latch and the mortice should be fitted 18-24 inches apart. For added safety fit a spy hole and door chain or limiter.
3. The back door should be fitted with a 5-lever 2-bolt mortice sash lock, half way up the door. This should be to British Standard 3621. Bolts should always be fitted at 90 degrees to the grain of the wood, reducing the likelihood of the wood splitting under pressure.
4. Patio doors are often used as a means of entry, so unless yours is fitted with a multi-locking system, it is advisable to fit extra locks. These are usually “push to lock and key to open” which makes them easy to use. If in doubt, consult the installer to manufacturer.

Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was a declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

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### ***Statistic of the month***

With Easter this month, the eyes of the world turn towards the Holy Land, but how many Christians are there in Israel? For that matter, how many Jews are there in Israel, or is everyone counted as a Jew just because they live there?

The World Christian Encyclopaedia puts the proportion of Israel's population who are Jews at about three-quarters, 76%, and the proportion who are Muslims at about an eighth, 12%. Christians are about half as many as Muslims, so that makes them 6%, or 1 person in every 16.

The definition of Christians in Israel includes a number of denominations, of which the Catholics are by far the largest, at about half the total. There are some Messianic congregations, however, which are made up of people who are Jewish



## ***Easter Events 2009***

### ***Music and Readings for Good Friday at 7.30pm on Good Friday, 10 April at St Mary, Riverhead***

*(with a united choir - all singers welcome.)*

Rehearsals:

Sunday 29 March 3.00-4.30 and Good Friday 10 April 4.00 - 5.30

Contact Valerie Ruddle (01732 450355) if you would like to sing, and please do try to get to both rehearsals. Otherwise, just come along on the evening and support us. There will be a collection for the Churches Together Literature Project for 2009.

### ***Silent Witness Walk Good Friday, 10 April***

The North West Fellowship of Churches will hold its Silent Witness Walk on Good Friday morning. If you would like to join them, you are welcome to meet up with them at 10.45am at the junction of London Road and Pembroke Road (opposite the Council Offices) and walk up into Bligh's for a short act of devotion at the clock tower at 11am. All are welcome.

***You are invited to support these events with other  
Christians in Sevenoaks and District***

### ***Church Flowers***

Easter is the time when we particularly remember loved ones who are no longer with us. If you feel that you would like to be involved with the flowers in church, either practically or through a donation, please get in touch with me or Michael Cooke.

*Sheila Jackson 01732 811422 .*

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Prayer Points for this month

- **Those who struggle** with deeper questions of life in uncertain times.
- **Those travelling** for Easter holidays – for safety and re-creation
- **Politicians** as they wrestle with global issues – financial, peace – when good outcomes depend also on others playing their proper part too.

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**The Church Garden Party**

We need helpers, donations of raffle and tombola prizes, and items to sell on the various stalls. If you can help in any way, please contact

|                          |                    |              |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Help with a stall        | Hilary Denby-Jones | 01732 763883 |
| Raffle & Tombola Prizes  | Hilary Denby Jones | 01732 763883 |
| High Quality Bric-a Brac | Rosemary Cole      | 01732 763107 |
| Collectables             | Tony Webb          |              |
| Books                    | Richard Glencross  | 01732 761202 |
| Other Questions          | Ron Drury          | 01732 810214 |

Even if you can't help with any of the stalls, please make a note in you diary and support the event on the day.

*Ron Drury*

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Thank You Ailsa: Welcome Janet!

We want to record a big thank you to Ailsa Walker (Sevenoaks United Reformed Church) who has been the faithful compiler for many, many years of Sevenoaks' church worship details in the Sevenoaks Chronicle. Any mistakes in description have NOT been hers! But Ailsa has felt that it is now time to hand on, and we welcome in her place Mrs Janet Dalzell (also of Sevenoaks United Reformed Church) – her contact details are 01959 524550, or dalzell@easynet.co.uk

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**Special Services in April**

Our Annual Church Meeting is held (as in past years) on the last Sunday of April. This year, as a change to encourage more people to contribute to our church's direction, the service preceding the meeting is a Family Service; this means the monthly Morning Prayer/BCP service will be held a week earlier on April 19<sup>th</sup>. when there will also be Sunday School. Full details are given on our Services page.

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Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) House-to-house Collection



This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) For many people in the DRC, life is a struggle. Following ten years of conflict, malnourishment and preventable diseases still claim thousands of lives each week. The House-to-house collection which we shall be having in St Lawrence Parish is an excellent opportunity to raise money which will be channelled through Christian Aid partner organisations to help rebuild lives and livelihoods in the some of the most vulnerable communities in the DRC and other countries.

Could you be part of the team of collectors in the parish this year? It just involves delivering envelopes to a small number of houses early in the week and then calling back to collect them. An hour or two collecting from a few local houses could raise enough to make a significant difference to the life of someone in a developing country. The more collectors we have, the easier the task, so please give prayerful consideration to helping. Perhaps you could do it with a friend. If you can help, or if you'd like to know more about what is involved, please contact me. If you live outside the parish and would prefer to collect in your own local area, do please still contact me and I can put you in touch with the organiser for your area. More collectors are needed in all areas. Thank you.

Elsbeth Cooke (Tel: 761766)

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**From other Church Bulletins**

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

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St George

Saint George was a Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England: he may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a

St Lawrence Churchyard

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who in recent months has written to us with your views on how a proposed new area for the interment of Ashes should be ordered at St Lawrence's. We have compiled a most extensive and compelling list of the points you have made, and we have submitted them to the Diocese. We sincerely hope their Advisory Committee will now be persuaded to reconsider their original non-recommendation of our proposal. We will keep you informed.

Secondly – and we are sorry that there's never a good time to mention this - may we remind those tending graves that there is a heap for compostible materials at the top North West corner of the churchyard. Please don't put such bio-degradable materials in the waste-bin beside the lychgate – it's bad ecology, and puts extra burden on the person who has to empty it. And please never put stones in this bin – the refuse collectors then won't take anything away!

Conversely, please remember and spread abroad the fact that apart from fresh flowers *nothing* may be introduced into the churchyard without the Church's prior permission. This includes memorial stones, tablets, or wooden crosses. And some things, such as artificial flowers, are never allowed! All this is so that we can offer a churchyard which remains both now and for generations to come a delight to those who use, visit or maintain it.

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### ***From the Registers at St Lawrence's***

18 February Funeral and Burial of the late Elizabeth Madeleine Grace Dickinson, who had died aged 78. We extend to Madeleine's sons Tim and Simon and their families our deepest condolences on the loss of their mother.

26 February Funeral of the late Howard Hughes, OBE who had died aged 70. We extend to his widow Christine and their four children our deepest condolences on their great loss.

5 March Funeral and Burial of the late Pembroke (Pem) Jocelyn Stephens, who had died 81. We extend to his widow Bridget and their family our deepest condolences.

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Get a piggy bank

The great old-fashioned piggy bank is back – though perhaps in a more discreet form. Whatever the shape, sales of money boxes have risen by 150 per cent this past year alone, according to Debenhams. With interest rates so low, savings accounts have lost their appeal, and banks have lost a lot of our confidence.

Living Lightly 24:1 Because 'The Earth is the Lord's' (Psalm 24:1)

As promised this month we have some tips on reducing energy use in the home. The added attraction of these hints is that they will also save money. Many of these ideas come from the website 'livinglightly24-1.org.uk'

The kettle is apparently the most wasteful energy appliance in the house. Don't put more water into the kettle than you need. Mark on the kettle how much you need to boil for 1 or 2 cups.

Turn down the temperature of your house to 18 degrees (unless your health makes this impossible). The Energy Saving Trust calculate that even a 1 degree reduction can save 10% or £40 from an average annual electricity bill.

Turn the radiators off in any rooms that you do not use and install individual thermostats on radiators, then bedrooms can be run cooler than living rooms.

Don't leave appliances on stand-by – turn off at the plug. Or buy a standby saver which enables you you turn off at the wall remotely! see www.footprint-es.com.

Use a sava-plug for your fridge and freezer (it matches the flow of electricity to the motor's requirement, £21.95 from www.footprint-es.com).

Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full (a full load in the washing machine uses less energy than two half loads).

Avoid using the tumbles dryer and when you have to, use dryer balls which speed up drying time by 25% (£9.95 from [lakeland](http://www.lakeland.com) and www.footprint-es.com).

Cook things together in the oven and use the microwave instead when possible (as this uses less power). Or use a stackable pan and steamer which uses the energy twice.

Use pot pourri or scented water instead of plug in air fresheners.

If you have a conservatory, ensure that it is well-insulated, and that doors to the rest of the house are kept closed.

Make sure windows have interlined curtains over them that can be drawn on winter evenings, closed interlined curtains give you the same thermal barrier as double glazing.

In cold weather use the sunniest room available. Put rooms with sunny windows to good use by making sure curtains are tied back out of the way and net curtains are open when the heat from the sun is needed. Keep windows clean to let in more heat.

Lights account for between 5% and 10% of household energy use. Energy saving light bulbs (compact fluorescents) reduce electricity use by 80%, but in places where they are not suitable, Osram halogen bulbs reduce energy use by 25% versus a regular tungsten bulb (available in Sainsbury's and hardware stores). PCC

A year in the life of St. Lawrence's 2008 - 9

Sunday worship averaged 30 adults and 6 children with many more for the major festivals.

Thankfulness to God for his provision and for all those who give so freely of their time and gifts.

Lawrence school joined us for occasional services, bringing their orchestra.

Accounts: we are grateful to all our supporters and donors who have enabled us to carry on the work of the church in the community and beyond, as well as maintaining the church building and graveyard.

Worship also mid week with the prayer group who pray for all those in Stone Street, Bitchet Green and Seal Chart, as well as major concerns in the wider world.

Raised £842 for Christian Aid; we also supported The Royal British Legion, Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, Burrswood, Farm Africa and other charitable organisations.

Exploring Christianity: a seven week course that we ran for the second time.

Never let us forget the stitching group, the choir, the cleaners, flower arrangers, bell ringers, coffee providers, the PCC, the Sunday school teachers and all who help run St. Lawrence's.

Confirmed (7) both adults and young people; Baptised (2) and couples (4) married!

Entertained at the Harvest supper, Garden Party, theatre and concert outings and, of course, by Rev Roly Bain, the Christian clown.

(for more detail please see the Annual Report at the back of the church!)

Gretel Wakeham

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Easter Day Service

As has been the case in previous years, the collection at our Easter Service will go to the Vicarage household, as a mark of our appreciation for all that Michael and Elspeth have done for our Church community through the year.

Hilary Denby-Jones

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*A new Vicarage for St Lawrence's?*

Are you aware of any house in our parish which already has – or could be converted to have – the capacity to be a cost-efficient vicarage?

In case you weren't aware of the background, St Lawrence's present vicarage is highly unusual in that it is not owned by the Church. Instead, under a contract dating from the early 1900s, it is lent by the Knole Estate to the Diocese. As the Church has no meeting rooms, office or hall, with the incumbent's approval the vicarage doubles as a meeting place for the church. But even so, the present vicarage is really far too large to be suitable for a modern-day parsonage – and it's certainly inefficient in terms of heating and maintenance. Nor does a vicar and his spouse have time to manage more than a small fraction of the 5 acres of land attached to it!

The Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance is therefore exploring whether there is a suitable alternative property in or very close to the parish which Knole Estate would buy – and if necessary convert - and gift to the church in exchange for reclaiming the present vicarage for their own use. The standard requirements for a future-proof family vicarage include: three ground floor rooms including a study of not less than 200 sq ft or space to build a study; the sitting room should be about 220 sq ft; four bedrooms, two of which should be double rooms; convenient access and parking for visitors to the parsonage.

If someone is thinking of moving and feel their property would meet the needs of the Church please would they contact a member of the PCC. If a sale was made to the Church, the seller would not be involved in any fees except for their own legal costs.

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Time is:-

Too slow for those who wait;
Too swift for those who fear;
Too long for those who grieve;
Too short for those who rejoice;
But for those who love,
Time is Eternity.