

**Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during May 2009**



Sunday	3 May	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	10 May	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	17 May	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	Short Family Service	
Sunday	24 May	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	31 May	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		10:30	United Festival Family Communion (at St Lawrence's)	
Sunday	7 June	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	Sevenoaks 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 20 May 2009

The next issue, of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 31 May 2009**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
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**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
May 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

Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a ‘Saviour’ created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord’s full divinity was safeguarded in the words, ‘eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.’

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next forty-five years Athanasius’ devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of seventeen years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, ‘Athanasius contra mundum’, ‘Athanasius against the world.’

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	Flower Rotas for	
Church Flowers		Memorial Flowers
Roz Morris	Sunday 3 May	No Flowers
Audrey Ellis-Gibbons	Sunday 10 May	Annie Scarsi
Audrey Ellis-Gibbons	Sunday 17 May	Annie Scarsi
Wedding	Sunday 24 May	Annie Scarsi
Jean Stirling	Sunday 31 May	Annie Scarsi
Pat Wilson	Sunday 7 June	

	St Lawrence Sunday School	
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

Are we ready to join in with the partying that the month of May offers?

I’m not thinking simply of the two Bank Holidays, which to most of us are very welcome, especially to those who are struggling with overwork or stress. Nor is the merry month of May exhausted by thoughts of couples a-courting – though that theme does seem to feature prominently in many series of art depicting the year month-by-month. (See the photo of the ironwork sculpture outside Prague cathedral on Page 8) So perhaps, on reflection, society and some marriages could do well to do more of that kind of celebrating!

Nor is May special simply because of the united Garden Party to which we are all invited to come, to take part in and to make joy at. This year it’s at Fishponds, surely amongst the finest of venues in our area with its lovely gardens and - assuming the weather and season co-operate - with its fabulous rhododendrons and azaleas.

This year **Ascension Day**, which is always the fortieth day of Easter, falls on 21st May, and is the occasion when with all creation we celebrate the exaltation of Jesus to the highest heaven. No doubt there is a spatial dimension to the historical event “While he was blessing them, Jesus left the disciples and was taken up into heaven.” (Luke 24: 51). Perhaps you too know of sculpture like that in Wells cathedral, where in the roof of the chantry to Hugh Sugar there is a fine pair of feet disappearing, symbolising Jesus rising up to the sky. But Jesus’ Ascension is far more than vertical movement - it is about his new state and rank. In his other account (Acts 1) St Luke records that a cloud hid Jesus from the disciples’ very sight. A cloud appearing at significant times in a persons’ life was understood as closeness of God himself, so one dimension of the Ascension is to say that Jesus is reunited within the glory of the eternal Trinity. Now freed from the earthy limitation of time and space, he rules in all places and in all ages, Lord of lords and King of kings. Even today for you and me. Wow!

Ten days later (May 31st) it’s **Pentecost**, when on a Jewish festival commemorating Harvest - which of course takes place earlier in the Middle East than in North Western Europe! - God poured out his Spirit on his newly formed group of believers, endowing them and us with power and gifts to face the new and otherwise daunting future. And with amazing results – that same day a band of perhaps 15 people baptised some 3,000 new converts. What a party that would have been!

Ascension and Pentecost were *then*, so some say, and we live in different times. Nor do we speak of us living in a major capital city. True – but God is the same yesterday today and tomorrow, and the same glory and power is at hand, working his royal purposes for transformation in lives even here in our parishes. And that is worth celebration. Come and join us for the parties!

With all blessings,

Michael

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 - Cake Stall - Flower & Plant Sales

- Refreshments - Side-Shows - Tombola - Toys

Children's Games and Races

* * * * *

St Lawrence School Orchestra

will play during the afternoon

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Admission £1.00 (Children Free)

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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	01732 763436
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

Prayer Points for this month

- Ø **Those who struggle** with deeper questions of life in uncertain times.
- Ø **Thanks for parties earthly and heavenly**
- Ø **For good weather for our Garden Party**
- Ø **For 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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Those who go out to the sea in ships

The Mission to Seafarers is preparing for an increase in demand for its services as the shipping industry plunges into one of the worst crises for 30 years.

As the credit crunch bites, chaplains of the international maritime welfare agency are helping more seafarers who face increased isolation and anxiety as they look towards uncertain futures on laid up ships far from home.

“Crews working on laid-up ships suffer acute isolation, low morale and anxiety about their jobs – all of which pose a special set of challenges for Mission chaplains as they draw on all of their pastoral experiences to help guide seafarers through this tough time,” said the Mission’s director of justice and welfare, the Revd Canon Ken Peters.

Canon Peters says that the shipping industry is uniquely vulnerable to economic currents because of its globalised nature and that in these difficult times, the support of The Mission to Seafarers will be in even greater demand.

More than 230,000 seafarers visited Mission centres in 2008 and that 294 welfare cases, involving nearly 1,000 seafarers, were brought to the Mission’s attention for action.

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Athanasius

During some festival services, we use the Athanasian Creed, rather than the Apostles’ Creed. Athanasius was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church’s first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council’s debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, three hundred bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is he the Son of God? Is he God or man or both together? Did he exist before he was born? If we worship him does that mean we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of

Good Friday Devotional Walk



Just after 9 am on Good Friday, seven stalwarts (and a dog) set off from St Lawrence church to walk the footpaths via Bitchet Green, Rooks Hill and the fields to St Margaret's, Underriver. The weather was kind and the walkers made excellent time, knowing that coffee and hot cross buns awaited them before they attended, with others who did not walk, the Good Friday service in the church.

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*Iron Work Sculpture outside Prague Cathedral*

## Christian Aid Week (10 – 16 May 2009)



### *The Road to Hope*

This year, Christian Aid Week will focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Last October, Kevin Perry from the local Christian Aid office visited the country as part of his gap year. Here he shares his thoughts on the trip and the partner organisations that inspired him:

‘While we were in the country, the DRC hit the headlines because of the ongoing fighting in the eastern regions. To the relief of all of our mothers, we were a long way from the violence as we were in the west, in the capital, Kinshasa. Despite being separated from the violence by hundreds of miles, we still saw people living in incredibly difficult situations.

‘The truth is that even when the country was at the height of its conflict, the biggest killers were malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition. The lack of food, health and a sanitation infrastructure still affects people all over the country.

“We visited a range of partner organisations. One of the most inspiring people I met was Freddie Mbulayi Kabamba. Freddie runs a community group which coordinates volunteers from his town, Kindele, to repair their only road and to dig trenches which protect the town during the rainy season. Every year after the rain their work must start all over again.

‘Speaking of the future, he told me, “Hope is permitted, but we must have good leaders.” Through supporting projects like his, with tools, advice and practical assistance, Christian Aid is helping Freddie become part of a generation of community leaders his country needs.

### *Commissioning Service for Christian Aid Week*

You are warmly invited to come to this year’s special ecumenical service to be held on **Sunday 10 May** at St Bartholomew’s Church, Otford at 6:30 pm. We are privileged to have as our speaker, Sarah Filbey, Christian Aid’s Communications Officer for Africa. Sarah has recently returned from the DRC and was responsible for the material about the DRC in the order of service produced by Christian Aid. She will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge about the situation in the DRC and how Christian Aid’s partners are working in the communities there.

### *House-to-House Collection in St Lawrence’s Parish*

This year’s theme is ‘Keeping Hope Alive’. The money raised through the nationwide house-to-house collection will be channelled through Christian Aid’s partner organisations where the need is greatest to enable them to keep hope alive in their communities by supporting the local people to build a better future.

Would you like to be one 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 could raise enough

to make a significant difference to the life of someone in a developing country. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering this year. The more collectors we have, the lighter the task. Perhaps you could do it with a friend.

**Station Collection at Sevenoaks Station**

Could you spare just one hour, during the morning or evening rush hour to collect at Sevenoaks Station?

*Please contact me if you can help with either collection or if you would like to know more about Christian Aid. Thank you.* *Elsbeth Cooke (01732 761766)*

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The Eco-Congregation

Hopefully the prospect of the St Lawrence and St Margaret’s Annual Garden Party in May will have turned your thoughts to recycling as a great way of clearing space in your home and raising money for the church. We would love to receive good quality bric-a-brac and books and also antiques/collectables. However here is a useful list of contacts for recycling things which don’t usually go to charity shops, kerbside recycling drops or in the clear plastic recycling sack:

Bikes: the closest bike recycling centre is in London (Walthamstow Forest) www.bikerecycling.net

Bricks and building materials: there are online marketplaces such as www.bremap.co.uk and www.salvo.co.uk

CDs/DVDs/Videos: try www.keymood.co.uk also www.recyclingcds.com makes things out of old CDs.

Furniture in OK condition can be donated to a charity which redistributes old furniture www.frn.org.uk

Engine oil: You can take oil to the Dunbrik Waste Station (otherwise known as Sevenoaks Tip). You can also find other local places to recycle oil (some garages) via www.oilbankline.org.uk

Greetings Cards: every January The Woodland Trust teams up with Tesco and WH Smith to recycle Christmas cards.

Low energy light bulbs: because they contain mercury they cannot go in regular waste so either take them to the local tip or IKEA recycles low energy bulbs in all their stores. (www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/environment/rubbish_waste_and_recycling)

Mobile phones: sell or give your old phone to any number of charities who refurbish or recycle them: Christian Aid, Fonebak, Action Aid, Oxfam, CRUMP, Scope, and Fones4Schools

Paint: apparently 50% of paint bought from DIY stores goes unused, so donate your leftovers to a local community repaint scheme, www.communityrepaint.org.uk

Printer Cartridges: You can put printer cartridges in the box at the back of St Lawrence's to be recycled for Christian Aid, but you can also take them to Cartridge World in Tunbridge Wells (01892 614 141) where you can refill your cartridge and save 60% of the price of a new one. www.cartridgeworld.co.uk

Tools and gardening equipment: Tools for Self Reliance www.tfsr.org will repair old tools and send them out to Africa.

TVs/monitors/computers – new legislation means that Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) must be disposed off separately, however when you make a like for like purchase, EEE retailers must now dispose of the equipment you are replacing for free, regardless where you bought it.

Spectacles – donate old pairs to Vision Aid Overseas Second Sight Project www.secondsightproject.com

Toys – good quality toys can be donated to a toy library www.natll.org.uk

In addition to giving things to a charity shop or selling them on ebay you could also try Freecycle (<http://uk.freecycle.org/>) which is a local network where you can pass on unwanted things to other people who will collect them from you. All sorts of things are ‘freecycled’ including large cardboard boxes to people moving house!

Happy recycling *The PCC*

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**Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali**

As many of our readers may already have heard, our diocesan bishop Michael Nazir-Ali has announced he will be stepping down on 1<sup>st</sup> September from being Bishop of Rochester. As he writes “I am hoping to work with a number of church leaders from areas where the church is under pressure who have asked me to assist them with education and training for their particular situation. Details of this arrangement are still being worked out.”

Please let’s keep Bishop Michael and his wife Valerie in our prayers as they embark on this change in ministry.

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From the Registers at St Lawrence’s

- 21st March Burial of Ashes of the late Howard Hughes OBE.
- 2nd April Funeral and burial of the late William (‘Bill’) Stivens Storey, who had died aged 90. We extend to Beryl and the family our deepest condolences on their loss.

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