

Services at St Margaret's Underriver during July 2009



| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Sunday | 5 July | 11:15 | Family Service | |
| Sunday | 12 July | 08:00 18:00 | Holy Communion (said) Evensong (with hymns) | BCP BCP |
| Sunday | 19 July | 09:45 11:15 | St Margaret's Sunday Club meet in the Village Hall Short Family Service for all God's children | |
| Sunday | 26 July | 10:30 | St Margaret's Patronal Festival Parish Communion (with hymns) | CW |
| Sunday | 2 Aug | 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 Celeste Davis-Watling 820190 | S'oaks District Councillor Cnclr Peter Coates 762129 | 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 Chris Sutton-Mattocks 762013 |
| Organist | Lizzie Veglio 01634 244700 | St Lawrence Village Association | |
| Choir Director | John Morris 810227 | Chairman | Graham Moynes 760640 |
| Bellringers Hon Secretary | Elspeth Cooke 761766 | Secretary | Carol Smith 763561 |
| Sevenoaks Deanery Synod | Gretel Wakeham 761534 Hilary Denby-Jones 763883 | St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee | |
| Sunday School | Hilary Darque 453929 Elspeth Cooke 761766 | Chairman | Peter Granville 763832 |
| Child Protection Rep | Carol McLintock 452964 deputy Gretel Wakeham 761534 | Secretary | Peter Wharton 810388 |
| Church Flowers | Sheila Jackson 811422 | Treasurer | Marie O'Connor xd |
| Memorial Flowers | Annie Scarsi 810864 | Bookings Secretary | Janice Brooker 760843 |
| St Lawrence CE Primary School | | Cricket Club Contact | Graham Cook 761827 |
| Headteacher | Alison Saunders 761393 | Badm'ton Club Contact | Ian Lister 762416 |
| Chairman of Governors | Sarah Hudson 810050 | Bowls Club | Peter Granville 763832 |
| Clerk to the Governors | Sarah Brew xd | Tennis Club Contact | Gretel Wakeham 761534 |
| St Lawrence Pre-School | Mandy McCracken 847990 | Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators | |
| 1 st St Lawrence Brownies | Janet Boswell 01959 523953 | Stone Street Contact | Janice Brooker 760843 |
| | | Seal Chart Contact | Nicola Mitchell 764202 |

St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine July 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 Wardens

Hilary Denby-Jones
 Broomsleigh Park
 Seal Chart
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES
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Celeste Davis-Watling
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 Church Road, Stone Street
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LN
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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 July 2009

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

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
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St Lawrence Pre-School
Village Hall, Church Rd, Stone Street
Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0LL.

A small pre-school for children aged between 2½ and 5 years, set in a rural location.

Open Mon-Fri 9.15am to 12.00



Tues and Thurs 12.00 to 3.00.

Our qualified and dedicated staff enjoy helping the children develop to their full potential within the guidelines of the Early Years Foundation document.

As from September we have limited places available, if you require more information or a visit, please contact

Mrs Mandy McCracken at Pre-School on 01732 847990



Church Flowers

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Zara Webb | Sunday 5 July |
| Bridget Stevens | Sunday 12 July |
| Bridget Stevens | Sunday 19 July |
| Wedding | Sunday 26 July |
| Jill Benyon | Sunday 2 Aug |

Flower Rotas for



Memorial Flowers

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|--------------|
| Annie Scarsi |
| Annie Scarsi |
| Annie Scarsi |
| Annie Scarsi |
| Annie Scarsi |



St Lawrence Sunday School



| | | | |
|--------|------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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

How would you like your loved one to be remembered? Whatever their relatives' hopes might have been, King Alfred is now remembered by most of us centuries later for his burnt cakes, King Arthur for his round table (or the mythical Guinevere), King Henry VIII for his six wives. Apparently lesser mortals are remembered for their poetry or painting, a particular invention, a "first" in terms of an ascent of a mountain or athletic feat, or more commonly simply an epitaph on a tombstone. But for the great majority of humankind who have died there is, after a few decades when the grave has subsided, no human remembrance at all. (*Human* remembrance, because Ben Sirach, the writer of Ecclesiasticus, reminds us that in God their name lives for ever: Sirach 44:14)

When we think about it, most of these memories are usually related to something the person concerned did, or which happened to them – a foible, wisdom, a skill, scheming, or an act of bravery – or in the simplest of cases by the dates of their birth and death.

What is perhaps surprising about the dedications of our two churches is that they are in a different league. In both cases the founders chose to remember their beloved daughters Mary Rachel Dickinson and Margaret Davison, who had both died young, not directly but through association. In Mary Rachel's case it was through her death on the Isle of Wight in Old St Lawrence Parish, whence the dedication to the 3rd C martyr St Lawrence; in Margaret's case by association with her namesake the shepherdess/martyr St Margaret of Antioch (4th C).

It's as if the founders were wanting through the tragic deaths of their beloved children to draw our attention to even greater realities – those who had proven their loyalty to their Maker though fire and tribulation, and would now therefore definitely be entrusted with even greater roles of patronage and intercession.

Although the stories about St Margaret and St Lawrence are no doubt now overlaid by extra layers of legend - like St Lawrence requesting "Please turn me over" after he had been griddled on one side, or St Margaret slaying a dragon (which now forms part of her usual emblem) - there lie behind each of our Patron Saints real people who undoubtedly had risked everything to be faithful to the one person they saw as in control not only of their destinies but of the world they served. And because of their faithfulness we now have the confidence that they will continue to serve those entrusted to them – not least our own two parishes. For them and for our church founders' generosity and wisdom, we give God great thanks.

With all blessings,

Michael

Pentecost Send-Off

At the joint service for Pentecost, Michael presented me with my ordination stole which has been made by Ethelwyn Osbourne at the St Lawrence Stitches Group. The design is of fish depicted in flames, which has various layers of resonance, including the giving of the Spirit of Pentecost.



Most significant for me is the resurrection appearance in John 21, where Jesus meets his disciples on the beach and enjoys a breakfast with them of barbecued fish. It is also in this story that Peter is given his task to feed Christ's flock. This is a story which I return to again and again in my prayers, and one which feel particularly close to me as I move, like Peter, into ministry of helping to care for Christ's flock.

There is also the uncomfortable reminder that St Lawrence met his martyrdom by being roasted on a grid iron! On the reverse of the stole is an image of the grid iron, to remind me of the calling of St Lawrence, and I am delighted that the church in which I will serve is also dedicated to St Lawrence. St Lawrence was a deacon, and in my first year as a deacon I shall wear my stole over my left shoulder and across me, as a sign of the servant-ministry of the deacon. Even after I am (God willing) ordained priest next year, my St Lawrence stole shall be a reminder that at the heart of all ordained ministry is the ministry of the deacon.

Please pray for me as I prepare for ordination on 5th July at Grimsby Parish Church, and serve as Assistant Curate at St Lawrence Church, Frodingham. Friends from St Lawrence, Seal Chart and St Margaret's, Underriver will always be welcome.

Ellen

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***Christian Aid Collection***

Thank you so much to those who collected and those who gave during Christian Aid Week's house-to-house collection in the parish. The amount collected was £1,554.29 (£1,853.46 including Gift Aid). This excellent total is almost exactly the same as last year's record total.



Well done everyone!

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Well dressing in Derbyshire

If you are out and about in Derbyshire this summer, keep an eye out for any well dressing in the villages. This ancient annual custom of decorating the local well is popular all over Derbyshire, and probably dates back to Celtic times.

The wells are 'dressed' with large framed panels which have been decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made up of flower petals, seeds, grasses, leaves, tree bark, berries and moss. The well dressing season spans from May through to late September. Any tourist office in Derbyshire could give you the dates of the various well dressings.

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***Go Swan Upping 20 – 24 July***

Here is a delightfully English annual event that dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and which nowadays must keep the Americans and Japanese busy with their cameras: swan upping. The phrase may conjure up visions of everyday folk sneaking down to the Thames to grab a swan and whoosh - turning it upside-down - but the reality is nearly as colourful, and perhaps less of a struggle!

Swan upping is the annual ceremony of marking and counting the Queen's swans. A big deal is made of this each year, from Sunbury-on-Thames in West London to Abingdon in Oxfordshire - all 55km of the river. Swan upping is done in some style: traditional rowing skiffs, complete with flags and pennants, carry the Queen's Swan Marker and Swan Uppers, easily recognisable in their scarlet uniforms.

The boatmen stealthily surround the birds, and then carefully lift them into the boats to be inspected and tagged. It has always been the duty of the Sovereign's Swan Marker to count the young cygnets each year and to ensure that the swan population is maintained. With the assistance of the Swan Warden, Professor Christopher Perrins of the University of Oxford, the swans are also given a health check.

If you would like to be there when the swans are upped, please visit the Swan Upping website for details, because different bits of the river are done on different dates. See [www.the-river-thames.co.uk/swupping.htm](http://www.the-river-thames.co.uk/swupping.htm)

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A Passing Thought

The fastest growing thing in nature is a fish – from the time the fisherman catches it until the time he can tell someone all about it.

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## ***Schools and Christian Values***

A new website launched by the Church of England marks a groundbreaking initiative to identify the distinctive values that make Christian schools popular with parents and students, and promote ways of living out those values in the day-to-day activities of a busy school environment. One in four primary schools in England and one in 16 secondary schools are CofE schools.

The new website, [www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk](http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk), identifies 15 core values – including Service, Trust and Forgiveness – which are introduced with brief theological reflections and examples of how schools have brought these values to life, through everything from collective worship to garden design and architecture.

The website also contains questions and ideas for how staff and governors might engage with these values, including discussing the themes at ‘circle time’ and school councils, and recording the responses on a ‘value tree’ to create a permanent display at the heart of the school building;

The project, commissioned by the Church of England’s National Society, is designed to enable the nation’s 5,000 Church of England schools – as well as schools without formal church links – to explore these themes as an aid to strategic planning that can help make a school distinctively Christian, while remaining inclusive, as Church of England schools have been since they first began almost 200 years ago.

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Praise for the Mighty Oat!

This summer, if you want to lose weight, lower your cholesterol, lower your blood pressure, get rid of some toxins, and then increase your brain power, libido, and even life expectancy, start eating oatmeal or muesli for breakfast.

It may not sound very exciting or dramatic – you could hardly imagine James Bond tucking into a bowl of porridge in one of the films, but it seems it works. The humble oat is packed full of healthy things for us. Certainly sales have soared this past year. Last winter the Quaker Oats factory in Fife (which also produces Scott’s Porridge Oats and the microwavable alternative Oats So Simple) had the biggest sales increase in its 110 year history - up by between 18 and 38 per cent.

So – how do you cook it? In 1929 Marian McNeill produced “The One and Only Method” for making proper porridge. She decreed that coarse oats should be added to boiling water “in a steady rain from the left hand, stirring it briskly the while with the right, sunwise.” In Scotland, purists decree that only salt and milk or cream should be added; the English don’t care, and add sugar.

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## ***The Mini Run***

Sam, Matthew and I have completed our London to Brighton Mini run, and have raised about £340 pounds in total to be divided between the two charities above. We would like to thank everyone who kindly sponsored us, and inform them that we will be collecting the money as soon as possible.

Ron

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Wanted

The St Lawrence Pre-School require a Deputy Supervisor for 3 sessions per week (approx 9 hours). A level 3 qualification is essential.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs M McCracken on 01732 847990, for an application form and more information.

Mandy

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## ***A Slip of the Pen***

Spotted by an eagle-eyed reader in a recent pewsheet. There is the usual list of prayers, and one is “We pay for the government (irrespective of any political allegiance we may have!) at this critical time for our nation.”

Indeed we do.

Contributed

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From the Registers at St Lawrence’s

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 23rd May | Marriage of Christopher Morrow and Marianne Birch. We wish them every joy in their new life together |
| 7th June | Baptism of Tristan Sebastian Claes Petersen, infant son of Sebastian and Jennifer, of The Granary, Chart Farm. We wish the whole family every joy in their new walk with the Lord. |
| 13 th June | Funeral, Thanksgiving and Burial of the late Rodney Howard Cloke, late of Seal Chart, and who died aged 82. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, particularly to his children Chris, Anita, Jennifer and Howard. |

(Although not from the Registers of our church, we are also sad to report the death of Joyce Brown, wife of Charles, priest-in-charge of St Lawrence’s and St Margaret’s 1986-1990. Joyce’s Thanksgiving service took place on Friday 19th June in St Mary’ Platt.)

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## ***Editor’s Note***

Two new contributors this month!! How about you for next month?

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How to stop Church Gossip?

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extracurricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon ...

She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there **WOULD KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING!**

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house walked home and left it there all night !!! (You've got to love Frank!)

(NB We are sure the following doesn't apply in any respect to either of our churches! But thank you Graham Everitt for sending us the item.)

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### ***Prayer Requests in our Parishes***

Do remember that each of our churches has a clipboard near the entrance of the church where you can add a specific request for prayer in our Sunday services – and do use this facility also to ensure the person leading the service doesn't omit something you feel it is important the church should be praying about! Alternatively or in addition, do let Michael or Gretel know of specific requests you'd like them to be remembering in their separate daily prayers.

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Prayer Points for this Month

- **Ellen Wakeham** for her Ordination in Grimsby and the beginning of her ministry as a Deacon at St Lawrence's, Scunthorpe.
- Those preparing for marriage later this month – including **Rebecca Wilson** and **Garry Hurstwaite**, and **Dan Hayward** and **Sam Hyman**.
- Those we know in our parishes whose **health is failing** – and all faced with issues of having to move from home.
- **Those leaving school** at the end of the month – and for all that lies ahead in their lives.
- **For all on holiday** – and for those who can't go away this year
- For those **affected by the continuing downturn in the economy**.

Michael

A Special Date this month

Sunday 26 July, when there will be one united service at St Margaret's at **10:30 am** (NB note the time!) to celebrate St Margaret's Patronal Festival. We look forward to welcoming as our preacher Mrs Karen Senior, Warden of Readers for Rochester Diocese.

The only other service this day will be 6 pm, said Evening Prayer at St Lawrence's.

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### ***News from our School***

This is the time of year when everything gets so busy that it is difficult to keep track of what is going on. Having said that, it is a time of year that I always really enjoy and I would not have it any other way.



Today we played host to seventy children from schools across Sevenoaks who have been selected to take part in the 'Sevenoaks Choir'. It was a very successful day - they filled our school hall both physically and musically! They are preparing for the 'Music of Children' concert, which is part of the Sevenoaks Festival. We also have several children involved in the Sevenoaks Orchestra, which will be performing in the same event. It promises to be a great concert.

Still on the subject of music, I have bowed to pressure from my year 6 children, and agreed that we can perform 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' as our summer production and, following a chance discussion with a town councillor, The STAG has offered us the use of the Theatre for a day. The children were thrilled and managed to convince me that we were up to the task and so the date is booked! It is a fantastic musical and I have no doubt that it will be tremendous fun.

This Saturday (20<sup>th</sup> June) we are performing a selection of songs the Summer Festival Fair. If you are in Sevenoaks between 10.30am and 11.00am then do come and be entertained. We will be on the 'Schools Stage', which is in Blighs, outside Café Rouge.

We have had considerable sporting success this month. There were some outstanding performances in the Sevenoaks Swimming Gala. In the small schools division we just kept on winning races and at the end we it was announced that, despite being the smallest school in the competition, we had come first in the 'small schools' section'! Particularly deserving of a mention are Jack Rodaway, George Pritchard, Megan Holness, Nathaniel Pugh and Michaela Pugh who between them, came first in too many races to list!

*Alison*