

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



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 Oct</b>	11:15	Harvest Festival Service	
		12:15	Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11 Oct</b>	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	<b>BCP</b>
		18:00	Evensong (with hymns)	<b>BCP</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 Oct</b>	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	Short Family Service for all God's children	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 Oct</b>	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	<b>CW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 Nov</b>	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**

Churchwardens	Hilary Denby-Jones 763883	Seoaks District Councillor	Cnclr Peter Coates 762129
	Celeste Davis-Watling 820190	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	Crickets 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 <sup>st</sup> St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell 01959 523953		

**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine  
October 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**  
 C/o St Lawrence Church  
 Church Road, Stone Street  
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Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to [brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk))  
**to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 14 October 2009**

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 25 October 2009**

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**Services at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during October 2009**



<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Oct</b>	<b>Prayer Time for both Parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3 Oct</b>	<b>Harvest Supper</b> In the Village Hall	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 Oct</b>	<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity - Harvest Festival</b> Holy Communion (said) <span style="float: right;">BCP</span> Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12 <span style="float: right;">Mark 10: 2-16</span> 09:45 Harvest Festival Service (with children in church) Joel 2: 21-27 Collection at this service is for the Rural Development Movement's work in Parakkanvilia, South India and we look forward to children from our school contributing to aspects of this service	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9 October</b>	<b>St Lawrence School Harvest Festival</b> In the church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11 Oct</b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Family Communion (with hymns) <span style="float: right;">CW</span> Hebrews 4: 12-16 <span style="float: right;">Mark 10: 17-31</span>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>14 Oct</b>	<b>Prayer Time for both parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The Vicarage	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 Oct</b>	<b>St Luke - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Holy Communion (said) <span style="float: right;">CW</span> 2 Timothy 4: 5-17 <span style="float: right;">Luke 10: 1-9</span> 09:45 All Age Family Service (with Sunday School) Luke 10: 1-9	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 Oct</b>	<b>Bible Sunday - Twentieth Sunday after Trinity</b> Morning Prayer (with hymns) <span style="float: right;">BCP</span> Isaiah 55: 1-11 <span style="float: right;">John 5: 36b-47</span>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28 Oct</b>	<b>Prayer Time for both parishes</b> (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Shepherd's Cottahe, Heaverham Road, Kemsing	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 Nov</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b> Holy Communion (said) <span style="float: right;">BCP</span> Revelation 21: 1-6a <span style="float: right;">John 11: 32-44</span> 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) with Holy Baptism Revelation 21: 1-6a	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Nov</b>	<b>All Souls Day</b> A quiet reflective service of commemoration of those who have died and whom we see no longer Wisdom 3: 1-9 <span style="float: right;">John 5: 19-25</span>	

**For the Children**

**THE LOST COIN**  
Jesus told this story:

A woman who has 10 silver coins loses one of them, what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. When she finds it she calls her friends and neighbours together and says "I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!"

In the same way the angels of God celebrate over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:8-10

**Mouse Makes**  
Can you find the lost coin, the lamp and the broom in the picture?  
What else can you see?





### Church Flowers

Audrey Ellis-Gibbons	Sunday 4 Oct
Jean Stirling	Sunday 11 Oct
Jean Stirling	Sunday 18 Oct
Bridget Stevens	Sunday 25 Oct
Bridget Stevens	Sunday 1 Nov



### Memorial Flowers

### Flower Rotas for

Be sure to make [www.sealstlawrence.org.uk](http://www.sealstlawrence.org.uk) one of your favourite websites



### St Lawrence Sunday School



2009		
18 October	Healing the leper	Elspeth and Celeste
15 November	Feeding of the 5000	Sam and Lyn
13 December	The Annunciation and Preparation for Christmas	Lesley and Elspeth
20 December 5.30 pm	Carol Service	
24 December 5.30 pm	Crib and Christingle Service	
2010		
17 January	The Lord's Prayer	Lyn & Helen
14 February	The Loving Father	Celeste & Hilary
14 March	Mothering Sunday Family Communion	
21 March	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	

Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown  
All children are welcome  
For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Elspeth Cooke (761766)

### The Vicar's Page

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.

is the chorus to one of the best loved harvest hymns - originally the poem "Am Anfang war's auf Erden" - by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815). Claudius, who spent most of his life near Hamburg, was in fact not so much a hymn writer, but a poet, and some of his finest pieces - like "Death and the Maiden" and "The Moon has Risen" were taken by composers like Franz Schubert and Johann Schulz and cast into some of the most memorable Lieder the world has known.

Schulz wrote the tune for the harvest hymn as both Germans and English know it today - but in both texts there is so much more to the hymn than harvest. In the German version, there are two extra verses - the first verse about God's work at the beginning of time, and the last about God pouring out so much joy he makes us *frisch und rot* - fresh and ruddy. A lovely thought!

In our English first verse the theme of things we cannot control on the big scale continues - snow in winter and warmth to swell the grain. Amplification: humankind is *affecting* snowfall and global warming - but not in a controlled way! Our second verse is also about wider nature - wayside flowers, and planets ("the evening star"). Though the authority shown by God in nature ("the winds and waves obey him") is beyond our full understanding, Claudius says that the gifts he gives to us his children are so much more. What does that "much more" thought say about our status and responsibility within God's created order? Our third verse lists both seed-time and harvest, but also the gift of life and health - by which we understand not only absence of illnesses such as 'flu, arthritis and cancer, but the presence of wholeness of life, both in this world and the next. In the words of another great hymn - Praise my soul, the King of heaven - God himself is our "health and salvation".

In the repeated chorus and in our last verse we come to the best and indeed the only appropriate response. We are to thank God from top to bottom in our life. What he most desires is our humble thankful hearts. Here, it may help to remember that the English words were written in the 1800s, where heart was still the seat not of the emotions but of the will. What our hymn therefore indicates is that the call of God's creation - whether cosmic (planets), natural (waves) or human - is to align its will to its Maker, and together in their different ways to offer him the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. And in this response to find what it means to be children of God.

I'm sure most of us enjoy Harvest and its fruits; I pray that we also enter into some of its deeper implications - and prove our thanks by playing our part in the bringing in for God's sake the sheaves of the cosmic harvest.

With all blessings,

Michael



### ***The Eco-Congregation***

We all have a huge number of electrical appliances in the home: from TVs, radios, and computers, to tumble dryers, coffee machines and toasters. What is essential to one family might be a nice to have for another, but household electrical appliances now account for 30% of the average UK household electricity bill. Many of them have an energy guzzling feature called 'standby'. Apparently the average family could save £37 a year by switching off all their appliances which are on standby. Multiplied across the UK, this is equivalent to the annual output of two power stations. This is an area where everyone can easily contribute to reducing CO2 emissions: if every house in the country leaves a mobile phone charger on standby for example, the energy wasted each year would be enough to provide electricity for 66,000 homes. However plugs can often be in difficult to access places (there's a reason standby was invented!), but a 'Standby saver' can be the solution, one such device is the 'Standby Buster' from [www.footprint-es.com](http://www.footprint-es.com). It enables you to use a remote control to switch off appliances at the wall. Now the only problem is ensuring you don't lose yet another remote control!

*The PCC*

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### ***Underriver Horticultural Society***

At a recent meeting of our Committee it was mentioned that the Seal Horticultural Society is to close. There used to be a Horticultural Society in Seal St Lawrence as well.

It occurred to the Committee that, if there were any residents of Seal or Seal St Lawrence, who are interested in rejoining a Society, they would be very welcome as members of the Underriver Society. We have 132 members.

Our subscription is only £1 per annum, which can be paid for a number of years in advance. Membership for the year of joining is free to 31st December.

We run a Spring Show and a Summer Show. In May we hold a Plant Sale the proceeds of which are given to a local charity chosen each year. Our AGM and Prize Giving is in the autumn and accompanied by a supper, which to date we have managed to provide free accompanied by a quiz to keep our minds on things horticultural through the winter.

Next years dates are:-

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Spring Show | 27 March   |
| Plant Sale  | 8 May      |
| Summer Show | 10 July    |
| AGM         | 16 October |

*John Clemence*

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and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

31<sup>st</sup> October has become an evening which many people fear, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, who are uneasy about opening the door on a dark night. Many worry about the kind of trick which might be played on them.

Now a Christian company, Silent Lights, is offering free ways to help people to celebrate the positive aspects of All Hallows Eve, the night before All Saints Day.

A number of churches and families now arrange alternative parties for their children, so they can dress up as angels or in bright colours and have fun without any of the risk or offence of trick or treating. An outline of craft ideas based around the theme of Light is available free from [www.silentlights.co.uk](http://www.silentlights.co.uk)

Many people have 'trick or treaters' arrive at their front door. Silent Lights has designed a gift tag which can be attached to some gift wrapped treats. The gift tag has a simple message stating the Christian view point. There is space on the tag to print your own message or local organisation contact details. Sheets of gift tags and leaflets can be downloaded free from the 'get involved' section of their website [www.silentlights.co.uk/tags](http://www.silentlights.co.uk/tags)

For anyone who likes to bake, Silent Lights even offers a pumpkin muffin recipe.

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### ***Please, don't forget . . .***

. . . . That British Summer Time finishes at 02:00 on Sunday 25 October and clocks revert to Greenwich Mean Time. This means that you need to put your clocks back one hour before you turn in on Saturday evening. An easy way to remember which way they have to go is "Spring forward, Fall back".

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### *The story behind Harvest Festivals*

Who began Harvest Festivals? Have you ever wondered? It seems pretty obvious to thank God for the harvest, but actually, it is a comparatively recent church service. Less than 200 years ago, harvest was not formally ‘celebrated’ in church, but in the taverns and on village greens of the countryside, with wild drinking and eating before the harshness of winter set in.

Then in 1834 an eccentric clergyman called the Rev Robert Stephen Hawker arrived in Morwenstowe, a tiny hamlet of a few farms perched high on the windswept cliffs of the north Cornish coast. The church had been without a vicar for years, but now Robert Hawker strode the lanes of Morwenstowe in a bright purple or red cassock.

Rural life in those days was harsh, and Hawker soon realised the sheer effort needed to survive in those parts. Harvest was the only thing that got people through the winter: a poor one meant starvation. Each bad year Hawker buried some of his congregation.

But the summer of 1843 was perfect, and the harvest that year was exceptionally bountiful. The people of Morwenstowe were getting set to celebrate with their usual abandon, when Hawker stepped in. Who, he asked, did they think had given them the harvest? Were they not going to even say ‘thank you’ to Him?

Abashed, the people came to church, and Hawker led them in giving thanks to God for his rich blessing upon them. The ‘Christian’ Harvest Festival had arrived – in Morwenstowe.

Nowadays Harvest Festivals are enjoyed by both regular church-goers and visitors, making it one of the most popular services in the church year.

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### *All Hallows Eve*

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or ‘Summer’s End’. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints’ Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs

### *One man went to mow....*

but he would never object to a little extra help! We are planning a general “tidying up”, weeding and strimming etc around the Churchyard on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. We also hope to start on preparations to demarcate the new area for internment of ashes. We plan to start work at 9am. Any helpers would be most welcome; with or without equipment!

Our thanks to Ron Drury who has been responsible for maintenance work in the Churchyard whilst our regular gardener has been ill.

*Eric Jackson (01732 811422)*

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### *Remembering those who have died and are dear to us*

For many years a united service has been held within our parishes on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when those who so care can remember in a formal way by prayer, quiet reflective music and with a lit candle those who are dear to them and who have died.

The service this year will be held at St Lawrence’s on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 8 pm**. As last year, the service will not include Holy Communion and we hope everyone will feel very much part of our extended church family. Let’s mark the date and time in our dairy.

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### *Jumble Sale for Christian Aid*

Sevenoaks Christian Aid Committee would be very glad of any jumble for the sale which they are holding on **Saturday 31st October** at 2 pm in The Drive Methodist Church Hall in Sevenoaks.. The hall will be open from 9 am on the morning of the sale to receive donations of jumble, but if storage until then is a problem, please contact Elspeth (Tel 761766). Thank you.



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### *Are you a Quiz enthusiast?*

If so, there is an opportunity to take part in a quiz which St Mary’s Riverhead is organising in support of Christian Aid. The date is Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start in St Mary’s Church Hall. Tickets cost £10 to include a Fish and Chip Supper. Please bring your own drinks (glasses will be provided). Tickets can be obtained from Margaret Nicholas (01732 457324). For further information contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766).

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**News from our School**

Once again we are at the start of a new school year. We finished last term with a very successful performance of ‘Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’ in the STAG Theatre. We also had an emotional Leavers’ Service – we were very sad to say goodbye to the year 6 children and wish them well at their new schools. As we start this term we are delighted to welcome a good number of new children to our school, all of whom are settling in very well. Having now completed seven years as headteacher of St Lawrence School I see the families in our school community change as the years pass, but it still continues to be a very happy school.



The term started with an exciting piece of news from Miss Pearson who teaches our youngest children. During the summer holiday she got engaged and she is planning to get married next year. Congratulations Miss Pearson!

As a school we are very committed to the education of the whole child and our extra curricular activities play a very important part in broadening the opportunities that the children have available to them. I am delighted with the large variety of school clubs which we have been able to offer this term, fifteen in all, including netball, lacrosse, hockey, chess, ICT, cooking, orchestra. One particularly charming club is our ‘board games club’ which is run by our oldest children for our youngest children. They spend a lunchtime just playing board games (snakes and ladders, ludo etc.) together and I am sure both old and young learn from it.

This is always a very exciting time of year. The enthusiasm and energy of the staff and children after the summer break is infectious and all sort of new ideas are being discussed. I am sure I will have plenty to write about in future months. In the meantime, you can always keep up with what is going on at St Lawrence Primary School by visiting our website [www.st-lawrence-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-lawrence-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk).

*Alison*



**From the Registers at St Lawrence’s**

29 August Marriage after Banns of Nathan John Pearce and Penelope Caroline Louise Taylor. We wish them both every blessing in their new life together.



**St Lawrence’s Harvest Supper and Festival**

Please don’t forget that the Harvest Supper takes place on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**. Late bookings may still be possible – please contact Elspeth Cooke (Tel. 761766) or Rosemary Cole (Tel. 763107) for more details.



The following day, Sunday, 4th October our annual **Harvest Festival Service** will be an All-age service at 9.45 am at St Lawrence Church. We look forward at this service to special contributions from and by members of St Lawrence School. **Please do come!**



**Godspell – “A musical that really does cast a spell”**

Godspell is one of the most successful musicals of all time having run for 2,124 performances off-Broadway and 527 on-Broadway. We are delighted to report that the Stag Theatre Company is performing it this month at The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School at 8pm on 22-24 October and 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. There’s also a matinee at 2:30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Call box office on 07787 724440 to reserve tickets – prices are: Adults £12; Children £8.



**How about a right ding-dong?**

Do you feel like ringing handbells with a group of people who enjoy making music? It does not matter if you cannot read music, as the notes for handbell ringing are usually written down on squared paper showing which bell is to be rung next. The handbells vary in size, from small bells giving a high note to large bells for the bass notes.



If you would like to find out more about the ‘ap-peal’ of handbells, please telephone Celeste on 01732 820190.



**Petition at Rising (From an ancient Celtic prayer from South Uist)**

O holy Father of truth adored, O kindly Father of mercy poured,  
Deliver me from the spells that harm, Deliver me from each evil charm.  
Allow no stain to blemish my soul, Allow no spot to my body whole,  
Allow no taint my breath to defile, Father of tender and lovely smile.  
For now and for henceforth unto me, In my life, in my death, do thou be,  
O Son and Abba Father of love, And Holy Spirit of grace above!

