

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



Sunday	1 Nov	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	8 Nov	10:55	Service of Remembrance	
Sunday	15 Nov	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall Short Family Service for all God's children	
Sunday	22 Nov	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	29 Nov	18:00	United Choral Service of Advent Readings and Hymns Advent Readings and Hymns with choirs from St Lawrence, St Margaret's, Underriver and Ss Peter & Paul, Seal	
Sunday	6 Dec	10:30 11:15	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall Short Service for all God's children	

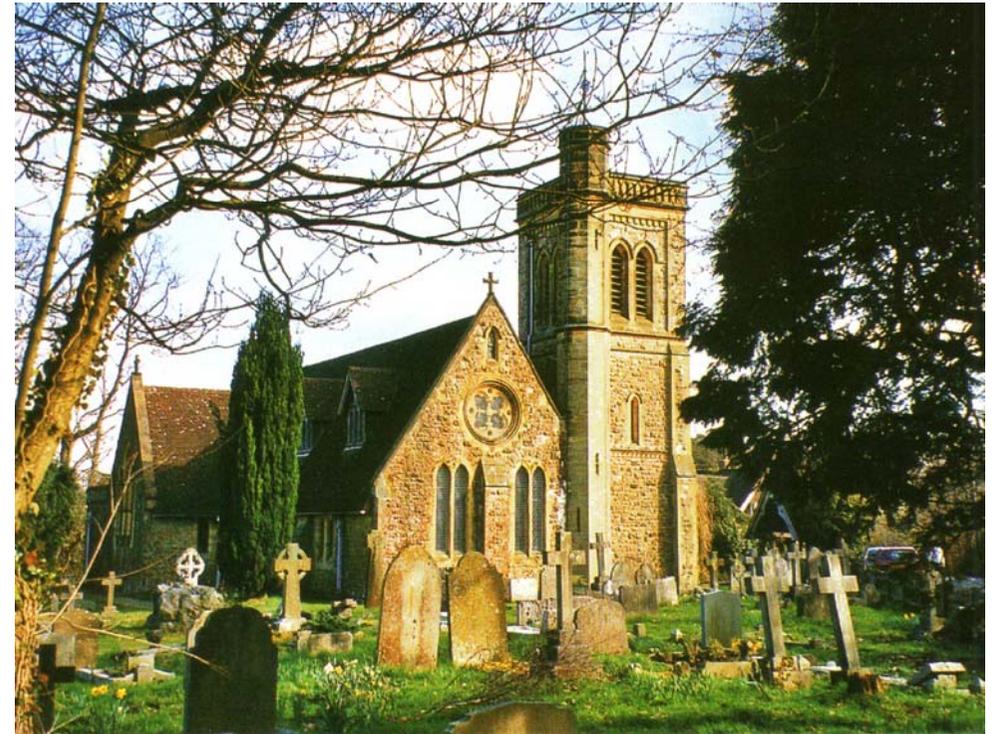
For details of joint services, bible study, prayer times, etc., please see Page 2

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 Celeste Davis-Watling 820190	S'ooks District Councillor	Cnclr Peter Coates 762129
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross 761202	Seal Parish Council	
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb xd	Chairman	Robin Watson 833930
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock 452964	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley 465905
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris 810227	Clerk	Lorna Talbot 763488
Organist	Lizzie Veglio 01634 244700	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville 763832 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
Sunday School	Hilary Denby-Jones 763883 Hilary Darque 453929 Elspeth Cooke 761766	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee	
Child Protection Rep	Carol McLintock 452964 deputy Gretel Wakeham 761534	Chairman	Peter Granville 763832
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson 811422	Secretary	Peter Wharton 810388
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi 810864	Treasurer	Marie O'Connor xd
St Lawrence CE Primary School		Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker 760843
Headteacher	Alison Saunders 761393	Cricknet Club Contact	Graham Cook 761827
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson 810050	Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister 762416
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew xd	Bowls Club	Peter Granville 763832
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken 847990	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham 761534
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell 01959 523953	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	
		Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker 760843
		Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell 764202

**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
November 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
01732 763883

Celeste Davis-Watling
C/o St Lawrence Church
Church Road, Stone Street
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01732 820190

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk).
to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 18 November 2009

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

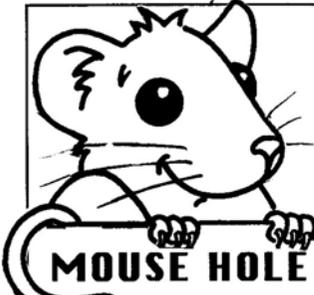
Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
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Services at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during November 2009



Sunday	1 Nov	All Saints Day 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Revelation 21: 1-6a John 11: 32-44 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) with Holy Baptism Revelation 21: 1-6a	BCP
Monday	2 Nov	All Souls Day 20:00 A quiet reflective service of commemoration of those who have died and whom we see no longer Wisdom 3: 1-9 John 5: 19-25	
Sunday	8 Nov	Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday 10:30 Service of Remembrance Romans 8: 31-39	
Tuesday	10 Nov	Bible Study for both Parishes 20:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Thursday	12 Nov	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 14:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough 20:00 Open consultation re next Bishop of Rochester [see page 7]	
Sunday	15 Nov	Second Sunday before Advent 08:00 Holy Communion (said) CW Hebrews 10: 11-25 Mark 13: 1-8 09:45 All Age Family Service (with Sunday School) Psalm 16 Mark 13: 1-8	
Sunday	22 Nov	Christ the King 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) CW Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18:33-37	
Friday	27 Nov	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 14:00 At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	29 Nov	Advent Sunday 09:45 Morning Prayer (said) BCP Jeremiah 33: 14 -16 Luke 21: 25-36 18:00 United Choral Service of Advent Readings and Hymns with choirs from St Lawrence, St Margatet's Underriver and Ss Peter & Paul, Seal at St Margatet's Underriver	
Sunday	6 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent 08:00 Holy Communion (said) BCP Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Luke 3: 1-6	

For the Children



Pick-up Sticks

'Pick-up Sticks' is a game that's been played for hundreds of years. You can make your own *Pick-up Sticks* from a packet of wooden skewers, or for a miniature set, use a box of wooden cocktail sticks. Colour the sticks different colours, with felt pen or paint, to represent a different number of points. e.g. green = 5 points
blue = 10 points
red = 15 points
yellow = 20 points.

To play the game: With the sticks in your hand, let them drop into a pile on the table. Choose a stick from the pile and try to remove it without moving the others. If successful, keep it and have another go, if not, then let someone else play. The person with the most points wins!

The Man in the Tree

With Jesus passing through the town, A crowd of people gathered round, But as Zacchaeus couldn't see, He ran ahead and climbed a tree.

Jesus stopped as he passed by, And saw Zacchaeus there up high, Said "Dear Zacchaeus, come with me, I'm going to your house for tea".

Zacchaeus climbed down to the floor, And walked with Jesus to his door, Amazed the Lord would want to be With such a liar and cheat as he.

Zacchaeus, sorry for all he'd done, Said "Lord I'll pay back everyone, Half I own I give to the poor, Those I've cheated get four times more."

Jesus said "Today you are saved!" Zacchaeus replied "May God be praised!"

Read the full story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10







Only two trees are the same age, count the rings to find out which they are.



Tree Rings
You can tell how old a tree is by its rings. Look for them on a cross section of a cut tree stump. 1 ring = 1 year

2

11

From the Registers at St Lawrence's

- 18 September Funeral of Gaden Sutherland Robinson, who had died aged 60 in Ightham. We extend to his children Richard and Hugh and their wider family our deepest sympathy in their loss.
- 19 September Marriage after Banns of Matthew Craig Jordan and Rebecca Corbally. We wish them both every blessing in their new life together.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|--------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|--|--------|-----------------------------------------|--|--------|-------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--|
|  <p><b>Church Flowers</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Flower Rotas for</b></p>                                                                              |  <p><b>Memorial Flowers</b></p> |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| <p>Bridget Stevens<br/>Beryl Storey<br/>Kate Clark<br/>Kate Clark<br/>Kate Clark<br/>Kate Clark</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Sunday 1 Nov<br/>Sunday 8 Nov<br/>Sunday 15 Nov<br/>Sunday 22 Nov<br/>Sunday 29 Nov<br/>Sunday 6 Dec</p> | <p>No Flowers<br/>No Flowers<br/>No Flowers<br/>No Flowers</p>                                                   |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
|  <p><b>St Lawrence Sunday School</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                  |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| <p>2009</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">15 Nov</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Feeding of the 5000</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Sam and Lyn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 Dec</td> <td>The Annunciation and Preparation for Christmas</td> <td>Lesley and Elspeth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 Dec</td> <td>Carol Service at 5.30 pm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 Dec</td> <td>Crib and Christingle Service at 5.30 pm</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2010</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">17 Jan</td> <td style="width: 33%;">The Lord's Prayer</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Lyn &amp; Helen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Feb</td> <td>The Loving Father</td> <td>Celeste &amp; Hilary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Mar</td> <td>Mothering Sunday Family Communion</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                  | 15 Nov | Feeding of the 5000 | Sam and Lyn | 13 Dec | The Annunciation and Preparation for Christmas | Lesley and Elspeth | 20 Dec | Carol Service at 5.30 pm |  | 24 Dec | Crib and Christingle Service at 5.30 pm |  | 17 Jan | The Lord's Prayer | Lyn & Helen | 14 Feb | The Loving Father | Celeste & Hilary | 14 Mar | Mothering Sunday Family Communion |  |
| 15 Nov                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Feeding of the 5000                                                                                         | Sam and Lyn                                                                                                      |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 13 Dec                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Annunciation and Preparation for Christmas                                                              | Lesley and Elspeth                                                                                               |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 20 Dec                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Carol Service at 5.30 pm                                                                                    |                                                                                                                  |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 24 Dec                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Crib and Christingle Service at 5.30 pm                                                                     |                                                                                                                  |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 17 Jan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Lord's Prayer                                                                                           | Lyn & Helen                                                                                                      |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 14 Feb                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Loving Father                                                                                           | Celeste & Hilary                                                                                                 |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| 14 Mar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Mothering Sunday Family Communion                                                                           |                                                                                                                  |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |
| <p><b>Our Sunday School meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45 on the dates shown</b><br/> <b>All children are welcome</b><br/> <b>For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Elspeth Cooke (761766)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                  |        |                     |             |        |                                                |                    |        |                          |  |        |                                         |  |        |                   |             |        |                   |                  |        |                                   |  |

**The Vicar's Page**

Should politics ever be aired in a parish magazine, referred to in church, or – dare I ask! - even in a sermon? Opinions will no doubt be divided – in some cases passionately! But as this is the more serious month of November, when on at least two occasions we recall solemn issues of life and death, let me share some thoughts for all of us to ponder. In reply, I welcome your thoughts!

On 2<sup>nd</sup> we remember especially relations and friends whom we have loved and have died; on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we remember those who in armed conflicts were injured or made the supreme sacrifice– where politics failed, and jaw-jaw was replaced by war-war. In such cases there's often more than a hint that had we as nation or world got our priorities better ordered – or politicians done better together – some of those we love but see no more would have had a longer or better life. Is the church to say and pray nothing when the best is not done?

But there are deeper reasons for addressing, occasionally, political issues even in church. The Bible witnesses both to people being called together for a common purpose (whether as the nation of Israel, or more generally the people of God), and to living together in creative tension when there are disagreements. This is politics! We learn also that God is seriously displeased when things go wrong. Read, for example, the early history of the Promised Land, the activities of the rulers (Judges and Kings), and the extremely strong invectives written chapter after chapter by many of the Prophets. When things were not just or right, God intervened in affairs of state with and through his chosen servants. And in the New Testament? Consider the Magnificat, which though it may often be accompanied by wonderful music, is extremely counter-cultural – God bringing down kings, and raising the lowly and meek. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because of the politics of the Roman occupying force and the calling of a census for taxation purposes; his death was highly affected by the jostling for power of political parties:- Pharisees, Sadducees, religious leaders and their relationship with the Roman Governor (Pilate), and the focus group called the crowd.

The Gospel is about the God who came to earth to get involved, and so create a family to live both in the world and yet at points in opposition to godless ways. Not surprisingly therefore, the church itself has been embroiled in politics from the beginning. From persecution and asylum, it became “established” under the Emperor Constantine; the church in England was separated from Rome largely because of a king's perception of overseas interference; Free churches were born in part because of the excesses of the state in restricting freedom.

Certainly, not all the church's involvement with secular powers has been for the good - the church itself was and is sometimes fallible. But just because kings, politicians and the church have each at times made serious mistakes does not mean we shouldn't engage together to try and do better for the future. Historically and currently priests, ministers and bishops have spoken both in the media and from the pulpit for social and political justice; read any of Archbishop Tutu's early sermons against the apartheid system and give thanks for his bravery and commitment to

racial justice. Challenging and supporting aspects of our political systems, and offering our prayers and endeavours together before God in church, are both parts of our calling to help bring in his kingdom here on earth.

Please note that none of the above implies that the church supports one particular political party alone. While all parties have sinned (some more than others!) and need a good degree of godly criticism, most of our major parties have got something of the truth, and in those aspects need to be affirmed.

With all blessings

Michael

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Roll of Honour

Every Remembrance Sunday 24 names are read out from the Roll of Honour. For most of us these men, who gave their lives for their country in the first and second world wars, remain just names.

I want to attempt to discover more about these men, their connection with St Lawrence Church and the local area, the Service in which they fought and died etc.

Colin Milligan had already started on this process and I am grateful to him for all his research so far.

Two of those recorded on the Roll of Honour have a connection to St Lawrence that is current or most recent. They are Sub-Lieutenant JOHN HAROLD DES VOEUX and MARINE AUSTIN CHARLES BUTCHER.

JOHN HAROLD DES VOEUX is the brother of Mrs Robin Bray who has worshipped at St Lawrence Church for over 30 years.

John was born on 13th August 1921 and was educated at a prep school in Eastbourne before gaining entry to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth on 1st May 1935. He passed out of Dartmouth as a cadet in 1938 and joined HMS Vindictive on 9th January 1939. John then served on HMS Emerald, HMS Excellent, HMS Cleveland, HMS Elfin and HMS Talbot (the last two for submarine training) before being posted to HMS Utmost.

HMS Utmost was laid down on 2nd November 1939 and commissioned 17th August 1940. After anti-invasion patrols in the English Channel based at Portsmouth HMS Utmost took passage for the Mediterranean where she carried out several successful attacks on German and Italian merchant ships. After a 2/3 month refit in England in 1942, she returned to the Mediterranean in April 1942 where she resumed service with the Flotilla for interception of shipping to and from ports in North Africa.

HMS Utmost sailed for her last patrol on 17th November 1942 and is known to have carried out an attack on the Italian auxiliary cruiser Barletta off Cape Blanc on the 23rd after which she advised that she was returning to Malta, a rendezvous she never made.

interment will be very carefully recorded within St Lawrence Church's records. Flat memorial tablets will continue to be allowed, subject to adherence to the approved churchyard rules, which include the usual issues of size, colour etc - and of course of proper application to the church.

We estimate that at current calls for interments we have provided for 40+ years' use; but let's pray calls on its use don't happen too soon.

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**Special Dates in November**

The month of November is one of those times, like Easter, which has the most glorious highs as well as some of the most solemn moments in life.

Beginning with **All Saints Day** (1<sup>st</sup>) and **All Souls' Day** (2<sup>nd</sup>) - see below - we pass through **Remembrance Sunday** (8<sup>th</sup> - don't forget the start time of 10:30am), and the feast of **Christ the King** (22<sup>nd</sup>) - the reminder of the glorious climax towards which Creation has been leading.

This year **Advent Sunday** also falls in November (29<sup>th</sup>) - the start of a new season of hope and expectation. Here we look forward to a united sung service (6 pm) at St Margaret's for the three parishes St Lawrence's, St Margaret's and St Peter & St Paul's. We trust for a glorious and good start to Advent.

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Remembering those who have died and are dear to us

The first two days of November mark two important occasions in our church and family life. **1st November is All Saints Day**, when the church remembers the countless great saints both of the past and those still alive. In fact, at St Lawrence's we expect to be witnesses to the making of a new saint as she is baptised. We look forward to seeing our church in festive white!

The following day (**2nd November**) is "**All Souls Day**", the day when we are invited collectively to remember and give thanks for those known personally to us whom we love and who have died. We therefore hold also a special service in the evening (8 pm), where in prayer, quiet reflective music and the lighting of individual candles we remember in love those we see no longer. Although this year the service is at St Lawrence's, it is for both our parishes. 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 diaries.

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**A Question?**

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are going dead?

***Calling all children! A prize is offered .....***

Do you read the regular Children's Page in this magazine? If so, drawing on this month's page tell us (1) Which two trees are the same age; and (2) Why, according to St Luke (but not in the poem) Zacchaeus couldn't see Jesus. We offer a prize to the first correct responses drawn from those received at the vicarage – but the closing date is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November! Make sure you remember also to tell us your name and age, and some means of contacting you or your family.

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A Second Garden of Remembrance in our Churchyard

Having now received the formal permission from the Chancellor of the Diocese (the legal person!) to undertake the work, we have now marked out a second area for the interment of ashes (cremated remains) within our churchyard. (The existing area beside the North wall of the church is nearly all assigned; although it may look as if there are gaps, we need to remember that not every family chooses to have a memorial tablet.)

The new area is approximately 9 metres by 6 metres, located towards the boundary with Frankfield, and will be edged with low-level box hedging; there will be a more closely mown 1 metre wide cross shaped path through the middle, thus giving access from each of the sides. As before, the locations of each

CAROL'S CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEAN DO

Tuesday 1 December 2009 09:00 to 11:00

Our loyal band of regular cleaners would love to have extra helpers.

So, DO please come!

We always find time for coffee and mince pies, of course!

CHRISTMAS BRING AND BUY

**In aid of The Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust
Wednesday 2nd December 2009 10:00 to 12:30**

After the success of one last year Carol and Rosemary invite you to come along and enjoy yourself at

Shepherds Cottage Heaverham

Free Coffee and Mince Pies

More details will follow or ring 76341 or 763107

Her loss is recorded as being by depth charge attacks from the Italian Destroyer Groppo, which attacked HMS Utmost on 25th November 1942.

John Harold Des Voeux was just 21 years of age. He is remembered with honour on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and at his adopted church of St Lawrence, Seal Chart.

AUSTIN CHARLES BUTCHER was the brother of Mary Lawrence, who sang in the choir from an early age and continued to worship at St Lawrence Church until the latter part of the 20th century. Austin was brought up at Chart Farm during the 1920's and joined the Royal Marines serving on HMS Cumberland.

She was a Kent Class Cruiser built at Vickers Armstrong and commissioned on 16th March 1926.

I am not yet sure when Austin joined this ship but between 1939 and 1945 she served in the South Atlantic, Home Fleet, Eastern Fleet and the East Indies.

HMS Cumberland was 9750 tons, a speed of 31.5 knots and a compliment of 679.

Austin died on 11th July 1945 aged about 24 and is remembered with honour at Trincomalee War Cemetery, Sri Lanka. Exact cause of death not known at this time.

I can confirm that I have the Service details of the following, and those who definitely had a local connection are marked (L).

James Bartholomew (L) (d 22 December 1916)

Edwin Theobald Collens (L) (d 3 September 1918)

Samuel Drawbridge (L) (d 13 July 1918)

Bert Grayland (L) (d 5th November 1916)

Herbert Hodder (L) (Buried in the St Lawrence Churchyard) (d 16 January 1918)

Myles Lewis Wyan Matthews (L) (d 3rd July 1916)

Frederick Wickham (L) (Buried in St Lawrence Churchyard) (d 28 September 1915)

Humphrey Dickinson (d 13th October 1916)

Arthur Oben (d 24th March 1945)

Stephen Edward Phyll M M (d 3rd July 1916)

William Rhind (d 26th September 1915)

If there is anyone who can provide more information about any of those named on the Roll of Honour or who would like to take on specific research into one or more of those named, please do get in touch with me.

Tony Webb

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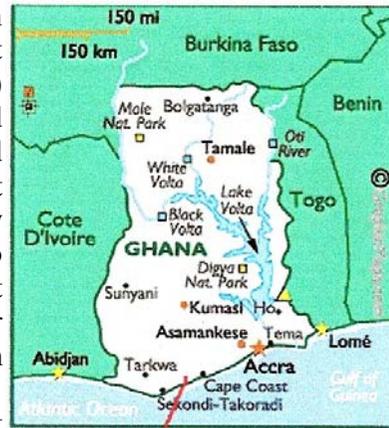
### *News from our School*

A key target for St Lawrence School this year is to develop national and international links with other primary schools. Whilst continuing to foster a sense of pride and identity in our own school, we plan to broaden the children's awareness of other cultural values. With this aim in mind I have established links with two other schools, both of which are opening up some exciting opportunities.

**Richard Atkins School, Brixton** - This is an urban primary school in an area of considerable economic deprivation. Is culturally very diverse, with most of the children speaking English as a second language. Later this week we have twenty children from the school coming to visit us. They will be camping over night in the school building and enjoying our field and woodlands. I am sure our year 5 and 6 children will make excellent hosts.

**St James School, Elmina, Ghana** - At present I know very little about this school but I am sure that it is hugely different from St Lawrence! Over half term my husband (Guy) and I will be travelling out to Ghana and spending the week exploring the area around Elmina (near Cape Coast) and teaching in St James School. The visit is being organised by CMS (Church Missionary Society) and also includes attending a service at Cape Coast Cathedral, which I am warned might be four hours long! We expect to have much to share on our return.

I am anticipating that both these link will result in lasting relationships that will be mutually beneficial for both children and adults.



St James School, Elmina

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Thank You to everyone who gave so generously

... at the special **Collection for the Church Army** on 20th September, when £53 was raised.

... towards our **Harvest Supper's** net proceeds of £420.50; together with a budgeted contribution from the PCC's own funds we shall be sending £450 to Farm Africa. Praise the Lord!

... at our **Harvest Festival Service**, when £318.24 was given.. Together with Gift Aid recoverable from the Inland Revenue and a budgeted contribution from the PCC's own funds, we are sending £400.00 to the Rural Development Movement in Parakkanvilai in South India. Alleluia!

Thank You, St Lawrence School

Firstly by your presence, singing, reading and prayers for helping to make the parish Harvest Festival so honouring and representative of traditions and skills within the parish. And specifically for the wonderful banner you have made for us – for anyone who hasn't seen it, do pop in to church and see Psalm 150 gloriously displayed. What a harvest of talents!

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### *Help to choose the next Bishop of Rochester*

The process is now underway to identify and appoint the next Bishop of Rochester, in succession to Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali who stood down in September. The Appointments group value your views! So if interested, come to the public consultation at 8pm on Thursday 12 November at St Justus Church, The Tideway, Rochester ME1 2LT.

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Prayer Topics for this month

- Those who work in the **health service**
- Those who struggle with **Winter Time** – less sun, more change, fewer visits, and more illnesses exacerbated by cooler damper weather.
- **Past, present or future?** Those for whom the past seems more important or pressing than the now or the future

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### *Seen any UFOs lately?*

2009 has been a record year for the sighting of UFOs. Ministry of Defence documents reveal that 394 claims were submitted to the MoD's UFO desk since January. That makes it so far the busiest year on record. In 2008 there were only 118 sightings over the same period, while the previous highest number was in 1997, when there were 331 reports.

Experts say that Britain has experienced a 'flap' or concentrated period this year. Reports have come from members of the public, to highly experienced jet pilots, to air traffic controllers. The sightings range from bright orange lights to long black cylinders in the sky.

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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, 14th 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).