

**Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during February 2010**



Sunday	7 Feb	11:15	Family Service	
Sunday	14 Feb	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	BCP
Wednesday	17 Feb	10:00	Holy Communion (said) at St Lawrence	CW
Sunday	21 Feb	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	Short Family Service for all God's children	
Sunday	28 Feb	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	7 Mar	11:15	Morning Prayer (with canticles)	BCP

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	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
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 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell 01959 523953		

**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
February 2010**



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
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LN
 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 17 February 2010

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 28 February 2010**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
 Printed by Highland Printers, 23 High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0AN (01732 762131)

*Services and Events at
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart
during February 2010*



Friday	5 Feb 14:00	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Garden Cottage, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	7 Feb 08:00 09:45	Second Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (said) Revelation 4 All Age Family Service (children in church) Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25	BCP Luke 8: 22-25 Luke 8: 22-25
Tuesday	9 Feb	Bible Study for both Parishes At Westover, Mill Lane, Underriver	
Sunday	14 Feb 09:45	Sunday next before Lent Family Communion with ministry of healing and wholeness 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2	CW Luke 9: 28-36
Wednesday	17 Feb 10:00	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (said) Joel 2:1-12, 12-17	CW 2 Cor 5: 20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday	21 Feb 08:00 09:45	First Sunday of Lent Holy Communion (said) Romans 10: 8b-13 All Age Family Service (Sunday School—phone 761766 for time) Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	CW Luke 4:1-13 Luke 4:1-13
Thursday	25 Feb 10:00	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Saturday	27 Feb 14:00	St Lawrence Children's Fun Afternoon with Ken Wylie In St Lawrence Village Hall	
Sunday	28 Feb 09:45	Second Sunday of Lent Morning Prayer (with hymns) Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	BCP Luke 13: 31-35
Sunday	7 March 08:00 09:45	Third Sunday of Lent Holy Communion (aid) 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 All Age Family Service with Baptism Luke 13: 1-9	BCP Luke 13: 1-9

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - a service using traditional (17th C) language and form
CW = Common Worship - a service using contemporary (21st C) language and form

**Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust
Quiz Night
On Saturday 6 March 2010
At Sevenoaks Community Centre
19:00 for Prompt Start at 19:45
Teams of 8 - £10 per person
Supper - Licensed Cash Bar - Raffle
Booking forms at back of the Church**



Church Flowers

Christine Hughes
Kate Clark
Lent - No Flowers
Lent - No Flowers
Lent - No Flowers

Flower Rotas for

Sunday 7 Feb
Sunday 14 Feb
Sunday 21 Feb
Sunday 28 Feb
Sunday 7 Mar



Memorial Flowers

No Flowers
No Flowers
No Flowers
No Flowers
No Flowers



St Lawrence Sunday School

14 Feb	The Loving Father	The Lord's Prayer	Celeste & Hilary
14 Mar	Mothering Sunday		
21 Mar	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL		
28 Mar	Palm Sunday	Holy Week	Sam & Lesley
4 Apr	Easter Day		

**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)

I wonder what February signifies for you - a personal event like a family birthday or anniversary? Or as containing a half-term week, challenging or fun? Or as another month of cold winter to be endured? (Did we know that land temperatures lag a month or so behind solar time, which is one reason why July/August are the summer holiday months, and February can be as cold as it gets. Brrrrr!)

In the shops and in social life, the first half of February seems to have much to do with one particular anniversary:- **St Valentine's Day**. Lots of sloppy cards, chocolates and – one would hope - genuine cuddles. It's apparently a proven scientific fact that a hug is not only good for sharing warmth, and raising one's sense of self-esteem and worth, but does also release particular enzymes which help lower blood pressure and improve mood (heighten appreciation of life in general). And in times of 'flu – not least swine 'flu, though what happened to that? – a hug is a far safer way to greet than shaking hands. All of us ought to do a lot more of it - before as well as on 14th!

But back to **Valentine** is it a coincidence that the English form of his name is an anagram of two thought-provoking words: **naïve** and **Lent**? It is in fact **naïve** to think that life is just a package of commerce, romantic get-aways, or superficial love. For a start, such a view excludes the vast majority of people - those who happen to be very young, or single, or whose experience of love has taken a serious knock. Further, it turns out that that such a Mills-and-Boon love was not what Valentine should be remembered for. He was in fact either a Roman priest martyred under the emperor Claudius, or a Bishop also martyred (the legends are not clear). Either way, and following the customs of the Catholic church, he would not have been declared a saint if he had been romantically involved with a member of the other sex! The traditional association of St Valentine with courtship and the rest is almost certainly mostly connected with the Roman mid-February pagan festival of Lupercalia, or with the natural season.

So some reappraisal is needed – and a God-given time for this is the annual period of **Lent**, which always begins with Ash Wednesday (the 40th weekday before Easter Sunday), this year 17th February. If, perhaps from childhood memories, our experience of Lent is of a drab season with dirge-like church services, perhaps it's time to learn something new. We can't do much about the chillier weather, but we do promise that the choice of hymns will encompass the heights as well as depths of life. (Remember too that Sundays are not days of Lent!) And though a period of prayer and abstinence is good for body as well as soul, why not use part of this Lent reading something totally different, and which could restore at a stroke your appreciation of your worth and being loved – even if Valentine will have passed you by. May I recommend what I have just myself finished reading and believe to be the best book I've come across for decades: "The Shack".

With love and blessings,

Michael

The Apostle Paul said:
*"I am convinced that **nothing** can ever separate us from **God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from **God's love**."*
 Romans 8:38-39

Mouse Makes

To make the card:
 1. Glue this page onto coloured thin card and cut out. Colour and decorate both sides.
 2. Fold the curved flaps up along the dotted lines so that the big heart is on the inside.
 3. To close, fold down the flaps in turn and tuck the edge of the last flap under the edge of the first.

Feb10

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The St Margaret's and St Lawrence's joint annual church garden party will take place on Saturday 22 May from 2 - 5pm at Bassetts, Mill Lane, Underriver by kind permission of John and Heather Clemence. It is an event for the whole community and anyone who would like to be involved please contact Hilary Denby-Jones.

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## ***SNOW TIME***

Thank you, Eric, and the team for helping to keep the church paths clear during the recent snow.



And thank you, Michael, for the lovely picture on the front of our magazine.

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CHILDREN'S FUN AFTERNOON - 2 PM, 27 FEBRUARY 2010

A reminder that in faith St Lawrence's has booked Ken Wylie, who is one of the country's foremost Christian mime artists, to lead our Children's Fun Afternoon on Saturday 27 February 2010 at St Lawrence Village Hall. As well as using his miming skills to tell wonderful stories, he will also help the children learn some mime themselves.

Because we expect this event to be fully subscribed – it's open to all children aged 3-10 who live in the parish or are connected with our parish or school - bookings will be accepted in order of application, so please get your booking in soon! (The event will be free to those who come, but we do require a £2 deposit, refundable on the day to those who actually turn up.)

Booking forms can be obtained from the vicarage, or downloaded from our church website www.sealstlawrence.org.uk - and of course mark the date in your diary. For more information, please contact Michael (761766) or Celeste (820190).

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- (1) St Lawrence's holds a special **healing service** 3 or 4 times a year – our next one is on Sunday 14th February, when we look forward to being joined for the prayer ministry by Shirley Hayes, who is a Pastoral Assistant in Weald Parish.
- (2) **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent, is on 17th February – this year our service for both churches is at St Lawrence's (10 am)
- (3) The inter-church **Lent House Groups** organised by Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District start in the week beginning 22nd February; last year 70+ people took part, so there was a wide choice of times and venue. The closing date for signup was the end of January but, if still interested, you may be able to be included. Please contact Pat Harman (453902) or Dianne Jarrett (838226) ASAP!

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## ***ST LAWRENCE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: TIME AND THEME***

We are surveying which time is on balance the better for most families - either meeting during the 9:45am service, or (as was much preferred in November, December and January) on Sunday afternoon. If you have thoughts on this do let us know. As this magazine goes to press, the verdict remains 'open' – not least because the Sunday School Leaders' planning meeting scheduled for mid-January had to be postponed because of the snowy weather! **We will inform all those associated with Sunday School the time on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**, when our theme will be the Loving Father (The Parable of the Prodigal Son). If you still have any doubts over the time, or if you just want to know more about Sunday School, please do phone 761766. Meantime we expect the next issue of our Sunday School Newsletter to be published by early February.

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PRAYER TOPICS FOR THIS MONTH

- For those struggling with the effects of colder weather: those unable to get to work or school, those maintaining essential services (power infrastructure, hospitals, highways staff)
- For politicians in the run-up to the General Election: for honesty and leadership
- For a good Half-term for all those involved with schools

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## ***PRAYERS***

My 10 year old niece says her prayers every night, and instead of "amen", she says "click, send."

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

27<sup>th</sup> December Baptism of Morton John Stratten, infant son of Matt and Bolette. We wish them all every blessing in this new start for the Lord.

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NO SMALL CHANGE – IN UK STREETS AND KENYAN SLUMS

There is a unique opportunity to learn more about the work of Christian Aid on **Saturday 6th February** from 10:30am –12:30pm (followed by a bring and share lunch) at Christchurch URC hall, Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks. A team from Christian Aid HQ will be presenting inspiring stories of hope and determination from Christian Aid partners in Kenya. We shall discover how the money raised in Christian Aid Week is making ‘no small change’ to slums in Kenya as well as hundreds of other communities around the world. We shall also explore the resources available for this year’s Christian Aid Week.

Come along if you are a supporter, a collector or would like to hear more about how you can help make Christian Aid Week an even greater success. Everyone is welcome – why not bring a friend. For further information contact me or call Laura Simpson, Christian Aid Volunteer Development Worker on 020 75232110 or email les@christian-aid.org or email *Elsbeth Cooke (01732 761766)*

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**HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE – CHRISTIAN AID’S RESPONSE**

Just before this magazine went to press, news reached us of the disastrous earthquake in Haiti. Christian Aid partners in Haiti are very experienced in emergency response work, and have begun emergency relief activities in the affected areas, targeting areas that are getting little help from other agencies. Many colleagues from Christian Aid’s five local partner organisations are dealing with their own personal tragedies, but they are providing emergency relief items for distribution to more than 15,000 people in eight communities. They are working closely with Christian Aid partners across the border in the Dominican Republic to source materials . One of the partners, Aprosifa, is a specialist healthcare organisation and will be providing medical support. If you would like to make a donation to **Christian Aid’s Haiti Earthquake Appeal**, you can do so online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or send postal donations (cheques payable to Christian Aid) to Haiti Earthquake Appeal, Freepost RSCR-TCEX-ABAA Christian Aid, Validata House, 2a Halifax Road, Melksham SN12 6YY. Christian Aid is a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee and you can donate to DEC’s general appeal for Haiti at [www.dec.org.uk/haiti-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/haiti-appeal) or by phoning 0370 60 60 900.

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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS - THANK YOU AND A REMINDER!

To everyone who has sent me, or their distributor, the subscriptions due for 2010, can I say a BIG thank you. It would not be cost-effective to acknowledge them individually as I am sure you will appreciate. But your prompt payment is much appreciated.

To remind those who have yet to pay, the cost is £6.50 for collected or delivered magazines and £11 if posted. Cheques to be made payable to St. Lawrence (Seal) PCC. Many thanks.

Rosemary Attenborough, Coldhanger, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0EJ

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**ARRANGING A FUNERAL**

May we remind our readers of a few facts which we hope will help if a most unwished for event looks like happening, or does.

- It’s the Funeral Director (undertaker) who makes all the essential arrangements, e.g. time/date, place, even liaising with the church – so it’s important to contact them as early as possible. But ...
- Choose an undertaker carefully, ideally in advance of them being needed. From our experience, our local undertakers vary very widely in the care and service they purport to provide! Please feel free to ask for more details.
- Even if the family wish is for a cremation, do think of “using” the church for the main service. A service at the crematorium is nearly always part of a queue, has therefore to be rushed, and there’s only one thing that ever happens there. Built into the fabric of a church are also all the memories of happier events.
- To be buried in our lovely churchyard one doesn’t need to be a member of the church: anyone who dies within St Lawrence’s parish is also entitled! But such entitlements lapse if you move away, so - if you’d like to be buried here in the future but think you may by then be living elsewhere – you need to ask while still here for permission – again, ask for details.

NB Even if all seems well and hearty now, please don’t forget to ensure you have a Will that is current. If this isn’t the case, do sort it out now!

Meantime, if there’s anything relating to the above you’d like to discuss, do ask. We don’t just visit because of funerals – but even then it’s lovely to have met the family way beforehand!

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THANK YOU ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED...

.... so wonderfully to the two open collections held over the Christmas period:-

On **Sunday 20th December (Carol Service)**: £310.92 was given, with a further £71.36 recoverable from Gift Aid, so Christian Aid will benefit by £382.28.

On **Thursday 24th (Crib/Christingle service)**: £403.50, sent to Demelza House Hospice for children. Thank you, everyone!

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### **Christian Aid Charity Film Show**

**Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee**

**invites you to a private showing of the classic film**

## **High Society**

**the hilarious low-down on high life**

**starring**

**Bing Crosby - Grace Kelly - Frank Sinatra**

**with Louis Armstrong and his band**

**on Friday 12th March 2010 at 7:30 pm**

**at The Stag Cinema, Sevenoaks**

**Ticket £10 including refreshments**

**available from Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766)**

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ST LAWRENCE CHURCH'S FUND FOR DISASTERS

Readers may be pleased to know that, thanks to the suggestion some years ago by the late Philip Attenborough, our Church Council earmarks each year in its budget some monies to be available for appeals for major world catastrophes. Sadly, there's only been one year when the allocation was not needed. Following the current catastrophe in Haiti, our Church Council has therefore just sent its full planned allocation for 2010 (£175) to the current appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee. It is a small start, but a start - and we feel sure that many individuals will also have responded. At our next Church Council (due 3rd March) we will consider if there is more that we feel we ought as a church to be doing - the after-effects of the disaster will, sadly, be continuing for years.

STATISTIC OF THE MONTH

Between 1998 and 2005 the number of churches in England dropped slightly, from 37,700 to 37,500, less than 1% of the total. This was at a time when church attendance dropped 15%, which simply means that the average congregation became smaller.

However, the number of churches would have declined much more had closures not been compensated by openings of new churches, especially in London, where the number went from 3,800 to 4,100, a huge increase. This was due almost entirely to the huge increase in Pentecostal churches which include most if not all of the Black Majority independent churches in the capital.

But churches of other ethnicities also grew in London – the Chinese, the Korean, the Japanese, the Croatian, the Tamil, the Estonian, the French, the Hungarian, the Danish, the Icelandic, and many, many more. Immigrants coming to the UK invariably come to London. If you had to struggle with English from Monday to Saturday you would prefer to go to a church on the Sunday where everyone spoke your native tongue!

London wasn't the only part of the country where there were more churches opening than closing. The other great metropolitan area, the West Midlands, also saw three more churches open than close – which out of a total of 3,800 churches in 2005 isn't much change. The reason, however, that its numbers didn't drop as they did everywhere else in the country was the same as in London, a huge increase in the number of churches, especially Pentecostal, where non-white people go to church.

The increase in the black Pentecostal churches is therefore especially important. Currently 17% of English churchgoers come from non-white backgrounds – 10% black and 7% others. If their rate of growth continues then by 2015 the total non-white attenders could be 26% of the total – 16% black and 10% others.

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## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

After booking my 80-year-old grandmother on a flight from London to Amsterdam, I called the airline to go over her special needs. The representative listened patiently as I requested a wheelchair and an attendant for my mother because of her arthritis and impaired vision to the point of near blindness. My apprehension lightened a bit when the woman again and again assured me that she understood and that everything would be taken care of. I thanked her profusely. "Oh, you're welcome," she replied. I was about to hang up when she cheerfully added, "And will your grandmother need a rental car?"

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