

St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine

March 2010

Services at St Margaret's Underriver during March 2010

Sunday	7 March	11:15	Morning Prayer (with hymns)	BCP
Sunday	14 March	08:00	Holy Communion (said)	BCP
		10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11.15	Family Service with Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	21 March	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	28 March	11:05	Procession with Palms and (we hope) a colt from the foot of Carters Hill to	
		11:15	Family Service	
Thursday	1 April	20:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
Good Friday	2 April	09:00	Devotional Walk from St Margaret's to St Lawrence's	
		11:15	United Good Friday Service at St Lawrence's	
Sunday	4 April	11:15	EASTER SUNDAY Festival Family Service with Communion	

(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	S'oaks 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	Cricknet Club Contact	Graham Cook	761827
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi	810864	Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister	762416
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson	810050	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	xd	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker	760843
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken	847990	Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell	764202
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953			



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 March 2010

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



Sunday	7 March	Third Sunday of Lent Holy Communion (aid) 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9 09:45 All Age Family Service with Baptism Luke 13: 1-9	BCP
Tuesday	9 March	Bible Study - open to all for both parishes At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough 20:00	
Thursday	11 March	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough 10:00	
Friday	12 March	Questions of Faith and Life At The White House, Bitchet Green 10:00	
Sunday	14 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday Service with Communion John 19: 25-27 09:45	CW
Wednesday	17 March	Questions of Faith and Life At the Vicarage 10:00	
Sunday	21 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent Holy Communion (said) Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns) Isaiah 43: 16-21 John 12: 1-8	CW BCP
Wednesday	24 March	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At the Vicarage 14:00	
Sunday	28 March	Palm Sunday Procession with palms from the foot of Church Road to 09:25 All Age Family Service (with Crèche) 09:45 Luke 19: 28-40 Philippians 2:5-11 15:30 St Lawrence's Sunday School meet in the School Hall	
Thursday	01 April	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion (said) at St Margaret's Underriver 20:00	CW
Friday	2 April	Good Friday Devotional Walk from St Margaret's, Underriver to St Lawrence's 09:00 Devotional Service 11:15 John 18: 1—19:42	
Sunday	4 April	EASTER DAY Holy Communion (said) Acts 10: 34-43 Luke 24: 1-12 08:00 09:45 Festival Family Service with Communion John 20: 1-18	BCP

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



Church Flowers

Lent - No Flowers
Lent - No Flowers
Lent - No Flowers
Lent - No Flowers
Bridget Stephens

Flower Rotas for

Sunday 7 March
Sunday 14 March
Sunday 21 March
Sunday 28 March
Sunday 4 April



Memorial Flowers

No Flowers
No Flowers
No Flowers
No Flowers
Annie Scarsi

St Lawrence Coffee Morning

**Drop into St Lawrence's Church
for Coffee, Cake and a Chat**

**First Wednesday of every month during term time at 9 am
ALL WELCOME**

For further details contact Hilary Denby-Jones (763883) or Carol Lambert (763415)



St Lawrence Sunday School

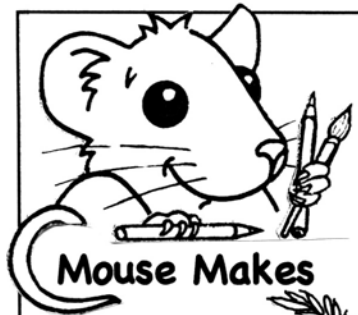


**For a trial period, Sunday School is on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm
but PLEASE let us know your thoughts on this. If an afternoon is difficult,
don't forget that at all the corresponding morning services (9:45 am)
there will always be a children's item**

14 Mar		Mothering Sunday		
28 Mar	3:30	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday	Sam & Lesley
4 Apr		Easter Day		
18 Apr	3:30		The Resurrection	Celeste & Elspeth
16 May	3:30		The Ascension	Hilary & Helen
20 Jun	10:30	Dedication Service	St Lawrence	Sam & Lyn

All children are welcome

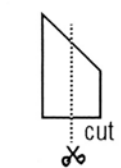
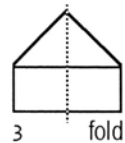
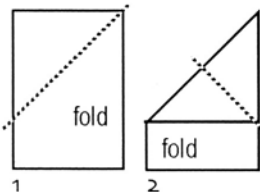
For further information, contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Elspeth Cooke (761766)



Mouse Makes
 The Sunday before Easter is known as **Palm Sunday** - the day we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people shouted 'Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'.

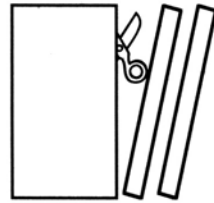
Read Matthew 21:1-11

Fold-a-Cross

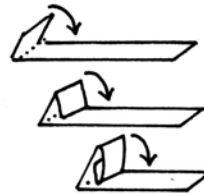


Decorate with Easter colours and patterns

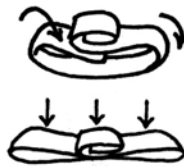
Palm Sunday Cross



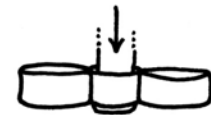
1. From a sheet of paper cut 2 strips about 15mm wide.



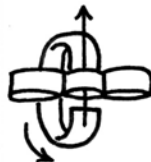
2. Take one strip. > Fold up about 17mm (a little wider than the paper strip) then fold over twice more



3. Fold the other end around and behind. Then push down and fold flat. This makes the **cross-beam**



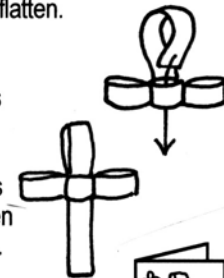
4. Put a blob of glue on one end of the > other strip of paper then push through the middle folds in the cross-beam



5. Bend the other end around and behind the cross-beam and back through the middle folds. Gently pull all the way through then flatten.



6. Bend the end again through the centre folds and pull through until you have a loop the same size as the loops on the cross-beam then flatten to make a cross.



Make a card for Mothering Sunday by decorating a paper folded cross with cut out flowers



The Vicar's Page

The card-, flower- and chocolate-suppliers would pervert us again! As I'm sure we are all aware, what they call Mothers' Day is on March 14th. Oldies amongst us are persuaded by advert and through busyness of life to buy; and at school and club countless young children will be working hard yet again to make beautiful posies and cards for Mummy. Which is great ...

... except for those adults who are single, or have no children, or can't be a Mum, or whose memories of their own Ma are mixed – either because their relationship is, or wasn't, so good, or even because Mother has died. For such people – and they are many of us – publicly promoted events like Mothers' Day can actually be occasions when more people can feel excluded than included. (It's similar, though for slightly different reasons, on Valentine's Day when I am writing this letter, and on Fathers' Day in June.)

So, it may help all of us to be reminded that commercial forces are piggy-backing onto what is still more properly known as Mothering Sunday – the Fourth Sunday of Lent. (Did you know that that is how the date is fixed?) Long ago, that particular Sunday was when people used to visit their Mother church (cathedral), and for that journey would often need to fortify themselves with extra victuals: whence the tradition of rich cakes like Simnel. Because of both the extra food and the respite from the severe Lenten discipline, this Sunday also became known as Refreshment Sunday.

In church services we can face a dilemma. We either go with the worldly flood – and risk excluding many of our worshippers – or we try to make something of a custom which today has little meaning. Alternatively – and what we shall be majoring on this year - is the thought of mothering (which anyone can and should do), and being mothered – both in their best and truest sense.

Although much of the time we think of God the Father (c.f. "Our Father, who art in heaven...") and Jesus as male, the Bible records other imagery for referring to God. Not only is he Spirit - and therefore gender isn't the issue - but sometimes, as if to ensure the gender balance has proper perspective, he and Jesus are described in distinctly feminine form. Two typical examples are:- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13); and (Jesus speaking) "How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." (Matthew 23:37)

May we invite you this Lent to be willing to experience something of God's kind of Mothering; and even if your own experience of mothering hasn't been so good, remember that God's love is perfect:- "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 49: 15). For all of us: Happy Mothering Sunday!

With love and blessings,

Michael

GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC

Under the auspices of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District, there will be an evening of music and reflection at St Mary's Church, Kemsing on Good Friday, 2nd April at 7:30 pm. The music will be excerpts from Fauré's Requiem. If you would like to join the united choir drawn from the churches of the Sevenoaks area, please contact Elspeth Cooke (01732 761766) not later than 7th March. Copies of the music will be available and there will be two rehearsals: Sunday 21st March 3:30 – 5:00 pm and Good Friday 2nd April also 3:30 – 5:00pm.

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**COMPUTERS 4 AFRICA**

Don't know what to do with those computers that you have put in the attic!! Give them a new life in Africa by donating them to Computers 4 Africa. This is a UK charity who not only refurbish the computers and ship them to Africa, but who also have people out there who train the local population on their use and maintenance. To check whether your computer/laptop is "not too old" to be of use, telephone 0845 2008510. I have just delivered my computer to Unit 12A, Mills Road, Quarry Wood Industrial Estate, ME20 7NA. If you would like me to deliver your computer for you please get in touch (01732 763436) and I will try to get a car load together.

*Tony Webb*

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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 - 5 pm 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.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

on

Wednesday, 31st March, 9.30-11.30 a.m.- including a coffee break!

Are YOU free?

PLEASE could you come and help the "regular cleaners" make our Church sparkle, in time for Easter?

Many hands make light work!

Carol McLintock Tel. 452964.

**Haydn's Creation
at St Nicholas' Church, Sevenpaks
at 7:30 pm on Saturday 20 March**

The Cantate Choir, a Sevenoaks-based chamber choir, will be performing Haydn's wonderful evocation of the six days of Creation.

The choir will be joined by *Vivace!*, a chamber orchestra performing on period instruments, and three international soloists.

Tickets are available at £12 from
Sevenoaks Book Shop, 147 High St., Sevenoaks or from
John Morris on 01732 810227.

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**Mothering Sunday**

There is an old Jewish saying:

***God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.***

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

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ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.’

Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After thirty years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the ‘Sybil of the Rhine,’ her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

It is all there in the chant ‘O ignis spiritus’ on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God’s Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God’s throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen. For all music is at heart song. We breathe in the air around, we breathe in the gift of the Spirit, and in that power, we open our voices to sing and praise God. That movement of song is only kept alive by the breath, the Spirit within. It is a gift, a grace, which leads us into wonder and joy.

As we listen to Hildegard’s music, we sense something of the presence of the Spirit in her life, wafting her like a feather through the sky of the world. And we realise how such music can move us by that same Spirit.

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### ***Rule Britannia!***

If you like the Proms, and enjoy singing ‘Rule Britannia’ each summer, did you know that it was 300 years ago this month, on 12 March 1710, that Thomas Arne, the British composer who wrote Rule Britannia was born?

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Crèche at St Lawrence’s Family Service

In order to make the 9:45am family service more welcoming to parent/s with a young family, we are introducing a Crèche for children under the age of 4 years. Initially, this will be on the same Sunday as Sunday School during the trial period of afternoon Sunday School. We hope that this will encourage families to attend the morning service, especially those who are unable to come to the afternoon Sunday School.

Parents are invited to leave their child/children with 2 members of the Sunday School team, in the school hall from 9.30 a.m. onwards, and collect them at the end of the service. The first Crèche, which will be supervised by Lyn Holness and Celeste Davis-Watling, will take place on the morning of 28th March and thereafter on the next Sunday School dates of 18th April and 16th May.

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th March.

Celeste

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

4<sup>th</sup> February      Funeral of the late Barry Brown, late of Chipstead, and who had died aged 67.

16<sup>th</sup> February      Funeral of the late Herbert John Gray, late of Kippington Nursing Home, and who died aged 85.

We extend to both families our deepest condolences on their loss.

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Questions of Faith and Life

Are you perplexed by some of the doctrines Christians are reported to believe in? (We could cite the recent furore over the role of women in the church.) Or from close personal experience, do you fret over deep ethical issues like mercy deaths? Or perhaps you know your prayer-life is pretty thin, and you are seeking some new approaches? Or how can Jesus’ death 2,000 years ago make all the difference to you and me today? Or perhaps it’s a matter of detail with our church services - such as why we stand for some Bible readings and sit for others?

If an issue similar to any of these resonate with you, and you are open to something new, then come and put your questions at one or both of the open-to-all sessions where Gretel and I will lead discussions try to provide some (part) answers or pointers. The times and dates are Friday March 12 (10 am at The White House, Bitchet Green), and Wednesday March 17 (10 am at St Lawrence Vicarage). If possible, please let us know beforehand you’d like to come, and what your question might be. And if neither of these dates is possible, but you still have a pressing issue, please contact one of us and - as is always the case - we’ll try to fix a one-to-one.

Michael

Special Services and Events in March and early April

On March 14th, we are offering a conventional **Mothering Sunday** service, together with a simplified form of Communion. This pattern was much appreciated a few years ago, and is very inclusive.

The most Holy Week of the Christian year begins with **Palm Sunday** on March 28th when we celebrate Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem. We mark this with a procession from the foot of Church Road (9:25am), arriving at church for a Family Service at 9:45am. There will be a crèche for under-4s (see note elsewhere), and Sunday School this day is in the afternoon at 3:30pm. (NB Please note that because of Palm Sunday, the normal Morning Prayer (BCP) service has been transferred to 21st March.)

Thursday 1st April is **Maundy Thursday**, the day when Jesus shared his Last Supper with his frightened disciples. The service for both our parishes is at St Margaret's at 8pm.

Then on **Good Friday** we remember the day when God gave his very life that we might live. For those who want time to contemplate an extra perspective, there's a guided walk from St Margaret's (we leave at 9am) up to St Lawrence's arriving for hot cross buns and then a united devotional service at 11:15am. This is a solemn occasion with the main focus on the Passion of Jesus, as heard in the reading of one of the Passion narratives. For those who have walked, car transport back to St Margaret's will be available.

Then on the Third Day it's **Easter – the Day of Resurrection**. With church decked in glorious white and gold, and flowers to match, we celebrate that thanks to God, death was not the last word. Christ is risen, and lives! As with him, those who are his will also rise and live. Alleluia! Come, and be part of the greatest celebration.

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### ***Hedgehogs don't like decking***

Is your garden hedgehog-friendly? A conservationist from Hull University has warned that hedgehogs could well disappear from Britain within the next 20 years because of the trend in using paving and decking in so many millions of gardens. The 'makeover' trend restricts the animals' access to feeding areas.

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From Thomas Merton's "The Wisdom of the Desert"

A certain brother came to Abbott Poemen and said, "What ought I to do, Father? I am in great sadness." The elder said to him, "Never despise anybody, never condemn anybody, never speak ill of anybody, and the Lord will give you peace."

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### ***All in the month of : March***

It was 100 years ago:- on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1910, that John Moore-Brabason became the first person in the UK to qualify as a pilot.

It was 80 years ago:- on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1930 that Clarence Birdseye first launched frozen food for sale – in Springfield Massachusetts. It was a success from the start.

It was 75 years ago:- on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1935 that Adolf Hitler was on the march.... he ordered the re-arming of Germany, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

It was 50 years ago:- on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1960, that the Sharpeville Massacre took place in South Africa. Police opened fire on a group of black anti-Apartheid demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 180.

It was 40 years ago:- on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1970 that The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into effect, having been ratified by 43 nations.

It was 30 years ago:- on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1980, that Robert Mugabe was elected as Zimbabwe's first black prime minister.

It was 25 years ago:- on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1985, that the US Government approved a screening test for AIDS, allowing contaminated blood to be excluded from blood transfusions.

It was 20 years ago this month: - on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1990, that there were poll tax riots in London

It was 15 years ago this month:- on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1995, that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings Bank.

It was 10 years ago:- on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2000, that Vladimir Putin was elected President of the Russian Federation

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Glorious the song when God's the theme: Hildegard of Bingen

In this series we have looked at the psalms of the Old Testament and the songs of the New Testament, and now we enter the Middle Ages. But it is the Middle Ages through the eyes of a record producer in the last century.

In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices' recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry.

'A feather on the breath of God', the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. 'Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the