

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



Thursday	1 April	20:00	Holy Communion (said)	CW
Friday	2 April	09:00	Devotional Walk to St Lawrence's	
Sunday	4 April	11:15	EASTER SUNDAY Festival Family Service with Communion	CW
Sunday	11 April	08:00 18:00	Holy Communion (said) Evensong (with hymns and canticles)	BCP BCP
Sunday	18 April	10:30 11:15	St Margaret's Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall Short Family Service	
Sunday	25 April	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	2 May	11:15	Family Service	

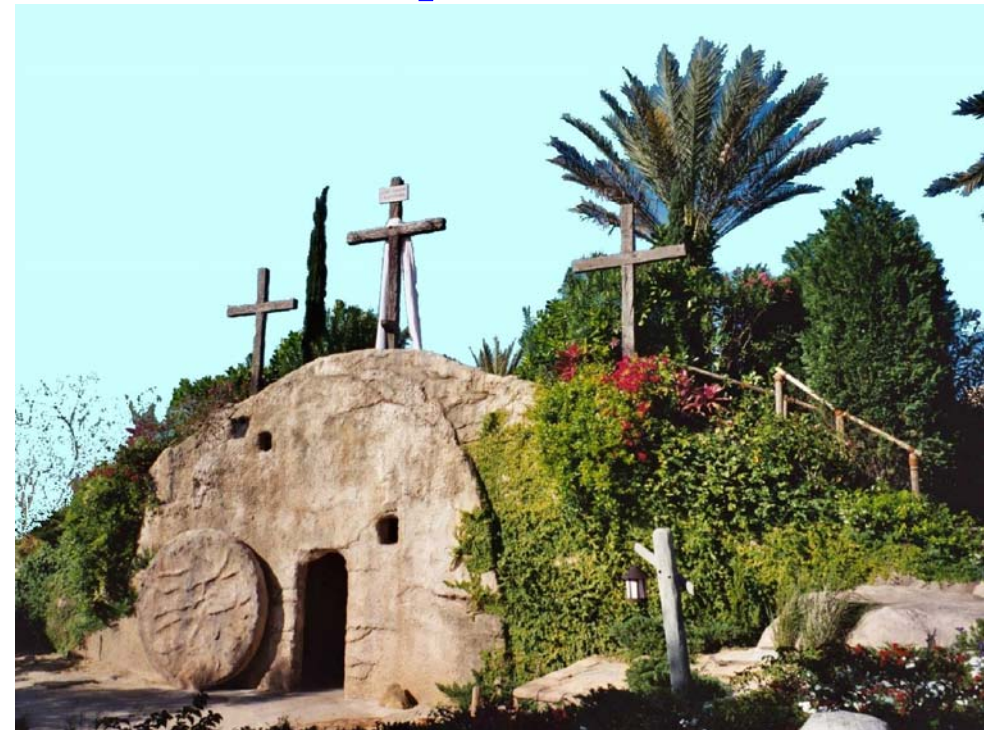
(For details of joint services, bible study, prayer times, etc., please see Page 2)

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Priest in Charge - St Lawrence Church - Revd Dr Michael Cooke - 761766
Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534

Churchwardens	Hilary Denby-Jones 763883 Celeste Davis-Watling 820190	St'oaks 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 Hilary Denby-Jones 763883	Secretary	Carol Smith 763561
Sunday School	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	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
St Lawrence CE Primary School		Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker 760843
Headteacher	Alison Saunders 761393	Cricket Club Secretary	Robin Webster 01892 862017
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
April 2010*



*Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.
Alleluia!*

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
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Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk)
to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 14 April 2010

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 25 April 2010**

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



Thursday	1 April	Maundy Thursday 14:00 St Lawrence School Easter Service 20:00 Holy Communion (said) at St Margaret's Underriver Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14 1 Cor 11: 23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	CW
Friday	2 April	Good Friday 09:00 Devotional Walk from St Margaret's to St Lawrence's 11:15 Devotional Service John 18: 1-19, 42	
Sunday	4 April	EASTER DAY 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18 09:45 Festival Family Service with Communion (with hymns) Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18	BCP CW
Tuesday	6 April	Bible Study - open to all for both parishes At Kettleshill House, St Julian's Road, Underriver	
Sunday	11 April	Second Sunday of Easter 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) Revelation 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-31	CW
Thursday	15 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At Shepherd's Cottage, Heaverham	
Sunday	18 April	Third Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19 09:45 Family Service Zephaniah 3: 14-20 John 21:1-19 15:30 St Lawrence's Sunday School meets in the School Hall	CW
Sunday	25 April	Fourth Sunday of Easter 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns and canticles) Genesis 7: 1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 John 10:22-30 11:00 St Lawrence's Annual Church Meetings in the Church	BCP
Friday	30 April	Prayer Time for both parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) At the Vicarage	
Sunday	2 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) - with Holy Baptism Acts 11: 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

You can also read our Parish Magazine on www.sealstlawrence.org.uk



Church Flowers

Bridget Stevens
Bridget Stevens
Zara Webb
Zara Webb
Pat Edghill

Flower Rotas for

Sunday 4 April
Sunday 11 April
Sunday 18 April
Sunday 25 April
Sunday 2 May



Memorial Flowers

Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
Annie Scarsi
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

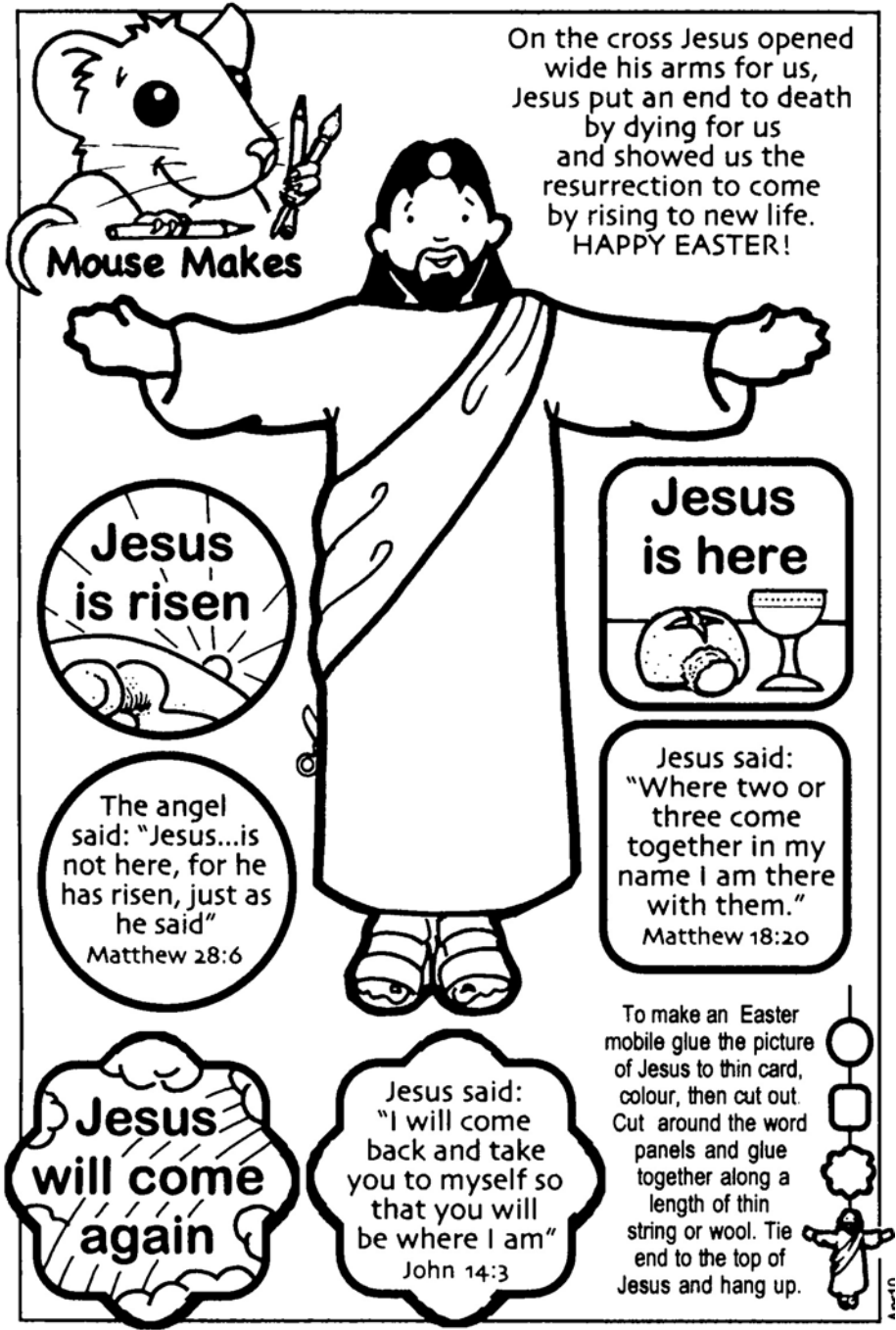


**For a trial period, Sunday School is on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm
but PLEASE let us know your thoughts on this. If an afternoon is difficult,
don't forget that at all the corresponding morning services (9:45 am)
there will always be a children's item**

4 Apr	Easter Day		
18 Apr	3:30	The Resurrection	Hilary & Celeste
16 May	3:30	The Ascension	Elsbeth & Helen
20 Jun	9:45	Dedication Service	St Lawrence Sam & Lyn

All children are welcome

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



The Vicar's Page

Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

But what difference does the resurrection of one man nearly 2,000 years ago make to us today? A cynical person (which I'm not!) could say an extra long Bank holiday in the Spring; the chance to get away, if you can avoid the longest queues on the M25 or at the airport; and a mad indulgence of over-priced chocolate eggs.

In fact, as your Vicar it's my duty and real joy not to have to travel over the Easter period – and to bask in the utter assurance that though he died, Jesus is now alive for ever, and that makes all the difference. Sickness, death and a host of other unpleasanties are emphatically NOT the last word.

But to really appreciate this, we need not just one annual service of celebration in church; we need to start by realising what the world would be like without divine resurrection. There's a hymn which begins to spell out a world without God at the centre:- "Think of a world without any flowers ... Think of a world without any animals ... Think of a world without any people ...". The way so much of the world is going is exactly that – over consumption, toxic waste and dwindling essential resources like water, which without godly sense will lead to wars and worse.

Good Friday marks the depths of a world of selfishness and self-importance; the authorities and common people then - and in spirit everyone before and afterwards who has contributed to the world's madness - tried to extinguish the light of God himself. Today we do it as we live without obedience to God-given rules like honouring others or keeping a day for God, selfish covetous living - not loving God with all our heart mind and strength, nor our neighbour. The sky tuned black, and in Sydney Carter's famous hymn it was hard to dance with the devil on your back. Indeed, "they buried my body and they thought I'd gone ... they cut me down" – but the verse ends "and I leapt up high; I am the life which will never never die."

Although it is impossible for us to recognise the full implications of the overturning of the old order which Jesus' death and resurrection implies, we can and should try! Imagine your much loved relative not in that coffin 6' down a grave, but before you in a new and recognisable body utterly free from the pain and grief. Imagine a world where people don't fight, but serve and love. Imagine a world where broken families can be and are mended. Imagine a world where all are honoured – poor as well as rich; women as well as men; old and young alike; and where if there were deformities they would be so transcended that they could be a delight. Imagine a world where all the usual man-made rules of what is important are no more, and God is all and in all. It's infinitely more different than caterpillar metamorphosing to butterfly; it's the difference that one man's death and resurrection brings to the whole created order. Come and join the celebration, and live this way not just on Easter Day but every day from now on. That is eternal life. Thanks be to God!

With love and blessings,

Michael

Are you a Crack(ed) Pot?

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

“I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.”

The old woman smiled, “Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side?”

“That’s because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.”

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table.

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.”

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You’ve just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

So, to all of my cracked pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

And send this to any or all of your Cracked Pot friends and don’t forget the Cracked Pot that sent it to you!

John Lambert

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### ***Can do!***

Q: Can you do anything that other people can't?

A: Sure, I can read my handwriting.

### ***Prayer Topics for this Month***

- For **politicians** in the run-up to the General Election: for honesty and leadership
- For those who feel depressed by **relentless commercial pressures**

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Gluten-free wafers at Communion

May we share a seasonal reminder that we always include amongst those consecrated in our Communion Services some gluten-free wafers; if you’d prefer to receive one of these, either let me know beforehand, or at the altar rail. (Apart from speaking, one way to indicate this is to draw a square on the palm of a hand; while normal wafers are round, the gluten-free ones are square!) *Michael Cooke*

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### ***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, 2 April at 7:30 pm. The music will be excerpts from Fauré’s Requiem. All are most welcome.

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From the Registers at St Lawrence’s

27 February Burial of Ashes of the late Barry Brown, late of Chipstead, and who had died aged 67.

5 March Funeral of the late John (‘Jack’) Albert Munton, late of Orchard Cottage, Seal Chart and who had died aged 91

14 March Baptism of Peter Hiroki Clews, infant son of Robert and Yoshiko. We extend to the family our warmest prayers for this new start in their lives.

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### ***All in the month of April***

200 years ago:- on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1810 that German composer Ludwig van Beethoven wrote his famous piano piece ‘Für Elise’.

150 years ago:- on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1860, that W K Kellogg, American breakfast cereal manufacturer, was born.

50 years ago:- on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1960 that Eddie Cochran died – the American rock and roll musician best known for ‘C’mon Everybody’ and ‘Summertime Blues’

10 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> April that the rare Enigma machine, used by the Germans to encrypt messages in World War II, was stolen from Bletchley Park, UK.

The dried pineapple pieces were particularly popular. Once everyone was settled in their seats, Kate Parr, the Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator for Kent gave a brief outline of Christian Aid's work through partner organisations in over 50 countries. As well as enabling long term development work, Christian Aid is one of the first aid agencies on the scene when disaster strikes. Kate updated us on the situation in Haiti and told us about Jacqueline, a mother of three whose home had been destroyed by the earthquake. Through the work of the local partner organisation supported by Christian Aid, she now has food and shelter. and wanted to thank all those who had given money to the Haiti appeal. 'God bless them', she said, 'Thanks for thinking of others. I hope God protects them too.'

The main event of the evening – the film 'High society' - then began. This classic musical from 1954 giving the 'low down on the high life' features many well-known songs such as 'True Love' and 'What a Swell Party' and as we left the cinema at the end of the evening, these melodies stayed with us.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The evening was definitely voted a successful new venture for the local Christian Aid Committee and raised over £750. If you are thinking of arranging a charity-fund raising event which is easy to organise, fun to take part in and financially well worthwhile, I would certainly recommend hiring The Stag cinema for a private film show. You can get the details on the Stag website by phoning 01732 450175 or from the website [www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk).

*Elsbeth Cooke*

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Special Services and Events in April

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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### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

Hello, when I'm not taking bookings for St Lawrence Village Hall or working in London, I am your local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator! This means that Kent police regularly e-mail me with information about crime in the area. This is useful because it makes me aware of what is going on and what I might be able to watch out for and prevent it happening to me.

I would like to be able to forward the information to anyone else in the area who would also find it useful. I am also hoping to be able to provide information on crime prevention if required.

If you would like me to forward the emails I get from the police, to you, please email me at [janandgary1@waitrose.com](mailto:janandgary1@waitrose.com)

You are welcome to pass on my email address to anyone else in the area who would be interested.

*Janice Brooker*

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Easter Flowers

Easter is the time when we associate the flowers in church with loved ones who are no longer with us. If there is anyone who would like to be involved with decorating the church or who would like to give a donation towards the flowers in remembrance, please get in touch with me, Sheila Jackson on 01732 811422.

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### ***St Lawrence Cricket Club***

St Lawrence Cricket Club, whose picturesque ground is in Bitchet Green, would welcome new members for the coming season. The Club plays in the Kent County Village league. Winter nets are held at the indoor sports hall at the Michael's School, Otford every Thursday from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Whatever your age or ability, please contact Club Captain Matt Young on 07727 004565 or Club Secretary Robin Webster on 01892-862017.

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Easter Sunday Service

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Easter Sunday Service, which this year will be an All Age Family Service with Communion at 9.45am. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt afterwards for the children. As in past years, the Easter Collection goes to the Vicarage, as a sign of our appreciation of all that Michael and Elspeth do for the parish.

The Churchwardens, Celeste and Hilary

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***Our Annual Church Meeting*** is held on the last Sunday of April, 25th after the Morning Service. Do come and help review what we have attempted over the past year, and help contribute to our parish's future plans.

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Fun Afternoon - 27 February 2010

On Saturday, 27 February, Christian Mime Artist, Ken Wylie, entertained the local children at the Fun Afternoon which took place at St Lawrence Village Hall.

Following registration, everyone took part in the parachute game during which time, when various instructions were called, children swapped places under the chute before it fell to earth.

After one of the children correctly identified mime as 'acting without talking', Ken Wylie performed a series of mimes to indicate how we can make a difference to people's lives in the world around us

During the first mine, he tried to lift a suitcase that was too heavy and became stuck. When somebody saw he was in trouble, they came and helped him.



He then acted out the planting of a sunflower seed. When watered, the seed took root, grew and then wilted and died. However, many seeds were found in the flower head. The seeds from the dead plant were put into the soil, which in turn grew and bloomed again.



The children worked together to make their own giant sunflower using yellow tissue paper for the petals and rolled up brown tissue paper for the seeds and this will be displayed in the church.

Following refreshments, Ken Wylie acted out the Parable of the Prodigal Son to music, which had been studied the previous week in Sunday School.

He then performed a mime where he smiled at strangers who jostled past him on a busy street, all thinking their own thoughts. He explained that if we were to smile at other people, they may then smile back at us. They, in turn, would smile at others.

After being taught some mime ourselves and learning The Lord's Prayer in mime, parents came to collect their children at 3.45 pm, after a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Celeste

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**Enjoy your Easter Egg**

For anyone with an Easter Egg, here is some good news: chocolate can at least help you prevent a stroke. Just a bar a week will cut the risk of a stroke by more than a fifth. It seems that the food is rich in flavonoids, a health antioxidant. On the other hand, chocolate is rich in saturated fat.... you can't win.

**CHURCHES GARDEN PARTY**

**on SATURDAY 22 MAY 2010 2:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**At Bassetts, Mill Lane, Hildenborough**

**(by kind permission of John and Heather Clemence)**

Please start clearing out your lofts, planting your seeds, preparing your ingredients to donate to the joint garden party!

Stall holders would be grateful for donations as follows

Bric-à-Brac - Books - Tombola - Flowers - Cakes

Plants - Produce - Home Grown Veg - Jams - Savouries

Contact details for stall holders will be listed at the back of church after Easter.

We would love to hear from anyone who would be able to donate some time to help out with a stall, or with teas, childrens' games or setting up and taking down the tables etc. If you would like to help, please give Hilary Denby-Jones a call on 01732 763883 or 07776136678 or email her on hdenbyjones@hotmail.com

**Christian Aid Week (9-15 May) House-to-house Collection**

The House-to-house collection which we shall be having in St Lawrence Parish is an excellent opportunity to raise money which will be channelled through Christian Aid partner organisations to help rebuild lives and livelihoods in the some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.



Could you be part of the team of collectors in the parish this year? It just involves delivering envelopes to a small number of houses early in the week and then calling back to collect them. An hour or two collecting from a few local houses could raise enough to make a significant difference to the life of someone in a developing country. The more collectors we have, the easier the task, so please give prayerful consideration to helping. Perhaps you could do it with a friend. If you can help, or if you'd like to know more about what is involved, please contact me. If you live outside the parish and would prefer to collect in your own local area, do please still contact me and I can put you in touch with the organiser for your area. More collectors are needed in all areas. Thank you.

*Elsbeth Cooke (Tel: 761766)*

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Successful Christian Aid Charity Film Evening

A new venture for Sevenoaks Christian Aid Committee was the sell-out charity film evening at The Stag cinema on 12th March. Guests were welcomed with Fairtrade refreshments - fruit juice and a range of nibbles both sweet and savoury.