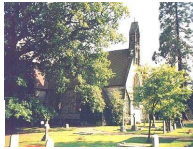


*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during May 2012*



In the Church, every Thursday at 08:30, Morning Prayer (said) - CW

Sunday	6 May	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	13 May	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		18:00	Evensong	BCP
Thursday	17 May	10:00	Holy Communion for Ascension Day	CW
Sunday	20 May	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	27 May	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	3 June	11:15	All Age Family Service	

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Priest in Charge - Revd Carol Kitchener - 761766

Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534

Admin Asst - Mrs Susie Steyn - 07855 727093 - admin@stlawrencesealchart.com.

Parish Web Site - www.sealstlawrence.org.uk.

Churchwardens	Celeste Davis-Watling 820190 Ron Drury 810214	S'oaks District Councillors	Julia Thornton 07831 234449 Roderick Hogarth 760325
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 Tony Bulleid
Choir Director	John Morris 810227	St Lawrence Village Association	
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Peter Wharton 810388	Chairman	Graham Moynes 760640
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Ron Drury 810214 Peter Wharton 810388	Secretary	Carol Smith 763561
Sunday School	Hilary Darque 453929 Lyn Holness 764210	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee	
Child Protection Rep	Sam Drury 810214	Chairman	Peter Wharton 810388
deputy	Gretel Wakeham 761534	Secretary	Charlotte Sinclair 764285
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson 811422	Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
St Lawrence CE Primary School		Bookings Secretary	Patricia Wilson 761282
Headteacher	Alison Saunders 761393	Cricknet 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 761393	Bowls Club	Peter Granville 763832
St Lawrence Pre-School	Becky Stammers 763289	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham 761534
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell 01959 523953	Archery Club Secretary	Mike Davies 762266
		Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	
		Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker 760843
		Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell 764202

Copy for the next issue should be sent, preferably by e-mail, to the editor, Brian Sutton (01732 450873) at manofkent99@yahoo.com or brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk

to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 16 May 2012

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 27 May 2012**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
May 2012*



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From our Vicar

Last month we celebrated Easter with the resurrection of Jesus and the joy of new life and new hope. This month we continue to journey with Jesus and the disciples through the six weeks he spent with them before leaving them to join his Father in heaven. On the 17th May (10 am at St Margaret's Church) we will be remembering Jesus' ascension into heaven. This is one of the occasions when we struggle to understand what happened, how did he go to heaven? Luke gives us an account, Jesus was with his disciples in the outskirts of Bethany one day and he began to bless them and as he did so he was '...taken up into heaven'. The disciples were filled with joy and went off to Jerusalem. When they got there, they went to the Temple and remained there continually praising God. We might have expected them to be devastated by their loss, he had after all finally gone from them, but that was not their response - they trusted Jesus and they knew that he was going to send them help for the work that was to come.

We are not able to see Jesus standing before us in person as they had, but we can still know Jesus in our lives. If we ask him to come and be a part of our lives then we can know his peace and joy every day. Having Jesus in our lives will not stop hard things from happening to us, but having him there will help us to manage those things with courage, peace and reassurance.

When we look at our troubled world it is sometimes difficult to see God's presence. Many people struggle and suffer through each and every day of their lives. We see violence, hunger and injustice prevailing in some places and we watch powerful people abuse the rights of others. But, there is more than one story to be told about our world because we can see people working selflessly on behalf of others. We see them working in aid camps; in the business of reconciliation; in peace brokering and peace keeping. This month we have an opportunity to contribute to their work amongst the neediest people of the world - from the 13th to 19th May it will be Christian Aid Week. You will receive an envelope through your door - please give generously so that people living in desperate circumstances might have better lives. Many who struggle and suffer are people of faith, but they need more than faith to sustain them, although faith can help - they need practical help. Please give generously to Christian Aid, remembering that we need to be the hands of God in the world today.

Yours in the love of Christ

FOR THE CHILDREN

Mouse Makes

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost there was a noise from the sky which sounded like the blowing of a **violent wind** and what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and touched each person.

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE
ACTS 2:17

Read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-41

The wind has mixed up these puzzle pieces. Cut them out and rearrange into a flame shaped picture

May12

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 'Grace' released for Commonwealth Day

A specially-written grace has been released to use at Big Jubilee Lunches this summer. The Grace, made public on Commonwealth Day, gives thanks for the Queen's life of service to the nation and Commonwealth, and invites God's blessing on the food communities and on all those taking part in local Big Jubilee Lunches.

The Grace will be prayed by millions of people throughout the Commonwealth on Sunday, June 3rd, before they share a Big Jubilee Lunch in their communities. It can be used in part or in its entirety. By including words of blessing "on the people beside us", it doesn't assume that everyone will say the prayer, which is said in Jesus' name.'

As one church leader said: "Millions of people in the 54 Commonwealth states will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and sharing food together to mark this special occasion. Together we thank God for the Queen and for the good things God gives us. Saying the Diamond Jubilee Grace together before we eat acknowledges that God is our loving provider.'

The grace reads:

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, we give you thanks for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth; for her steadfast faith and for her royal service to this nation and all the peoples of the Commonwealth.

Bless the food before us and the people beside us; may the sharing of this meal strengthen our communities, and nurture the bonds between us of friendship, hope and trust. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who reigns as servant of all.

Amen

Note: The text of the grace is available on the Church of England website www.diamondjubilee.churchofengland.org.

Presentation versions of the grace may be downloaded and printed by all wishing to use it from the HOPE website: <http://www.hopetogether.org.uk>.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Blooming Jubilee Celebration

In response to a suggestion from John Morris our PCC has agreed to support the planting of wildflowers in the churchyard as part of our St Lawrence Jubilee celebrations. We propose seeding "arcs" radiating from the area of the founder's graves towards the new ashes burial plot. Part of this area has already been cleared and a seed bed is being prepared. Fortunately, wild flowers require poor soil! Different varieties of seed mix will be used in an attempt to extend the flowering period and assess which are most suitable for our conditions. We have also purchased some plugs and pre-seeded mats to discover which system gives the best growth and establishment of the flowers.

This project will also provide an opportunity for children at the school to become involved. Head teacher Alison and several parents are keen to encourage this involvement. Children can help with seeding and planting some areas. They will be able to monitor the resulting crops of flowers to determine what species should be sown in following years. It may also be possible for them to harvest seed heads for further sowing.

We hope that this project will make a lasting memory of this historic jubilee year and enhance the beauty of our country churchyard.

Eric

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Major new report seeks to protect church schools

Church schools are at the heart of the nation, and should robustly assert their Christian ethos and foundation, according to recommendations included in a groundbreaking report published by the Church of England.

The Church, which is responsible for more than 4,800 schools across the country, educates more than a million pupils and schools are increasingly in the front line of its work in communities.

The report, 'The Church School of the Future', has taken evidence from dioceses, school leaders, politicians and other stakeholders with an interest in education. Launched in late March, it says the challenge for all existing Church schools, and any new schools, is to maintain their distinctive Christian character in an increasingly fragmented education system and amid strong attacks from secularists.

And it warns against a 'utilitarian' approach to education where economic pressures risk forcing a narrow view of pupils' ability to develop and learn both academically and spiritually. While giving firm backing to the current Government's drive to raise attainment, the report describes the administration's approach to religious education as 'disappointing' and calls for a new strategy to improve teaching and learning in RE.

A Church to be Proud of

Visitors often comment on the beauty of our Church and its well cared for look. We are very lucky to have a rota of volunteers, who take their turn, every few months or so, to clean and care for it!

It takes about an hour and includes tidying, dusting, hoovering and mopping-Simple! It can be done whenever it suits you (preferably towards the end of the week) and may I encourage young helpers, by adding that it IS feasible to Church clean with children in tow?! They don't help much, but they DO seem to love it!!

Please let me know, or sign up on the list on the notice board at the back of the Church. Thank, in advance.

Carol McLintock Tel. 452964

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Sevenoaks Living Landscape Project

I am involved in a local community led Kent Wildlife Trust project called The Sevenoaks Living Landscape. Although it has been going for a couple of years we feel we need to tell people more about it. The aim is to provide information, support and advice to everyone in the local area on how they can do things to make our area a better place for wildlife. Our ambition is to link our three reserves in the area, Sevenoaks, Bough Beech and Ivy Hatch, with really well managed land between them all. This includes villages, towns as well as the countryside.

As the winter draws to an end so does the opportunity to plant new hedges but it is also a good time to start thinking about where hedges might be planted or gaps in existing hedges filled in next winter. Blackthorn is one of the first hedgerow plants to come into flower, followed by hawthorn and dog rose as the hedge continues to green up. Hedges of mixed native species provide an invaluable habitat for a range of wildlife. For instance many of the small isolated woodlands in the area will be home to dormice. A good hedge will mean that the isolated populations of dormice can move from one wood to another. Dormice live all their lives in trees and hedges, only coming to the ground to hibernate in the winter. They cannot cross open ground so need a well wooded area and corridors to survive. These wildlife corridors benefit other species too. Bats have been shown to start hunting earlier in the evening where there is a good thick hedge as they are protected from their predators. This means they eat more and have a greater opportunity to breed successfully. A great many of our rarer woodland butterflies and moths will benefit from a really good hedge giving sunny feeding spots on uncut hedges.

There are grants and advice available for putting in hedges and carrying out other conservation work such as putting in ponds. The Sevenoaks Living Landscape project is a community led Kent Wildlife Trust project that can give advice to

book of Revelation and this remarkable and breath-taking tapestry of Graham Sutherland tell us that right will triumph over might, and Christ alone has that right. In this month of May we proclaim that truth: Jesus our risen and ascended Lord, the one who triumphs over death and darkness. Right vanquishes might as we sing with the four living creatures:

‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the almighty, who was and is and is to come.’

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A Cascade of Prayer along with the Olympic Torch

The Olympic Torch relay starts at Land’s End on 19 May. It will be carried on a 70-day journey across the UK, arriving at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.

As the torch begins its journey across the UK, so too will a prayer relay. Christian leaders will launch a cascade of prayer at Land’s End. They will then travel to the next main torch-stopping place (Plymouth). Here they will bring prayers of blessing and hand on a symbolic prayer baton to Christian leaders there. This simple process will continue day by day. That means, the next day, Plymouth leaders will travel to Exeter – and so on through the 70 days.

It means each community receives and releases prayers of blessing. It is up to the churches in each place that receives the baton to decide when and how the prayer chain of blessing is moved on. The More than Gold local link person can be contacted through torch@morethangold.org.uk.

JUBILEE 'BIG LUNCH'

A community event for all the family

BBQ, childrens' events, games

Monday 4 June 2012

12.30 pm to 4 pm

Venue: St Lawrence Cricket Club, Bitchet Green

The Coventry Tapestry

On the night of 14 November 1940 German bombs hit Coventry and reduced the cathedral, with its fine tower and spire, to a burnt out shell. The war over, plans for a new building were thrown open to competition, and the architect appointed was Basil Spence. In the space of just six years – 1956-1962 – the new cathedral was built. It was set at right angles to the old, which now serves as a forecourt.

Epstein's 'St Michael and Lucifer' dominate the entrance wall, and there is a sense that we leave the charred cross and nails, the signs of destruction and darkness, outside in the old cathedral, and enter the new building as the world of resurrection celebrating life eternal. Basil Spence invited the leading artists of the day – John Piper, John Hutton and others – to produce glass and sculpture that would create that transition. He had in mind the impact made on entering the wondrous churches of Ravenna, but it was the Provost of the cathedral who suggested the theme of Christ in Glory for the tapestry above the main altar.

The work of designing that was given to Graham Sutherland. He had been employed as a war artist in the very year that the bombs devastated Coventry. Sutherland had converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926, and so his faith and experiences combined to inspire several ecclesiastical commissions including a Crucifixion for St Matthew's Church, Northampton, and this work for the new cathedral.

At 74 feet in length, it was at the time the largest tapestry in the world, and dominating it is the seated figure of the Christ of Revelation chapter 4. His eyes look out and down the chancel and nave. As we draw closer, we see the four evangelists surrounding Jesus. And there are other details easily missed: above Christ is the dove whose rays flow down upon the head of Jesus; between the feet of Christ there is a man – a sign of the new creation; and below that the serpent in the chalice.

At the side, above the head of the roaring lion of St Mark, we see St Michael vanquishing the evil one. There is glory – a glory shown in the figure of Christ, the rays of the Holy Spirit, the dazzling chalice, and the four Gospel writers. But it is glory achieved at a cost – we see that in the marks of the nails on the feet of Jesus, the poisoned chalice that St John was told he must drink, and the grotesque evil figure trapped by St Michael.

The book of Revelation that ends our New Testament is a strange, disturbing series of visions and nightmares. One moment St John is on earth, where there is suffering and darkness for the faithful. The next, he is caught up into heaven where all is splendour and light. The battle of light and darkness below seems to reach up to the heavenly courts, where the liturgy is celebrated. And where the

local people on how they can best help to improve habitats for wildlife. We are also looking for keen volunteers to help us to promote our work so if you are interested in finding out more please do give me a ring.

There will be an illustrated talk, "Heath and Woodlands", on wildlife in this special habitat, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 29th May, in Stone Street Village Hall. Everyone welcome. Tel. 01732 463372 for more information. *Fidelity Weston*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Humour

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher explained that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human,

It was physically impossible, she repeated.

"When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah", said the little girl,

The teacher asked: "What if Jonah went to hell"?

"Well then" the little girl replied, "you ask him".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Next time your train is delayed

Autumn blows wet leaves onto the line; winter dumps the "wrong kind of snow" on the line. Now that it is May, a new threat stalks our railways.... beware the dandelions!

Millions of dandelion seeds become tiny parachutes that are swept up into the air and start gusting about in clouds. When a train ploughs into this cloud, it sucks up vast numbers, which block the air filters. The train then overheats, stopping it in its –er – tracks. A spokesman for York-based Grand Central Trains says that when this last happened, the engines were so packed with dandelion seeds that "they looked like Shaun the Sheep."

The prize for daft reasons for stopping trains, however, still remains with the train driver who stopped his train for half an hour between Fenchurch St and Southend, complaining that the sun was "too bright".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for his people. *A W Tozer*



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

Every Tuesday at 08:30, in the Church, Morning Prayer (said), (CW)

Sunday	6 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter		
	08:00	Holy Communion		BCP
		Acts 8: 26-40	John 15: 1-8	
	09:45	All Age Family service (children in church)		
		Acts 8: 26-40		
Wednesday	9 May	Prayer Time (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)		
	14:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green		
Sunday	13 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter		
	09:45	Family Communion		CW
		Acts 10: 44-end	John 15 9-17	
Thursday	17 May	Ascension Day		
	10:00	Holy Communion (at St Margaret's Underriver)		CW
		Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24: 44-end	
Sunday	20 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter		
	08:00	Holy Communion		CW
		Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end	John 17 6-19	
	09:45	All Age Family Service (with Sunday School)		
		Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end		
Thursday	24 May	Prayer Time (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)		
	14:00	At St Lawrence Vicarage		
Sunday	27 May	Pentecost		
	09:45	Matins		BCP
		Psalm 104: 26-end Acts 2: 1-21	John 15:26-27 16: 4b-15	
Sunday	3 June	Trinity Sunday		
	08:00	Holy Communion		BCP
		Isaiah 6: 1-8	John 3: 1-17	
	09:45	All Age Family Service (children in church)		
		John 3: 1-17		

The Cover Picture

On the top of the Mount of Olives stands an octagonal building which has long been revered as the Chapel of the Ascension.

Early Christians gathered in secret to commemorate Christ's ascension in a small cave on the Mount of Olives. In 313 the Emperor Constantine made it possible for Christians to worship without fear of persecution and in the latter days of the fourth century a Byzantine church was built. It was destroyed by the Persians in the early 7th century, rebuilt in the late 7th century, destroyed and rebuilt again by the crusaders only to be destroyed by Saladin in the 1180s. All that remained then was the 12 metre octagonal structure which stands to this day.

It was abandoned by the Christians and became a mosque. Today it remains under Muslim control with a Muslim custodian and is still recognised as a mosque although a majority of the pilgrims who visit the site are Christian.

The spire in the background is that of the Russian Orthodox Church at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

Ed

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Church Flowers

Sunday 6 May	Jean Stirling
Sunday 13 May	Jean Stirling
Sunday 20 May	Sheila Jackson
Sunday 27 May	Wedding
Sunday 3 June	Gill Beynon

***St LAWRENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL
meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45***

20 May	Sunday School	Hilary & Lyn
17 June	Sunday School	Wendy & Lyn
16 September	Sunday School	Hilary & Lesley

For further information contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Lyn Holness (764210)

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