

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during August 2013*



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

Sunday	4 Aug	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	11 Aug	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		18:00	Evensong	
Sunday	18 Aug	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	25 Aug	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	1 Sept	11:15	All Age Open Air Service	

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Vicar - Revd Carol Kitchener - 01732 761766

Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 01732 761534

Admin Assistant - Tim Pearce - 01732 832408 admin@stlawrencealchart.com

Parish Website - www.sealstlawrence.org.uk

Churchwardens	Ron Drury (vacancy)	810214	S'oaks District Councillors	Julia Thornton 07831 234449 Roderick Hogarth 760325
PCC Hon Secretary	John Morris	810227	Seal Parish Council	
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	763436	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	Secretary	Carol Smith 763561
	Peter Wharton	810388	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee	
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	Chairman	Peter Wharton 810388
Child Protection Rep	Sam Drury	810214	Secretary	Charlotte Sinclair 764285
deputy	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Bookings Secretary	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
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Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton 810388
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson	810050	Bowls Club	Peter Granville 763832
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	761393	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham 761534
St Lawrence Pre-School	Becky Stammers	763289	Archery Club Secretary	Mike Davies 762266
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	
			Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker 760843
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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 14 Aug 2013

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 25 Aug 2013**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
August 2013*



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Our Vicar's Page

“Yes. I remember Adelstrop the name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there...

And willows, willow-herb, and grass, and meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No wit less still and lonely fair than the high cloudlets in the sky.
And for that minute a blackbird sang close by, and round him mistier,
Father and father, all the birds... (Edward Thomas: “Adelstrop”)

In the height of summer there is a different quality to the light and the world seems to be full of colour. Children have the time to play outside in the sunshine and adults linger in the garden not wanting to go back into the house again. I can remember how long the days were, when I was a child, when I felt that I had all the time in the world to do the things I wanted to do!

Now, as an adult, time seems to rush by - I find it hard to believe that we are now more than half way through the year and that the next Christmas is just months away. It makes me conscious of how precious time is and how important it is to live in and enjoy the moment.

We are all inclined to spend time looking back at the past, or looking forward to future - anticipating what we hope will come and not actually living each day. We only get one opportunity for life and we really need to make the most of that opportunity, savouring each day as it arrives. The extract from Thomas' poem “Adelstrop” captures a moment when Thomas' train stopped on a summer's day and a blackbird started to sing. It freezes that moment in time for us to return to again and again when we read the words, we can go back to summertime for a moment even if we read his poem in the depths of winter.

In Luke 12: 22ff we hear Jesus speaking “...do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body more than clothing.” He went on to say “Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” Jesus came to show people what God's Kingdom was like. The Kingdom of God is a place where people care about each other more than they care about themselves. It is a place where the sick will be healed and set free from all that constrains them. It is a place where people can be set free from the things that damage them – regrets, fears, sorrows. It is a place where we should live and enjoy each day for God will take care of tomorrow.

So, enjoy each and every day this summer and trust that God will take care of tomorrow.

Yours in the love of Christ 



Church Flowers



Sunday	4	Aug	Roz Morris
Sunday	11	Aug	Weddings
Sunday	18	Aug	Pat Edgehill
Sunday	25	Aug	Pat Edgehill
Sunday	1	Sept	Jean Stirling

Tents don't have plugs

Many children refuse to go camping because there is nowhere to charge their phones, watch TV or access the internet. Unlike their children, four out of ten adults like the simple pleasures of camping and a third said it let them ‘escape’. The study was by E.On, who is working with the Scout Association to create a tent which uses wind turbines and solar panels to produce power.

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Young – and alone online

Children spend twice as long online as their parents think that they do – and start using the internet at the average age of three. More than a quarter of them pretend to be older, in order to access some sites. This news comes at a time of rising concern that our children may be viewing self-harm material, violent pornography, animal cruelty and eating disorder websites. In fact, many children are now spending so much time online that one in three is struggling to read a book.

The survey was done by the parenting site Net-mums.com. It was also found that more than a third of children admit they begin to get ‘angry and grumpy’ when they cannot get online, and one in five has admitted that they spend more time in the virtual world than with people.

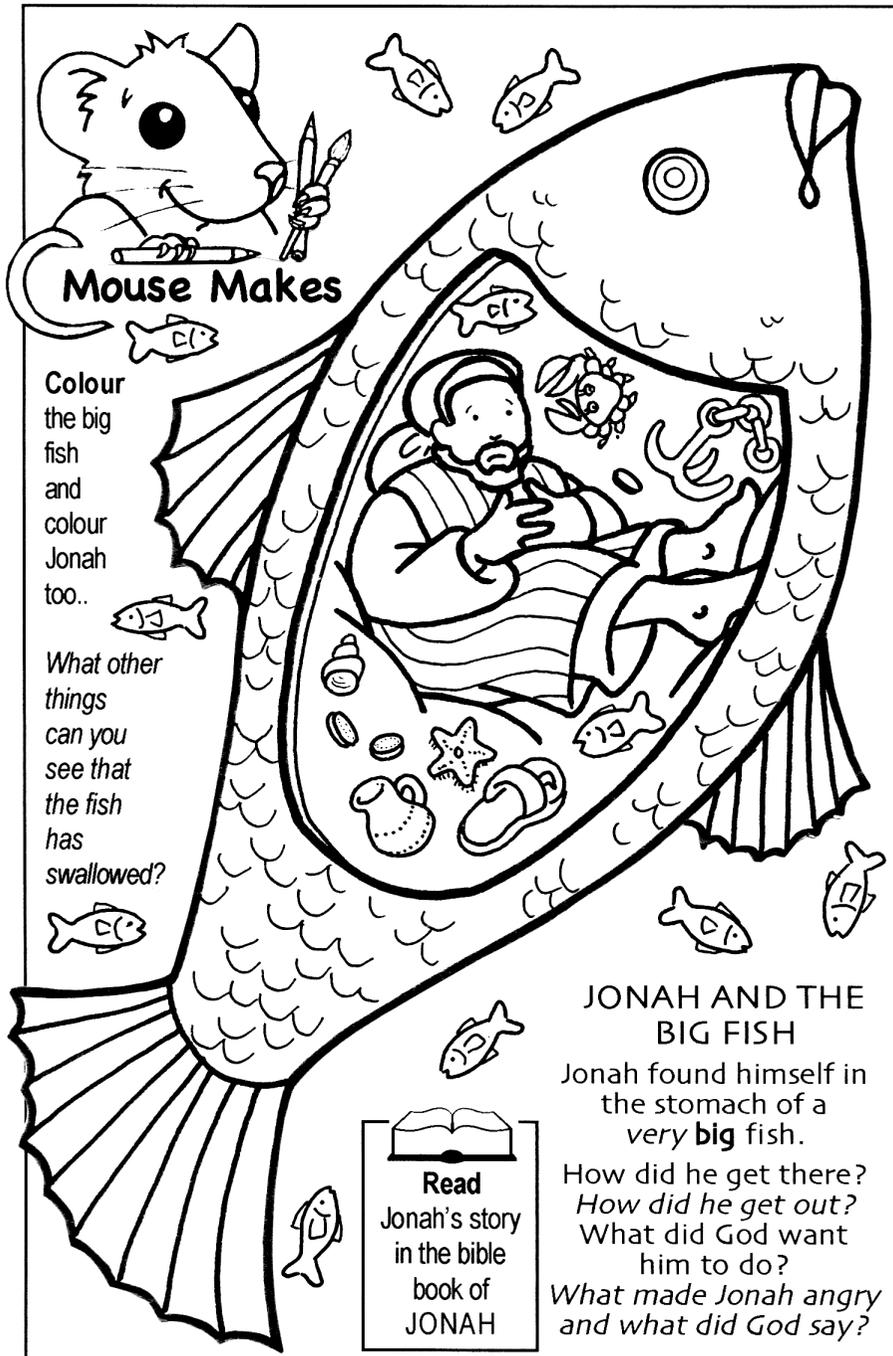


Your Prayers are asked for . . .



**a volunteer to be our church treasurer;
all who find it difficult to make ends meet;
all who are sick in body or mind;
all children going on to secondary education;
Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

FOR THE CHILDREN.....



YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Village Hall Management Committee

urgently requires a willing volunteer

to fill the vacancy of

Bookings Secretary

Please contact Peter Wharton on 01732 810388

if you can help.

St LAWRENCE QUIET DAY

on Saturday 21 September 2013

09:30 - 12:30

in The Church Room, St Mary's, Platt

Led by Rev Chris Kitchener.

A JAZZ CONCERT

by

The Robert Reid Trio

on Tuesday 6 August 2013 at 7:30 pm

Tickets £15 (£12.50 if purchased before 23 July)

Children 14 and under £7.50

(A Glass of Wine and Refreshments included)

Tickets from

Tony Webb 01732 763436

Ron Drury 01732 810214

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE !!!

Our Church is in desperate need of a Treasurer

to take over from Tony Webb who is unable

to continue beyond the end of July 2013.

Would you be willing to take on this task

or do you know someone who might.

If you think you can help please ring Ron

on 01732 819214

St Lawrence (or St Laurence)

Some years ago, there was an article in our parish magazine which posed the question ‘So who was St Lawrence’ and went on to recount the traditional story of St Lawrence of Rome who was martyred during the persecution of Valerian in 258 AD. Legend tells us that he was roasted on a grid iron.

But there are at least ten other ‘St Lawrence’ (or ‘St Laurence’) one of whom was born in the latter days of the twelfth century and whose saint day is also celebrated on 16 August. He was Laurence Loricatus (c. 1190 – 1243).

Have you done something bad which haunts you? Does the memory of it still follow you through each day – and keep you awake at night? If so, then Laurence Loricatus is the saint for you. He was born at Facciolo (Apulia) in Southern Italy and as a youth he killed a man.

After that, life changed forever for Laurence. His guilt overwhelmed him, and he decided to expiate for it. He made the long and difficult pilgrimage to Compostella, but found no relief. So he became a hermit at Subiaco – cutting himself off from all the comforts of normal life. But he found no relief. So then he began to wear not a hairshirt, but a coat of chainmail next to his skin. It was a heavy, unyielding weight which bruised and rubbed his skin raw.

Laurence hated himself and would not forgive himself, though God had forgiven him years before. He is a caution to anyone in the same situation today. His continued ‘penance’ did no one any good. The suffering absorbed hours of his attention, and got him nowhere.

When we do something we regret, of course God wants us to repent of it. But then he wants us to put it behind us. Our bad deed needs to be quarantined and left behind in our lives. If we won’t put it down, our life becomes focused on our hatred of ourselves, instead of on God’s love for us. It took the Pope years to get Laurence to take off that chain-shirt. *Ed*

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Alpha Course in Ghana Prisons

Michael Kofi Bansah, Director General of Ghana Prison Service, has allowed the Alpha Course to be used in all 43 prisons in the country and instructed all chaplains to attend Alpha, along with volunteer churches. 309 officers and 559 inmates have attended Alpha. Bansah said: ‘We cannot afford to miss such an opportunity to bring to faith our unfortunate brothers and sisters in our custody, as part of fulfilling our mandate of reformation and rehabilitation. What the law has failed to do, faith in Christ Jesus can restore.’

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Water is getting scarcer

It’s that time of the year when water is very much on our minds. Either we have been enjoying the summer sunshine too much and have to compensate with a hose-pipe ban or there’s too much of the stuff and we’re all complaining that summers are just not what they used to be. Well, I don’t know about that – I can remember many a seaside holiday in Devon, dressed in our pacamacs and wishing we were somewhere else dry and warm.

Water is so important to our daily lives and to our worship. From the moment we enter the church there is the font where our spiritual life begins. Water is also part of the Eucharist. For other faiths it is an important part of preparing for worship.

Each year water becomes more important and there is no getting away from the fact that there is no such thing as ‘new’ water. Whatever rains today has rained before. There is the same amount now as when the world began, but the demands on it grow by the day. And yet we turn on a tap and assume it will start to flow – as much as we may demand.

But around the world there is an increasing awareness of the links between water and food now we know that 70% of all global freshwater is used in agriculture. That’s fine if the rest of demands fit within the 30% left. But people at the United Nations are estimating that food demands will increase by 60% by the middle of this century and then the figures don’t add up and the world will really be short of water. Population growth, shifts towards more water-intensive diets, not to mention rising requirements for water to produce energy for industry and homes all increase demand for limited water resources while more variable climate make their availability in the right quantity at the right time less reliable.

Latest estimates have put food waste in the world at 1.3 billion tonnes - a huge amount and if all that food has involved water then that means a lot of wasted water.

What we have to hope is that those responsible for food chains are totally committed to reducing waste and we should remember that the last link in the food chain is in our homes. If we waste food then we are wasting water too. Yes, it can be a pain if it rains on our holiday or the lawn is parched, but if we remember that water is a very special part of our worship that should help us to realise it is something we should value - every single drop!

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Somebody finally invented a a solar-powered laundry dryer. It’s called a ‘clothes line’

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The Way I See It: Don't just stand there, do nothing!

August is, of course, the great holiday month in Britain. Families, constrained by the school holidays, pay over the odds to arrange a week or two at the seaside or on a Mediterranean beach. Older people and singles breathe a sigh of relief as it seems that half the population has decamped elsewhere and they've got the park, shops and golf course to themselves. Either way, it's a change of routine, a break from the relentless round of the everyday. August, whatever else we may think of it, is different.

We call it a 'holiday' month, or perhaps more accurately a month of holidays. That word is important, because obviously it was once 'holy days', the whole idea of stipulated days of rest being a religious invention. It started with the Jewish 'Sabbath', the seventh day of the week - the one when the Creator, in the biblical story, 'rested' from his work of bringing everything into existence. As a consequence, it was decreed that the seventh day of the week should be a universal day of rest, when human toil was suspended (even for slaves), animals were set free from their daily labour in field or treadmill, and for that precious twenty-four hours there would be space and time to be ourselves.

Jesus said that the 'Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath' - it was never meant to be an irksome burden, but a blessing. It took the ingenuity of religious heresy hunters to turn that glorious opportunity into an impenetrable code of rules. But the principle survived. Most cultures have followed the Jewish example of a weekly day of rest, including of course the Christian translation of the Sabbath to Sunday, the day of the resurrection. There followed, over the long centuries of Christian history, the introduction of many other holy days, to commemorate the saints, or particular events in the life of Jesus - Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost and so on. Holy days, like the original Sabbath, gave people time and space to be themselves, to think and pray, to enjoy family and friends and to give thanks to the God who invented the whole idea.

All of this may seem a long way from the modern package holiday, or indeed Sunday as people now experience it in the aisles of IKEA rather than an ancient church. But it doesn't have to be. Wherever we go this month and whatever we do, space and time are likely to be under less pressure than during the other eleven months of the year. It is up to us how we use them, of course, but rest, reflection, meditation and prayer have proven healing qualities. Turning part of our holidays into holy days will probably lower our blood pressure and raise our spirits. Well, it's surely worth a try!

David Winter

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Are you hungry? Don't shop for food! You'll be too tempted by high calorie food. Instead, eat something and wait for a bit.... then you'll be safe to be let loose in the food aisles. The study was done at Cornell University in New York.

John Bunyan – the man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic. Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From then the Bible became the inspiration of his life. He wrote over than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.'

So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

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Why I can't come to work today....

What excuses have you given your boss as to why you have to stay home? Some people excel themselves: from citing hallucinations to a clothes peg stuck on a toe to a dog that ate the shoes.



***Services and Events at
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart
during August 2013***

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

Thursday	1 Aug	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome) At The Vicarage	
	14:00		
Sunday	4 Aug	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Holy Communion Colossians 3: 1-11	Luke 12: 13-21 BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service Luke 12: 13-21	
Sunday	11 Aug	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Family Communion Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16	Luke 12: 32-40 CW
Tuesday	13 Aug	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome) At The White House, Bitchet Green	
	10:00		
Sunday	18 Aug	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Family Communion Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2	Luke 12: 49-56 CW
Sunday	25 Aug	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Matins Hebrews 12: 18-end	Luke 13: 10-17 BCP
Thursday	29 Aug	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome) At The Vicarage	
	14:00		
Sunday	1 Sept	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Holy Communion Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16	Luke 14: 1, 7-14 BCP
	09:45	All Age Family Service Luke 14: 1, 7-14	

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

Cover Picture - The Synagogue, Sardis

As the capital city of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, Sardis was one of the important cities of the Persian Empire and later the seat of a proconsul under the Roman Empire, and maintained its importance though into Byzantine times. As one of the Seven churches of Asia, it was addressed by the author of the Book of Revelation in terms which seem to imply that its population was notoriously soft and fainthearted.

Disaster came in AD 17 when Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake, but it was rebuilt and became one of the great cities of western Asia Minor until the later Byzantine period.

When Constantinople became the capital of the East, a new road system grew up connecting the provinces with the capital and Sardis lost some of its importance.

Throughout the middle ages the city suffered a number of changes of ruler, the Turks, the Comneni, the Venetians and Franks until in 1204 it again came under the rule of the Byzantine Empire. The whole area suffered some two hundred years of neglect until the early 1400s when Sardis was captured and almost certainly destroyed by the Mongols.

By the 19th century, Sardis was in ruins, with only a small amount of Roman ruins remaining until in 1910-14 an archaeological expedition from the USA unearthed a temple to Artemis, and more than a thousand Lydian tombs. In 1914 all work ceased due to World War I and the Turkish War of Independence.

Annual expeditions were resumed in 1958 and these have unearthed perhaps the most impressive synagogue yet discovered from antiquity, yielding over eighty Greek and seven Hebrew inscriptions as well as numerous mosaic floors. The discovery of the Sardis synagogue has reversed previous assumptions about Judaism in the later Roman empire. It provides indisputable evidence for the continued presence of Jewish communities in Asia Minor and their integration into general Roman life at a time when many scholars previously assumed that Christianity had eclipsed Judaism.

The synagogue was a section of a large bath-gymnasium complex that was in use for about 450 – 500 years. During the first half of the 2nd century AD, the rooms surrounding the synagogue were used as changing rooms or resting rooms. .

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St LAWRENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL



*Children meet promptly at 09:45
in St Lawrence School Hall on the dates shown in bold and will then rejoin
their parents in the church towards the end of the service.
Other dates are for information
All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome
For further information contact Hilary Darque [01732 453929]*

4 Aug All Age Service

1 Sept All Age Service

15 Sept **Sunday School**

The Lost Sheep

Wendy & Hilary