

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during November 2014*



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

Sunday	2 Nov	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Monday	3 Nov	20:00	All Souls' Service	
Sunday	9 Nov	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		10:55	Service of Remembrance	
Sunday	16 Nov	10:30	Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	23 Nov	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	30 Nov	11:15	All Age Advent Service (with Posada)	

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 Rob Otto	810214 457442	1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953
PCC Hon Secretary	John Morris	810227	S'oaks District Councillors	Julia Thornton	07831 234449
PCC Hon Treasurer	Andy Rowell	884950		Roderick Hogarth	760325
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Seal Parish Council		
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris	810227	Chairman	Robin Watson	833930
Organist	Lizzie Veglio	01634 244700	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
Choir Director	John Morris	810227	Clerk	Lorna Talbot	763488
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville	763832
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Ron Drury Peter Wharton	810214 810388		Tony Bulleid	
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
Child Protection Rep	Kate Clark	810829	Chairman	Peter Wharton	810388
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Secretary	Janice Brooker	760843
			Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Bookings Secretary	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Cricknet Club Secretary	Robin Webster	01892 862017
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson	810050	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton	810388
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	761393	Archery Club Secretary	Mike Davies	762266
St Lawrence Pre-School	Becky Stammers	763289	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
to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 19 November 2014

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 30 November 2014**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
November 2014*



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

Vicar

The Revd Carol Kitchener
St Lawrence Vicarage
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Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ
01732 761766

Reader

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The White House
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Our Vicar's Page

In November we find ourselves in a largely contemplative season as we look back and take stock. On the 3rd of November at 8pm at St Margaret's Church Underriver, we will have our joint All Souls Service. This provides an occasion to remember the people we have loved and lost - family members and friends. In the quietness of the service we will have an opportunity to remember the many ways they impacted on our lives, the things that still bring smiles to our faces and tears to our eyes. All Souls Day is an occasion to thank God for the people we have loved and lost and then let them go, once again, into God's safe hands.

Remembrance Sunday will be on the 9th November this year and we will be remembering the sacrifices made by people in the world wars of the 20th century and in the conflicts that have followed until the present day. It will be especially poignant this year with the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1. The majority of those who die in armed conflicts are very young and we have evidence on that on our war memorials of lives only half lived. These services provide us with an opportunity to recommit to peace and to living our lives anew.

On the 23rd November we will be celebrating the feast of Christ the King – an occasion to celebrate the risen Christ, remembering the way his Kingship became apparent just before his death. Pilate made this statement at Jesus' trial, "You are a king, then!" (John 18:37). This will be the last Sunday before the season of Advent begins.

Advent Sunday will be on Sunday the 30th November and this will begin a new year in the church calendar. On that Sunday we will be sending out our Posada figures, Mary and Joseph, to travel from house to house around the parish and in the town through the month of December. They will arrive back in church on Christmas Eve at the Crib and Crib and Christingle services.

Please do come and join us at our many services during November, you will be made welcome in either of our churches, at any of our services (see the details elsewhere in the magazine, or on our church website).

Yours in the love of Christ



congregations in the discussions that are taking place. We would need to agree about what we might like to share together, or what we would like to commit to and this would be part of our application should we decide to go ahead. I would appreciate you coming (if you can) to a joint Away Morning to help to shape this. We will be meeting on the 8th November at Platt Church Room (adjacent to the church in St Mary Platt) from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.

If we came to the decision that it would be right for our churches to become a Joint Benefice there would be a process to go through, which might take some months. The change could be made by what is called a Pastoral Scheme, and it would need the agreement of both PCCs. The diocese would then have to make the decision to proceed at the Pastoral Committee (that would come with a recommendation by the archdeacon); Bishop James would then have to send the required paperwork to the Church Commissioners; the Commissioners would ask the parishes to consult locally, to see if there are any objections; then the Commissioners would take the final decision. The process could take 3-4 months, or maybe longer? The diocesan secretary has already been informally approached by the archdeacon and would be agreeable to this change should we decide to make it. The archdeacon wondered why this had not happened 20 years ago when the churches were linked together with the same vicar?

Please come to the Away Morning, if you possibly can, and please pray about this.

Carol

~ ~ ~

Thank you, Mark - An update

On 21st September, Mark Sheridan gave an inspirational talk in church about his long distance swimming achievements, and his recent ill health resulting in major surgery. As a result of this, Mark was told that he would not swim long distances again. It is amazing to think that from such a devastating turn of events, Mark has recently gone on to swim the English Channel. Mark recalled how he had found great strength and support from our church, and his own Faith during this time of difficulty, and I believe that this is something we can all take heart from, even if most of us will never swim the Channel.

The evening raised £500.00 for Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, and we are incredibly grateful to Mark for all of the hard work that went into the evening. I know that I left the evening inspired and humbled, and I am certain that others who attended did so as well. Thank you, Mark.

Ron

~ ~ ~

An elderly minister read about experiments showing that tar and nicotine causes cancer in mice. Deeply moved, he went down to his study at once, and moved all of his pipe tobacco to the top shelf, where the mice could not reach it.

Parish Magazine Subscriptions for January 2015

Please can we ask that everyone who subscribes to our Parish Magazine, or would like to join the list of subscribers for next year, considers paying as soon as possible, as this makes life much easier for everyone, from Collectors to the Treasurer! Despite rising costs, the subscriptions remain

£7.50 per year for hand-delivered or copies collected from the Church
£14 per year for posted copies.

Please pay your delivery person directly or if collected from the Church or posted, send the appropriate amount to Rosemary Attenborough, Coldhanger, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, TN15 0EJ.

To save having to remember until the end of this year, you may post-date your cheque to 1 January 2015; they will not be paid in until January, but the earlier they can arrive the quicker we can close the magazine accounts for the year and hopefully, not have them dragging on until mid-Summer!

All cheques to be made payable to ST. LAWRENCE (SEAL) PCC.

N.B. If you would like to be added to the lists of subscribers to the magazine, please contact Roz Morris.

**Thank you and please can I repeat the plea for everyone
to pay their subscription for 2015 as soon as possible!**

Rosemary Attenborough

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### ***Securing the Future – a Joint Benefice?***

I approached our archdeacon, the Ven Clive Mansell, to enquire about ways of securing the future of both St Lawrence's and St Margaret's when I retire in the summer/autumn of 2016. At the present time each church is a separate parish and therefore a quarter time appointment (together they make a half time post sharing the same vicar) and as such they are potentially vulnerable. Plans are being made at the moment which will bring our diocese in line with other dioceses and the allocation of money for ministry could in the future be decided at a deanery level. People will quite rightly be making decisions about where ministry money should be spent and small parishes do not offer good value for money. One possible solution would be to legally bring the two churches together. The best model for our two churches would be a "Joint Benefice", with two PCCs; four church wardens and separate finances – working together more closely, but retaining our identities.

The Standing Committees, of both churches, have met twice to discuss this and both PCCs have met and there is a willingness to explore this further and to get answers to questions raised at the meetings. As part of the process of discerning what might be a good way forward we would like to involve people from both

### ***Trinity School Celebrates its First Birthday***

Trinity, the new Christian Secondary School in Sevenoaks, was one year old on 4<sup>th</sup> September. On that day a new group of 120 excited 11 year olds joined the school at its temporary location in Riverhead. This more than doubled the size of the school, which will keep growing until it has 800 pupils. In 2015 the school will move to its long term location at Wildernesse. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Brian to have a tour of our school on Monday 22 September which culminated in a service at St Mary's Church Riverhead.

Trinity is unique because it is sponsored by a diverse group of 30 local churches, including St Lawrence, Seal Chart. Most of the school's governors are elected by these churches. People from local churches regularly join with parents and governors to pray for the school. The school holds termly services at local churches. Pupils from the school carry out community service, including packing shopping at Tesco, visiting elderly folk, or helping out in local primary schools. Sometimes these events happen with or at local churches. The school has collective worship or reflection each day and often this is led by local church ministers. So the links are close and growing!

The school's strapline is 'Education for life in all its fullness'. The governors and staff wish the school to be academically excellent and to support the students' spiritual, cultural and physical development. Early indications, from tests at the end of the first year, suggest that the school is already in the top 15% of schools nationally in terms of academic progress. We look forward to welcoming an Ofsted inspection at some stage during this school year which will offer parents and local people more information about how the school is doing.

At Trinity, the Christian ethos is about more than morning worship assemblies, important though these are. The school aims that every lesson should in some way connect the Christian faith to the subject under discussion. The framework for discipline is based on 'restorative justice' principles. The school's houses, chosen by the pupils, are named after Christians who have been leaders in advancing knowledge, the arts or social justice: Faraday after Michael Faraday the physicist, Barrett after Elisabeth Barrett Browning the poet, Fry after Elizabeth Fry the prison reformer, and Wilberforce after William Wilberforce the anti-slavery campaigner.

It is daunting and difficult to set up a school from scratch, and many challenges remain, but we are very grateful to God and to all our local supporters for the excellent progress that has been made thus far.

*Matthew Tate, Headmaster*

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When I was young my parents told me what to do. Now I am old, my children tell me what to do. When will I be able to do what I want?

Posada

For some of us thinking about Christmas in November might be a tad too soon. I am going to be looking for bed and board for Mary and Joseph during December. This is something I have done over the last few years and is quite popular. Posada is a small set of knitted figures that spend a night in a new home from the 1st December and travel back to St Lawrence church for the Christingle service where they will be spending their last night before Christmas Day. They have travelled all over the parish and sometimes in to neighbouring ones too. Mary and Joseph are accompanied by a prayer that is said in every new house before you leave them with their new hosts. There will also be the address and contact details of the next host for you to contact to arrange drop off the following evening. If you would like to take part please contact Samantha Drury 01732 810214 no later than November 20th. Sam

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## All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...  
As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet...  
The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
hall be my company above;  
And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love?\*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.



## Church Flowers



|        |        |                                          |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 2 Nov  | Sheila Jackson                           |
| Sunday | 9 Nov  | Sheila Jackson and<br>Remembrance Sunday |
| Sunday | 16 Nov | Beryl Storey                             |
| Sunday | 23 Nov | Kate Clark                               |
| Sunday | 30 Nov | Kate Clark                               |
| Sunday | 7 Dec  | Kate Clark                               |



*Your Prayers are asked for . . .  
the aged and infirm;*

*doctors, nurses and carers;*

*all God's children wherever they may be;*

*For all Your Blessings, we thank Thee, O Lord*



## Stitchers' Christmas Recipe Book

*Scrumptious Starters*

*Amazing Mains*

*Super Salads*

*Perfect Puddings*

*Sweet Treats*

*Holiday Tipples*

Limited edition of 50 copies only!

On sale at the Christmas Fayre November 22<sup>nd</sup>

## *A Superb Evening*

Yes, it was a truly inspirational evening from Mark's prowess as an long distance open water swimmer, through the dramatic finding of his stomach tumour, surgery, and, in spite of his consultant's forecast, recovery and training for his channel swim. Thank you, Mark, for sharing your experiences.

I really must include a comment from Kate, a visitor from the St Johns area of Sevenoaks who wrote on a local community website:

"My daughter and I attended this event. It was a fantastic evening, Mark Sheridan is truly inspirational and we were made very welcome by the local community, St Lawrence's Church is one of the prettiest churches I have ever seen and the buffet was superb. A very well done to all those who participated in making this event a wonderful evening. Good luck to Mark for his future plans."

That says it all.

*Ed*

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St Lawrence Christmas Fayre

will be held in

Stone Street Village Hall

on

Saturday 22nd November - 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

GIFTS, CAKES, CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

JEWELLERY, GLASS, POTTERY, CHOCOLATIER,

LUCKY DIP, COOKIE DECORATING, RAFFLE

MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

FESTIVE STALLS & MORE !

**Special guest for the little ones, as well as St Lawrence's
own Plum Puddings**

St Lawrence School Brass Band

Please do mark the date and come along

Entry £1 per Adult

St Lawrence Lost Sheep Trail

Ever heard of yarn bombing, guerrilla knitting or kniffiti?! May be not but they are all forms of street art using yarn or fabric rather than paint or chalk. Sometimes they come with a message, other times they are an expression of creativity. Well, this finally hit St Lawrence's in the form of the St Lawrence Lost Sheep Trail!

The St Lawrence Lost on the successful Sheep Trail whereby shops if they would be sheep in their store. tributed asking families to fill in a trail leaflet couraging them to re- ing of Christmas.



Sheep Trail was based Messy Church Nativity churches asked local happy to have a knitted Leaflets were then dis- to hunt for the sheep and with their names, en- discover the real mean-

At St Lawrence's we decided to place our sheep in and around the church as a fun activity to encourage families with children to engage with the church. An appeal went out to knitters in the parish and soon the sheep came flocking in! In October children from the church, school and Brownies were invited to come along and hunt for as many lost sheep as possible, writing their names on a sheet. The Trail culminated in a special Lost Sheep Service on 2 November with each child who took part receiving a small prize.

I'm sure that everyone who took part in the Lost Sheep Trail, both knitters and children, agreed that it was a fun activity and that seeing the sheep in church brought a smile to everyone who saw them!

If you would like to purchase one of the sheep, they will be on sale at the St Lawrence Christmas Fair in Stone Street Village Hall on 22 November between 2 and 4.30 pm.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to all you knitters from the church and Seal Chart who responded to the request to make sheep. At the time of writing the flock numbers 34 in a variety of shapes and sizes. They make for a wonderful flock.

Hilary

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### ***God bless***

Thora Hird told this story on a BBC1 programme 'Praise Be' about a little girl saying her prayers: "God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy, God bless my brother Tommy, God bless Granny – and God look after yourself, 'cos if anything happens to you, we've had it!"



## *Services and Events at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during November 2014*

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

|                    |                                                 |                                                |                                               |     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>2 Nov</b>                                    | <b>All Saints Day</b>                          | <b>Fourth Sunday before Advent</b>            |     |
|                    | 08:00                                           | Holy Communion                                 |                                               | BCP |
|                    |                                                 | 1 John 4: 1-3                                  | Matthew 5: 1-12                               |     |
|                    | 09:45                                           | All Age Family Service - Lost Sheep Service    |                                               |     |
|                    |                                                 | Luke 15: 3-7                                   |                                               |     |
| <b>Monday</b>      | <b>3 Nov</b>                                    | <b>All Souls</b>                               |                                               |     |
|                    | 20:00                                           | All Souls Service at St Margaret's, Underriver |                                               |     |
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>9 Nov</b>                                    | <b>Third Sunday before Advent</b>              | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>                     |     |
|                    | 10:30                                           | Service of Remembrance                         |                                               |     |
|                    |                                                 | John 15: 9-17                                  |                                               |     |
| <b>Thursday</b>    | <b>13 Nov</b>                                   | <b>Prayer Time</b>                             | <b>(last about an hour - all are welcome)</b> |     |
|                    | 10:00                                           | At Shepherd's cottage, Heaverham               |                                               |     |
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>16 Nov</b>                                   | <b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>             |                                               |     |
|                    | 09:45                                           | Family Communion (with Sunday School)          |                                               | CW  |
|                    |                                                 | 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11                        | Matthew 25:14-30                              |     |
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>23 Nov</b>                                   | <b>Christ the King</b>                         | <b>Sunday next before Advent</b>              |     |
|                    | 09:45                                           | Matins                                         |                                               |     |
| <b>Monday</b>      | <b>24 Nov</b>                                   | <b>Prayer Time</b>                             | <b>(last about an hour - all are welcome)</b> |     |
|                    | 14:00                                           | At Grenadier, Riding Lane                      |                                               |     |
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>30 Nov</b>                                   | <b>Advent Sunday (with Posada)</b>             |                                               |     |
|                    | 09:45                                           | All Age Advent Service                         |                                               |     |
|                    |                                                 | Mark 13: 24 to end                             |                                               |     |
| <b>Sunday</b>      | <b>7 Dec</b>                                    | <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>                 |                                               |     |
|                    | 08:00                                           | Holy Communion                                 |                                               | BCP |
|                    |                                                 | Isaiah 40: 1-11                                | Mark 1: 1-8                                   |     |
|                    | 09:45                                           | All Age Family Service                         |                                               |     |
|                    |                                                 | Mark 1: 1-8                                    |                                               |     |
| <b>Prayer Time</b> | <b>- (last about an hour - all are welcome)</b> |                                                |                                               |     |
|                    | 10:00                                           | At Shepherd's cottage, Heaverham               |                                               |     |

*Children meet promptly at 09:45  
in St Lawrence School Hall on the dates  
shown in bold  
They will rejoin their parents in the church  
towards the end of the service.*



*All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome*

|               |                     |                            |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>16 Nov</b> | <b>Bags of Gold</b> | <b>Lesley &amp; t b a</b>  |
| <b>14 Dec</b> | <b>Christmas</b>    | <b>Hilary &amp; Wendy</b>  |
| <b>18 Jan</b> | <b>Candlemas</b>    | <b>Lesley &amp; Hilary</b> |

**Next Meeting at Wendy's on Thursday 8 January**  
*For further information contact Hilary Darque [01732 453929]*

### *The Cover Picture - The Menin Gate*

Reginald Blomfield's triumphal arch was designed in 1921, and on its walls are recorded the deaths of 54896 members of the British and Commonwealth servicemen who died before 15 August 1917, whose bodies were never found and who have, therefore, no known grave. On completion of the memorial, it was discovered to be too small to contain all the names as originally planned. An arbitrary cut-off point of 15 August 1917 was chosen and the names of 34,984 UK missing after this date were inscribed on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing instead.

Following the opening of the Menin Gate Memorial in 1927, the citizens of Ypres wanted to express their gratitude towards those who had given their lives for Belgium's freedom. As such, every evening at 20:00, buglers from the local fire brigade close the road which passes under the memorial and sound the "Last Post". Except for the occupation by the Germans in World War II when the daily ceremony was conducted at Brookwood Military Cemetery, in Surrey, England, this ceremony has been carried on uninterrupted since 2 July 1928.

On the evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres in the Second World War, the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate despite the fact that heavy fighting was still taking place in other parts of the town.

*Mary and I have visited the War Graves in Belgium on three occasions and during our first visit we met a lady, who introduced herself as the grand-daughter of the design engineer of the Menin Gate, and she told us was visiting from her home in Cartmel. Two weeks later we were in Grange-over-Sands and again met this lady who invited us to her home for tea and cakes and showed us a selection of the original design drawings for the structure.*

*Ed*

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