

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during May 2015*



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

Sunday	3 May	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	10 May	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		18:00	Evensong	BCP
Sunday	17 May	11:15	Family Holy Communion (short)	CW
Sunday	24 May	11:15	Pentecost Celebration Service	
Sunday	31 May	11:15	All Age Family Service with Baptism	
Sunday	7 June	11:15	All Age Family 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@stlawrencesealchart.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	Rob Otto	457442	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
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Bookings Secretary	Clare Murray	811389
Chairman of Governors	Paul Martin	761393	Cricknet Club Secretary	Robin Webster	01892 862017
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton	810388
St Lawrence Pre-School	Becky Stammers	763289	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
to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 20 May 2015

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 31 May 2015**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
May 2015*



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Vicar

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Our Vicar's Page

In May we celebrate two events in the churches calendar, both of which led to the foundation of the Church that we know today.

We celebrate the Ascension on Thursday 14th May - this is the occasion on which Jesus returned to heaven leaving his disciples for the very last time. If Jesus had decided to remain with his disciples after his resurrection and continue his ministry it would have had a limited impact. Jesus could only travel to a limited number of places and meet with a limited number of people. His ministry would have been contained in the small area of Galilee and Jerusalem. By leaving his disciples Jesus sent each of them off to exercise their own ministry – twelve ministries were launched instead of one. In the years to come the disciples travelled far and wide, going beyond their homeland to parts of Asia and Europe and they inspired others to join them in the work – more ministries came into being.

The other event we celebrate this month is the feast of Pentecost on Sunday 24th May. Pentecost is when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on ordinary men and women. Until this time the Spirit had come on nations, on kings and on prophets, but never on ordinary people. The Spirit changed people, inspired them, gave them courage to tell others about Jesus the Son of God, who had died for them, who had risen from the dead. God challenged Jesus' disciples by sending his Holy Spirit upon Gentiles as well as on Jews – something they considered unthinkable! The considerable spread of the Christian faith and growth of the Church was largely due to the ministry of Gentiles who had been touched by the Holy Spirit.

This month think about the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to the Church and given to each of us. At our baptism we are given the gift of God's Holy Spirit. It is given to change us, to inspire us, to give us courage to live our faith and be ready to tell people (when asked) why we live as we do. If you would like to understand more about the Holy Spirit then pray and ask God to fill you with his Spirit and He will do that.

Many Christians ask God each and every day to fill them with the Holy Spirit that they might live that day under the guidance of the Spirit and serve God the best way they can. There cannot be a better way to live...In May we celebrate two events in the churches calendar, both of which led to the foundation of the Church that we know today.

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For the Children

Mouse Makes

HOLY SPIRIT teaches us about God
John 14:26

There was a sound like a blowing of a violent wind... and what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT helps us to pray
Romans 8:26-27

HOLY SPIRIT is with us and in us
John 14:16-17

HOLY SPIRIT helps us to speak about God
Acts 1:8

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 5:18

How many believers were baptised that day?

Colour the flames, cut out and tie together to make a Pentecost mobile.

Our Good Friday Walk.

I had all good intentions of going to London for an open air passion play this good Friday, but seeing the weather forecast I'm afraid to say I decided against it. I did hear from a friend that it was an amazing sight in the middle of Trafalgar Square. I did stick to my word and walked from St Lawrence's to St Margaret's though.

We were a small band of five that set off on a foggy wet Friday with palm crosses in hand, Gretel with a hymn book, Matthew and Johnny with chocolate supplies. We set off down to the village through the fog to the lavender fields where we sang (very well I think) the first verse of 'There is a Green Hill' and the first of the chocolate breaks. From there we followed the path which was a bit slippery up on the green sand way. For this we had Johnny at the front enticing us on with the thought of cream eggs and another verse of the hymn. As we reached the point where the fog lifted Underriver came in sight we sang the last verse and headed across the field to the church. We made it in good time to have a hot cross bun before a service in the church. I have now taken part in the walk for a few years and have walked in all conditions.

A very thought provoking way to spend a morning walking with friends and wondering what kind of thoughts and feeling Jesus would have had on that day.

Sam

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Fund-raising Brunch for Emmaus Medway

The Brunch following the service on April 12 raised £630 (including Gift Aid) for Emmaus Medway and was held in support of the diocesan Challenging Poverty 2015 initiative. At the service our Vicar gave a talk on the work of Emmaus in helping those who have experienced homelessness and social exclusion. They provide a home for as long as someone needs it as well as meaningful work which helps to restore feelings of self-esteem and gives residents the opportunity to regain control of their lives.

Many thanks to all who helped and contributed to this successful result. *John M*

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Diocesan Big Day Out

Keep the date free - Sunday 19th July, 1-7pm.

A unique opportunity to gather together as a family, within the wider Diocesan church family. Keynote speaker includes the Dean of Jerusalem. The Rev Canon Hosam Elias Naoum and Dr Rachel Jordan. Activities and workshops on offer throughout the day, ending in an all age celebration worship on the main stage. There will be plenty for children and young people to do. More details to follow next month.

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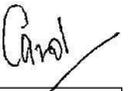
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Many Christians ask God each and every day to fill them with the Holy Spirit that they might live that day under the guidance of the Spirit and serve God the best way they can. There cannot be a better way to live...

Yours in the love of Christ



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Open Garden at Bishopscourt
Saturday May 16th 2015
11.00am to 3.00pm
Bishopscourt, 24 St Margaret's Street, Rochester
Teas, Home Made Cakes, Plant Sale
Entry: £2.00
Proceeds and Donations to Christian Aid
Wheelchair access. Dogs welcome on lead.
Enquiries: 07816 828439

Charities

Over the next few months, we hope to give a few details of the charities which our church supports. This month is the turn of the Bridge Trust.

Your PCC has agreed to continue to support this very local charity based in Tonbridge.

The Bridge Trust is a UK registered charity that has been supporting single homeless people in West Kent since 1991. The trust is based in Tonbridge and has helped several thousand homeless people with advice or accommodation and support.

They provide **support** accommodation for a total of 20 single people in 4 houses.

They help people **to move on** in to their own homes.

The Bridge Trust provides **Advice** about housing, benefits and employment options.

Mediation is offered to those who find themselves homeless due to the breakdown of relationships. This mediation service has helped restore homeless persons to their original home.

The trust also makes available to its residents a **Resource Centre** to help them plan their way back into independence and their own home.

This is a very worthy local charity; more details are available on their website at www.thebridgetrust.org.uk

Eric

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Fear not!

The phrase 'Be not afraid' occurs 366 times in the Bible – a reminder for every day of the year, plus one for a leap year.

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Your Prayers are asked for . .

*the poor and needy in our country;
the homeless and all who sleep on the streets;
social workers who seek to help them;*

the work and workers of charities that provide care and support;

Lord, in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer



ST LAWRENCE'S AND ST MARGARET'S GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 16th May 2015

at Fishponds, Seal Chart

(off the A25 between Seal and Ightham, near Crown Point)

from 2.00 to 5.00 pm

by kind invitation of Annette and Jim Mackellar

Spectacular Rhododendron Garden

Punch & Judy and Roving Entertainment

Hartley Morris Men

St Lawrence's School Orchestra

Children's Crafts and Games

Stalls, Sideshows, Raffle and Tombola

Pre-loved Quality Classics (see below)

Delicious Teas and Refreshments

Champagne Marquee

We need help with stalls, teas, setting up and taking down - and donations of Bric-a-Brac, Books, Cakes, Flowers, Jams, Plants, Produce, Scones, Savouries, Raffle & Tombola Prizes.

Questions and offers of help to John Carlisle 01732 761097
or Ron Drury 01732 810214

This year, St Lawrence's Stitchers will be repeating their very successful Pre-loved Quality Classics Stall.

Please search your wardrobes and consider donating any good quality clean ladies-wear items you no longer wear - including dresses, skirts, trousers, jumpers, coats, hats, scarves, belts, jackets, gloves and jewellery.

Enquiries to Roz Morris (01732 810227).

The Garden Party is a vital fund-raiser for both our Churches

It is also a lot of fun

Please put the date in your diaries.

John C

Laying down their lives at Pentecost

As you celebrate Pentecost, pause for a moment to ask yourself one question – how is it that you are standing here, as a Christian, on this day in 2015?

It's because somebody told you about Jesus, right? But who told them? We're all links in a chain that stretches back to Pentecost, when Peter emboldened by the Holy Spirit, first told others about the faith. He, and countless others since, paid the ultimate price, so that you might live.

And Christians are still laying down their lives around the world today for their faith. Christians are persecuted under authoritarian states, in communist and post-communist countries, under Hinduism and even under Buddhism.

But today, few face persecution more severe than that suffered by Christians under extreme Islam in the countries which first heard the gospel after Pentecost.

At the first Pentecost, 3,000 devout Jews had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Law. They returned to their respective nations bearing an even greater gift – the Gospel, which spread like wildfire.

Yet today, 2,000 years later, that Christian presence is dwindling to the point of extinction.

Take Iraq, ancient Mesopotamia and the birthplace of Abraham, where today Christians are being driven from their land by Islamic State. “Are we seeing the end of Christianity?” asks the Vicar of Baghdad, Canon Andrew White. “We have had people massacred, their heads chopped off. It looks as though the end could be very near.”

Further north, in Erbil, Chaldean Archbishop Bashar M Warda, ponders the same question.

“Since 2003, half the Christians have left the country,” he says. “The attack has been immense. We were above 1m, now you hardly find 300,000.” He, too, fears the exodus of Christians may be unstoppable.

The one beacon of hope is Iraqi Kurdistan, which has flung open its gates to the persecuted, and claims to be the only region in the Middle East where the Christian population is growing. The Kurds understand persecution. They were gassed by Saddam. And these Kurds who are remembering Christians in their hour of need are Muslims.

May our own memories be not so dulled by the freedoms we take for granted that we fail to remember our persecuted Christian family this Pentecost.

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How To Maintain A Healthy Level Of Sanity in Retirement

When the money comes out of the ATM, scream 'I Won! I Won!'

Celebrating the Penny Black

I wrote three letters yesterday. That is such an unusual event that I thought I'd catalogue it. I printed them off my computer, and then looked for an envelope. I couldn't find one. Then I looked for stamps in the drawer where I used to keep them. Again, I could not find them. Undaunted, I put on my coat and walked up to the Post Office, where I queued to buy envelopes and stamps.

1st May is the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, Britain's first official adhesive postage stamp. Ever since then, we have been writing letters, putting them in envelopes, addressing them and sticking a stamp on. In recent years we have been spared the need to lick them, as peel-off stamps have become the fashion. The penny, of course, has multiplied sixty fold, like the biblical wheat, and, oddly, on the whole, letters take longer to arrive now than they did in the days of Queen Victoria.

What we are seeing now looks like the slow death of letter writing, which old'uns like me are supposed deeply to regret. To be fair, I do regret not receiving personal letters (I could do without all the others, mostly appeals, advertisements or official notifications). But I can't expect to get them if I don't send them, and almost all my personal 'correspondence' is via email. Sadly, I don't think people will one day be reading the collected emails of David Winter, or even of distinguished artists, poets or bishops. Letters will go the way of diaries and fountain pens.

Perhaps it's just as well that the invention of the internet is so recent. I can't imagine that St Paul's Email to the Ephesians would have stood the test of time.

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The Puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realized it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor wet the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, “Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too”

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How is it that it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark, to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?



Services and Events at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during May 2015

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

Sunday	3 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		Acts 8: 26-40 John 15: 1-8	
	09:45	All Age Family Service	
		Acts 8: 26-40	
Friday	8 May	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)	
	10:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	10 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
	09:45	Holy Communion	CW
		Acts 10: 44-end John 15: 9-17	
Thursday	14 May	Ascension Day	
	10:00	Joint Service of Holy Communion CW	
Sunday	17 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
	09:45	Family Communion (with Sunday School)	CW
		Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end John 17: 6-19	
Sunday	24 May	Pentecost	
	09:45	Pentecost Celebration Service	
		Acts 2: 1-21	
Tuesday	26 May	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)	
	10:00	At 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks	
Sunday	31 May	Trinity Sunday	
	09:45	Songs of Praise	
		t b c	
Sunday	7 June	First Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1 Mark 3: 20-end	
	09:45	All Age Family Service	BCP
		Genesis 3: 8-15	



Church Flowers



Sunday	3 May	Pat Wilson
Sunday	10 May	Pat Wilson
Sunday	17 May	Annette McKellar
Sunday	24 May	Annette McKellar
Sunday	31 May	Jill Beynon
Sunday	7 June	Jill Beynon

The Cover Picture

St Lawrence's, Denton, a timber framed building, was founded in 1468. It was then neither a parish church nor was it dedicated to St Lawrence. It began as a chapel of ease (a type of half-way house) for the medieval manor of Denton within the Parish of Manchester, dedicated to St. James and was a staunchly Roman Catholic house.

During various rebuilding and renovation work in the early part of the nineteenth century fragments of glass depicting the martyrdom of St Lawrence were discovered. These were subsequently incorporated into the stained glass on the south of the sanctuary. The building then became a parish church and was dedicated to St Lawrence.

Since then the living has been a rectory, with residence, in the gift of the Earl of Wilton.

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Children meet promptly at 09:45

***in St Lawrence School Hall on the dates
shown below***

***They will rejoin their parents in the church
towards the end of the service.***



All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome

17 May	Ascension Day	Hilary and Lesley
21 June	Father's Day, The Prodigal Son	Sam and Lyn
19 July	Diocesan Big Day out at Leybourne Castle & Parish Picnic (Details of both events to follow later)	

For further information contact Hilary Darque [01732 453929]