

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during March 2016*



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

Sunday	6 March	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	13 March	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		11:15	Matins	BCP
Sunday	20 March	11:05	Procession from Cross Roads	
		11:15	Palm Sunday Service	CW
Thursday	24 March	20:00	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	CW
Friday	25 March	09:15	Good Friday Devotional Walk to St Lawrence	
Sunday	27 March	11:15	Easter Day Celebration of Holy Communion	CW
Sunday	3 April	11:15	Volunteers' 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

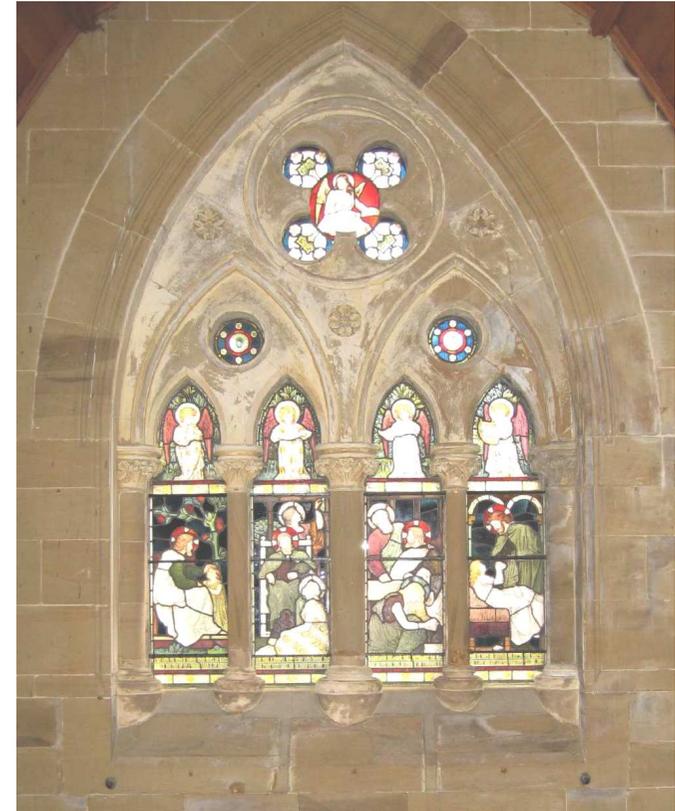
Churchwardens	Ron Drury Rob Otto	810214 457442	1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953
PCC Hon Secretary	John Morris	810227	S'oaks District Councillors	Julia Thornton	07831 234449
PCC Hon Treasurer	Andy Rowell	884950		Roderick Hogarth	760325
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock	452964	Seal Parish Council		
Covenant & Envelopes	Rob Otto	457442	Chairman	Edward Oatley	465905
Organist	vacancy		Vice-Chairman	Mike Harvey	
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	Cricket Club Secretary	Robin Webster	01892 862017
Clerk to the Governors	Valerie Maunder	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton	810388
St Lawrence Pre-School	???		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 16 March 2016

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 27 March 2016**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
March 2016*



Vicar

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Our Vicar's Page

We live in an imperfect world, we hear reports about refugees fleeing IS and see on our televisions huge numbers of exhausted people walking away from their homeland in search of freedom. Recently film was broadcast of the huge refugee camps in the Middle East, with cabin after cabin stretching into the distance. We have recently heard reports about an earthquake in Taiwan and heard about an apartment block collapsing, we hear news about the risk of famine in Zimbabwe. It can be hard to imagine where God can be in the midst of so much suffering?

As we travel through Lent towards the trials of Holy Week, as Jesus is betrayed, unjustly tried, condemned and then crucified, we see that suffering and injustice have always plagued our world.

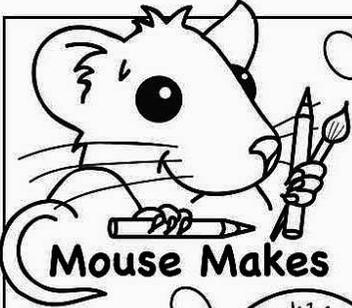
The very reason that Jesus came to live on this earth was to reveal God's plans for his people - those plans did not include needless suffer or war. Jesus came to show people how they should live by giving them glimpses of God's Kingdom, a place where the people normally on the margins of society were recognized and valued. A place, where sick people were healed and given a new start in life as they re-entered society. A place, where women and children, not normally considered important enough to even be counted, were valued and respected by Jesus as individuals in their own right.

Each of us is called to continue that work - standing up for people who are on the margins of society, of who are living with injustice. Supporting people in need, maybe locally through Loaves and Fishes and SAYT, or nationally/internationally through charities and other groups. We need to support the sick and vulnerable in our neighbourhood, maybe by visiting or offering help and comfort.

We cannot radically change our world by stopping wars or preventing natural disasters, but we can little by little make things better for the people around us. In doing that we can also reveal the Kingdom of God to people who might be living without hope. If we do, that then we will be continuing Jesus' work, as people of the Kingdom and followers of Jesus Christ.

Yours in the love of Christ *Carol*

For the Children



Mouse Makes

Easter Story Eggs

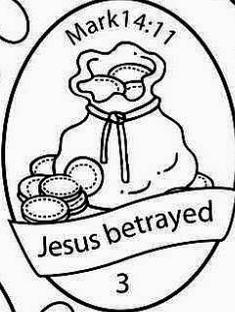
Each big egg tells a part of the Easter story. Colour them in then look up the bible verses.



John 12:1-8
Jesus anointed
1



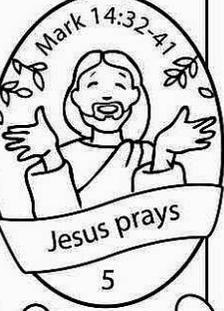
Matthew 21:1-11
Into Jerusalem
2



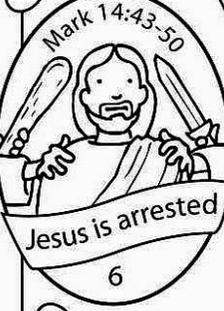
Mark 14:1-11
Jesus betrayed
3



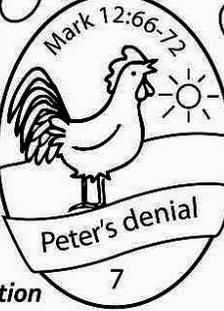
Mark 14:12-26
The last supper
4



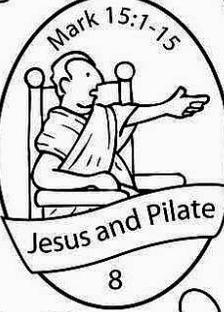
Mark 14:32-41
Jesus prays
5



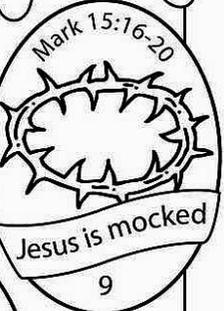
Mark 14:43-50
Jesus is arrested
6



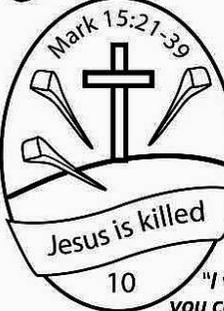
Mark 12:66-72
Peter's denial
7



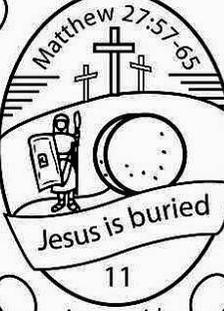
Mark 15:1-15
Jesus and Pilate
8



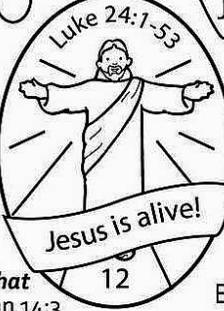
Mark 15:16-20
Jesus is mocked
9



Mark 15:21-39
Jesus is killed
10



Matthew 27:57-65
Jesus is buried
11



Luke 24:1-53
Jesus is alive!
12

Jesus said:
"I am the resurrection and the life"
John 11:25

Jesus said:
"I will come and get you so that you can always be with me" John 14:3

Cut out the big eggs. Glue onto card and use them for a bible story Easter egg hunt.

illusions built by fame or money, like I made in my life, I cannot take them with me.

I can only take with me the memories that were strengthened by love.

This is the true wealth that will follow you; will accompany you, he will give strength and light to go ahead.

Love can travel thousands of miles and so life has no limits. Move to where you want to go. Strive to reach the goals you want to achieve. Everything is in your heart and in your hands.

What is the world's most expensive bed? The hospital bed.

You, if you have money, you can hire someone to drive your car, but you cannot hire someone to take your illness that is killing you.

Material things lost can be found. But one thing you can never find when you lose: life.

Whatever stage of life where we are right now, at the end we will have to face the day when the curtain falls.

Please treasure your family love, love for your spouse, love for your friends...

Treat everyone well and stay friendly with your neighbours.

John L

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

St David's Day – Time for Daffodils (or Leeks)

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Not in my dictionary

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

TO THE LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK DONORS: FEBRUARY 2016

Firstly and most importantly thank you for the amazing support you give to our small independent foodbank (Loaves and Fishes) here in Sevenoaks. Our families' everyday lives are changed for the better because of your generosity.

Your donations, be they regular or occasional, the continuing endeavours of our volunteers who manage the foodbank week by week and the construction of a purpose built foodstore in St John's church hall means that we are now supporting up to 40 families in the district on a regular basis.

It is now almost five years since the Loaves and Fishes foodbank was set up with the following aims:

- to provide basic food to families with children who have been recommended to us by a 'bona fide' source, until they no longer require assistance, and to be prepared to help other people on a one off emergency basis if resources allow;
- to operate the foodbank in as simple and uncomplicated way as possible - FOOD IN (from donors) and FOOD OUT (to families).
- to offer cups of tea and a listening ear to anyone who might appreciate this service but on the understanding that our volunteers are not professional counsellors or social workers;
- to be non-judgemental of recipient families or of any government or other agencies involved in supporting them;
- today the foodbank finds itself the recipient of much goodwill and support from people in our community of Sevenoaks and surrounding villages. In the light of this experience and looking to the future:
- the foodbank continues to need and to welcome donations of non perishable food;
- the foodbank does not require further financial contributions for the time being. Thanks to the generosity of some of our donors we have a very healthy bank balance which, for the foreseeable future, is sufficient to buy food when stocks are low. This means that our families can always be provided for;
- the foodbank currently supports up to 40 families – some long term and others only for a short time. This is the maximum we can manage given the limited storage space and our wish to maintain its ethos.

If it is appropriate would you be kind enough to distribute this letter of thanks and information within your organisation. Thank you very much again for your continuing support for the Loaves and Fishes families.

Carole and Francein

Church Publishes 2014 Attendance Statistics

New Church of England statistics show that just under one million people attend services each week. The survey, carried out over four weeks in October 2014, found 980,000 people attending church each week, with 830,000 adults and 150,000 children.

The statistics also show that 2.4 million attended a Church of England Church at Christmas in 2014 and 1.3 million people attended a service at Easter.

Additionally, 2.2 million people attended special Advent services for the congregation and local community, whilst 2.6 million attended special Advent services for civic organisations and schools.

The statistics also highlight the other services carried out by the Church of England on a regular basis. In 2014 the Church carried out just under 1,000 weddings, 2,000 baptisms, and almost 3,000 funerals every week of the year. Some 12% of births during 2014 were marked by a Church of England infant baptism or thanksgiving service whilst 31% of deaths were marked by a Church of England funeral.

As a whole the figures represent a continuing trend which has shown a 12% decrease in attendance over the past decade, with an average decline of just over 1% a year.

Speaking on the publication of the statistics, the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt. Revd. Graham James, said: “As part of a prayerful and considered response to these trends, the Church is embarking upon the biggest renewal and reform process in over 150 years focusing our resources on prayer, evangelism, discipleship, vocations, leadership & training.

“We do not expect that trend to change imminently or immediately over the next few years due to demographics. We lose approximately 1% of our churchgoers to death each year. Given the age profile of the C of E, the next few years will continue to have downward pressure as people die or become housebound and unable to attend church.

“As a Church we are unashamedly committed to following the teachings of Jesus Christ in our worship of God, discipleship and service to the poor and the marginalised. Our confidence, resilience and service is rooted in Jesus.

“The story is not one of inevitable decline. During 2013-14 some dioceses continued to increase their attendance. In the past 12 months alone there are examples of growth and new churches across the country.”

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A Miscellaneous Observation

Patience achieves more than force. - *Edmund Burke*

Hedgehogs in need

Only a few weeks to go, and hedgehogs will be waking up from their winter sleep. Keep an eye out for them this Spring, and do try and offer food to any that you see. For hedgehogs are in trouble: numbers have more than halved in rural Britain in the last 15 years, where intensive farming and poor hedgerow management have destroyed their habitats. In the city it can be just as bad: fenced off gardens and lawns laid to concrete can mean death to a starving hedgehog.

There are now believed to be less than a million hedgehogs left in the entire UK, according to the ‘State of Britain’s Hedgehogs 2015’ report. So here’s how to help your local hedgehog:

Cut a five-inch square hole in the bottom of your garden fence, or remove a brick or two from the base of a wall, to let hedgehogs get through. Where possible, replace fences or walls with hedges. Don’t pave over your garden. Encourage insects with nectar-rich plants. Leave out meaty cat or dog food. Avoid treating your lawn with herbicide. Pile up logs to create a habitat for hedgehogs. Take care when clearing piles of leaves, in case you disturb one. And finally, please avoid using slug pellets! (Advice from *Hedgehog Street*)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Last Words of Steve Jobs

I have come to the pinnacle of success in business.

In the eyes of others, my life has been the symbol of success.

However, apart from work, I have little joy. Finally, my wealth is simply a fact to which I am accustomed.

At this time, lying on the hospital bed and remembering all my life, I realize that all the accolades and riches of which I was once so proud, have become insignificant with my imminent death.

In the dark, when I look at green lights, of the equipment for artificial respiration and feel the buzz of their mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of my approaching death looming over me.

Only now do I understand that once you accumulate enough money for the rest of your life, you have to pursue objectives that are not related to wealth.

It should be something more important:

For example, stories of love, art, dreams of my childhood.

No, stop pursuing wealth, it can only make a person into a twisted being, just like me.

God has made us one way, we can feel the love in the heart of each of us, and not

“ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE”

Concert in aid of

St Lawrence and St Margaret's churches

on

Saturday 19th March at 7pm to 8.30pm

Followed by refreshments in the Village Hall

Tickets will be available from 1st February on a first come first served basis at £12 per adult and £6 per child under 16 plus voluntary donations which can be gift aided.

Applications can be made by post, delivery or email to

John Clemence at Bassetts, Mill Lane,

Hildenborough,

Kent TN11 9LX

jac@bassetts338.fsnet.co.uk

Please indicate the number of tickets, adult and child and your name and address for despatch of the tickets in due course.

Because of the limited seating in the church tickets will be allocated on the basis of 2 adults and up to 2 children. If you wish to apply for more, the extras will be put on a waiting list and allocated when numbers are finalised. You will receive a confirmation of your tickets with a request for payment by 29th February at the latest.

‘Colouring-in’ Books

Did you enjoy colouring-in books when you were a child? Do you like them now? If so, you are not alone - as of a few months ago, the top 20% of Amazon’s best-sellers were colouring books for adults!

Christian publishers have joined in on the latest craze. One Christian publishing house (Willow House Books) has released a Scripture colouring book with designs and texts.

How Ancient Words attract Younger Worshippers

The Book of Common Prayer, written more than 460 years ago, has been found to have a surprising new use: numerous churches have discovered that it attracts growing numbers of younger worshippers.

The new trend is easily understood, says the Prayer Book Society. Recent decades have brought so much liturgical reform to the C of E that fewer and fewer churches have been using the Prayer Book at all. And so it is only now that the younger people are even getting a chance to encounter it.

‘They are struck by the beauty and relevance of the language, which has inspired writers like Shakespeare as well as churchgoers down the ages,’ says the Prayer Book Society’s John Service, who provides a link between the society, churches and clergy. He goes on: “Unwittingly, many of us use its words and phrases within everyday conversation in the twenty-first century.”

One south Manchester parish who reintroduced the Book of Common Prayer also found that “many of our older worshippers welcome the opportunity to attend services they remember from their childhood.” The parish has seen attendances at Holy Communion increase from around 30 to 50 since the Prayer Book service started.

For any church reconsidering the Prayer Book, John Service suggests “an initial step might be to introduce it just once a month, on a trial basis, so that longer-term decisions can be made on the basis of practical experience.” Details and support at: www.pbs.org.uk

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Anglican Primates suspend The Episcopal Church for three years

The Anglican Primates have suspended The Episcopal Church from full participation in the Anglican Communion for the next three years.

The decision was made at the recent Primates meeting in Canterbury, where Anglican leaders had gathered to “reflect and pray” about the future of the Communion.

The meeting was called because The Episcopal Church in the United States decided to go against other churches in the Communion by authorising its clergy to perform same sex marriages in July last year.

At the end of their meeting in January, the Primates agreed a Communiqué that spelt out how they ‘would walk together in the grace and love of Christ’. This agreement acknowledges the significant distance that remains, but confirms their unanimous commitment to walk together, “with neither victor nor vanquished.”

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Services and Events at The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart during March 2016

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

Sunday	6	March	4th Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday	
	08:00		Holy Communion		BCP
			Exodus 2: 1-10	John 19: 25-27	
	09:45		All Age Family Service		
			Exodus 2: 1-10		
Monday	22	March	Lent Group		
	10:30		At The Vicarage		
Sunday	13	March	5th Sunday of Lent		
	09:45		Family Communion		CW
			Isaiah 43: 16-21	John 12: 1-8	
Monday	14	March	Lent Group		
	10:30		At The Vicarage		
Sunday	20	March	Palm Sunday		
	09:30		Procession from bottom of Church Road		
	09:45		Palm Sunday Service		CW
			Philemon 2: 5-11	Luke 19: 28-40	
Thursday	24	March	Maundy Thursday		
	20:00		Joint Holy Communion at St Margaret's		CW
Friday	25	March	Good Friday		
	09:15		Devotional Walk from St Margaret's to St Lawrence's		
	11:15		Good Friday Service (Joint)		
			Readings from John 18 and 19		
Sunday	27	March	Easter Day		
	09:45		Easter Celebration of Holy Communion		CW
			Acts 10: 34-43	Luke 24: 1-12	
Sunday	3	April	2nd Sunday of Easter		
	08:00		Holy Communion		BCP
			Acts 5: 27-32	John 20: 19-31	
	09:45		Volunteers' Service		
			John 6: 1-13		



Church Flowers



Sunday	6	March	Kate Clark
Sunday	13	March	Lent - No Flowers
Sunday	20	March	Lent - No Flowers
Sunday	27	March	Roz Morris & Hilary Denby Jones
Sunday	3	April	Roz Morris

*Children meet promptly at 09:45 in the
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

For further information contact Hilary Darque

<i>6 Mar</i>	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	<i>19 Jun</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>
<i>20 Mar</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>3 Jul</i>	<i>Picnic & Games</i>
<i>17 Apr</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>17 Jul</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>
<i>15 May</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>21 Aug</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>



Dates for your Diary 2016

<i>Fri 18 Mar</i>	<i>In the Church</i>
<i>Fri 6 May</i>	<i>In the Church</i>
<i>Fri 1 July</i>	<i>In the Church</i>
<i>Fri 9 Sep</i>	<i>In the Church</i>
<i>Fri 18 Nov</i>	<i>In the Church</i>



Your Prayers are asked for . .



*the homeless
the workless
the hungry
the lonely
for all God's children;
Lord, in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer*