

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during August 2017*



Sunday	6 August	11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	13 August	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		18:00	Evensong	BCP
Sunday	20 August	11:15	Short Family Communion	CW
Sunday	27 August	11:15	Family Communion	CW
Sunday	3 Sept	1500	Collation and Installation of Reverend Serena Willoughby By Bishop James Langstaff, the Rt Reverend Bishop of Rochester	

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Vicar - (vacancy)

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	Rob Otto	457442	Chairman	Fidelity Weston	463372
Organist	Alex Trigg		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		Gary Aldridge	
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
Messy Church	Wendy Dartnell	07880 725885	Chairman	Peter Wharton	810388
Child Protection Rep	Kate Clark	810829	Secretary	Charlotte Sinclair	764285
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
			Bookings Secretary	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Cricknet Club Secretary	Robin Webster	01892 862017
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton	810388
Chairman of Governors	Paul Martin	761393	Archery Club Secretary	Mike Davies	762266
Clerk to the Governors	Valerie Maunder	761393	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators		
St Lawrence Pre-School	Melissa Alchin	763354	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 August 2017

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 30 August 2017**

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*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
August 2017*



Seal St Lawrence - 1917

Vicar

*(Vacancy)
Until 3 September 2017*

Reader

Mrs Gretel Wakeham
The White House
Bitchet Green
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NA
01732 761534

Church Wardens

Rob Otto
23 Hillingdon Avenue
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 3RB
01732 457442

*Vacancy
until a volunteer comes forward*

From The Parish Pump 'How do people encounter God?

Human beings from ancient days have looked to the skies in a state of wonder, and attributed the scope and beauty of what they see to a Creator. For those who believe in God, that sense of wonder has increased in recent years as science has made us increasingly aware of how very unlikely it has been that life of any kind happened.

Like many people, Christians look at nature and marvel. In it they find powerful evidence for the existence of God. It speaks of the character of God - powerful, eternal and with a special place for humans in His purposes. However, it also poses unsettling questions about God, because nature is a place in which catastrophes can overtake men and women in a way that seems meaningless and entirely unfair.

Deep down in human nature is a curiosity that leads us again and again to speculate that there may be a God. These encounters take place in circumstances in which we confront something that money cannot buy. Sometimes it is a shock that leads to these questions - the loss of a job, a friend or health. Sometimes it is joy - such as the birth of children and the longing to give them a future full of hope. Sometimes it is disappointment that the activities of life do not make us feel fulfilled. Occasionally people encounter God through supernatural experiences that they cannot explain.

There are many circumstances in which people find their attention grabbed by the possibility that God might be making Himself known to them. However, Christians have always recognised that the most significant way that God has made Himself known is through a specific event in history. God has lived in a human body. At the start of the first century AD, God inhabited human flesh, and walked and talked on this planet - Jesus, the founder of the Christian faith.

When a child asks, 'What is God like?' a good answer would be, 'He is like Jesus.' Christians study Jesus' life and teaching because they appear to answer some of the questions they have about God.

You can find more about Christianity at www.christianity.org.uk, an agency of Churches Together in England.

For the Children

Mouse Makes

Where did God ask Jonah to go?
Read Jonah 1-4

What did Jesus tell his disciples *not* to take with them on their journey?
Read Matthew 10:9-10

Who spoke to Saul on his journey to Damascus?
Read Acts 9:3-8

What animal took Balaam to Moab?
Read Numbers 22:22

How did God guide the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness?
Read Exodus 13:21

Who did Abram take with him on his journey to Canaan?
and
Read Genesis 12:4-5

Psalm 139: 9-10

Can you decipher the verse on the suitcase?

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Laurence of Rome - and the gridiron

Laurence was a deacon of the Church in Rome, and martyred in 258. His story is found in the very ancient *Depositio Martyrum*, which tells us that he was closely associated with Pope Sixtus II, who was martyred just a few days before him during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian. We also know that he was much loved for his almsgiving.

St Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage, relates how the Roman authorities had taken to confiscating all the goods of any Christians they discovered, and then putting the Christians to death. And so it was in August of 258, after Sixtus was martyred, that they demanded of Laurence the wealth of the Church in Rome. He asked for three days to gather it together. During that time, he worked quickly, to distribute as much of it as possible to the poor in Rome. On the third day, he presented himself to the prefect of Rome, taking along a small delegation of the poor and crippled. He told the prefect that these people were the true treasures of the Church, and that 'The Church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor.' This did not go down well with the prefect, and Laurence was condemned to a martyr's death.

It was Laurence, of course who is famous for being roasted alive on a gridiron, and telling his captors to 'turn him over' when he was done on one side. The story has no historic basis, as the weapon of capital punishment at the time was the sword for decapitation. It is thought by many scholars that the roasting on the gridiron story came about because of a simple spelling mistake by a monk in copying the history years later: the accidental omission of the letter 'p' would have been enough. This is because the customary formula for announcing the death of a martyr was '*passus est*' (he suffered/was martyred). If you leave off the 'p' you get '*assus est*' - he was roasted. Only - he wasn't!

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### ***St Lawrence Pre-School***

St Lawrence pre-school Stone Street is seeking a volunteer treasurer to complete their wonderful new committee. The role requires a very light touch as we have a finance manager to prepare all the information. The treasurer helps fix budgets and approve larger expenditures. This is a great way to give back to your local community. If you are interested call Jo McMurtrie, outgoing vice-chair on 07889 999146 or email [jowoodoz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jowoodoz@yahoo.co.uk)

### ***Things you do on holiday but never at any other time***

Get up at 2 am to go to an airport.

Say "are we nearly there yet?" after a drive of 20 minutes.

Climb on a bus without knowing quite where you are going, or where to get off.

Wear a swimming costume while shopping.

Buy postcards.

Lend your key to a neighbour and spend half an hour explaining the knack of locking the front door which entails pulling, turning and pushing at the same time.

Worry about your hanging baskets and runner beans.

Miss your cat/workmates/a decent cup of tea.

Spend an hour looking for window lock keys which you have not seen since last year and why aren't they in THEIR SPECIAL PLACE?

Have a pocketful of foreign coins which you try to spend on your last day.

Go to a quarry museum and try to convince yourself it is interesting as you never knew there was so much to know about slate and that it comes in so many colours (grey mainly).

Get on another bus and hope it is headed back to your hotel, whose name now escapes you.

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Fizzy fat

This is SO unfair. It seems that even fizzy water can help you put on weight. Apparently, the carbon dioxide in the drinks encourages people to eat more, as it increases the level of the hunger hormone ghrelin, some scientists have found.

In tests, volunteers found that those who drank sparkling water had ghrelin levels six times higher than those who drank still water. The discovery was made by scientists at Birzeit University in the Palestinian West Bank.

Jazz on a Summer Evening

Churches do not usually echo to the sound of piano Jazz but it came to St Lawrence's on Sunday 18th June. Robert Reid gave us an introduction to the history of Piano Jazz, which was illustrated by his trio with Robert on piano, Jerome Davies on bass and Dave Barry on drums. The Church was nicely full with an audience of over 80 people on a beautiful summer's evening.

Eric Jackson welcomed the audience and introduced the trio who then played their opening number during which Robert presented his band members. He noted that jazz piano started in the late 19th century and was played mostly by African Americans. The jazz they played became known as ragtime, which developed from the blues sung by slaves. Robert illustrated this type of jazz by playing a typical number dating from this time. Two of the best known exponents of ragtime were Scott Joplin a very early one and Fats Waller a much later one. The trio then played Joplin's "The Entertainer" and Fat Waller's "Aint Misbehaving" to show how ragtime had developed.

Robert described how piano jazz had changed during the late 1930s, with more inventive improvisations. He described three of the significant exponents of this type of music, Errol Garner, Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson. They all had different styles but Tatum was the most able and inventive pianist of his time. The trio played tunes made popular by these three pianists.

At the interval the audience enjoyed a glass of prosecco and were served strawberries and meringues outside the church. This made a novel and pleasant interlude.

After the break, Robert noted that Dave Brubeck joined the jazz scene in 1950s where he, and his world-class alto saxophonist, Paul Desmond experimented with different time signatures. Also in this period, George Shearing, a Londoner, went to the USA and developed his own style playing (cool jazz) with a quartet made up of piano, vibraphone, bass and drums. Robert illustrated their styles by playing two of their most popular tunes firstly Brubeck's "Take Five" and secondly Shearing's "Lullaby of Birdland".

He went on to mention Bill Evans who was another classically trained jazz pianist and composer, who was much admired by his contemporaries. The trio played a tune composed by Bill Evans to illustrate Evans his inventiveness.

Finally Robert mentioned funky pianists such as Horace Silver who mixed

St Lawrence C of E Voluntary Controlled School

Most have heard of OFSTED Inspections but what are SIAMS Inspections. Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools are carried out in much the same way as the better known OFSTED visitations but restrict their considerations to the religious aspects of teaching and school life against the following criteria.

- ❖ How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- ❖ What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- ❖ How effective is the religious education?
- ❖ How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

For our school in June 2017, the inspector reports:

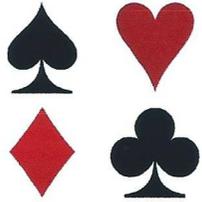
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Lawrence as a Church of England school are outstanding

- ❖ A clear Christian vision, underpinned by explicit and by implicit Christian values, is deeply embedded in the life of the school.
- ❖ Behaviour is excellent with warm, respectful and trustful relationships evident at all levels amongst staff and pupils.
- ❖ Pupils are being well developed as leaders of worship and undertake their role with enthusiasm and passion.
- ❖ Clear Christian leadership, which is lived out by example, is driving forth the vision of every child achieving their God-given potential.

Areas to improve

- ❖ Ensure that all governors engage with professional development regarding Christian distinctiveness in order to improve formal monitoring of religious education (RE) and collective worship.
- ❖ Create focussed reflective spaces within and outside the building so that spirituality can be further developed.

It remains to congratulate Alison and her team, including the children, on this excellent report.



BRIDGE TEA
Thursday 19th October
2 - 4.30pm



St Lawrence Village Hall, Church Road
Stone Street

£50 per table in aid of St Lawrence Church Funds

Tickets from Bridget Stephens 01732 760150

Sheila Jackson 01732 811422

Starvation haunts East Africa

East Africa's hunger crisis will reach catastrophic proportions without immediate action from the global community, Christian Aid has warned.

The spectre of starvation continues to hang over some 20 million people severely short of food in parts of South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. This figure could rise further still, Christian Aid has said. Ethiopia's seasonal rains have failed once again, Kenya's were very poor, and both put yet more strain on national and international relief efforts. In Kenya and Ethiopia, livestock are dying in their thousands, leaving pastoralist families with no animals, no food, and no assets.

Christian Aid is reaching tens of thousands of people with life-saving assistance, but warns that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Through local partners, Christian Aid is providing safe, clean drinking water to over 21,000 people, distributing food vouchers to 600 families, feeding hundreds of livestock owned by nearly 1,250 pastoralists, and providing support cash 1,600 families.

If you can help the Christian Aid fundraising appeal for the East Africa crisis, please go to: www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/east-africa-crisis-appeal

jazz with pop. Robert played Horace Silver's tune "Song for my Father" which is jazz of a high standard.

The St Lawrence team and the Robert Reid trio must be thanked hugely for putting on such an entertaining and informative evening of jazz. *Peter*

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***A Little Puzzle***

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. The truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you.

Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others will require judges to help them. I will quickly admit, it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found.

A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are some names of books of the Bible here. If I chose another sentence or two, maybe you could post them at the web site.

But how many, answers to the editor, please.

~~~~~

Bassetts Garden

This year the garden has done really well and is looking pretty good.

It would be nice to share it. So if any one from the St Lawrence would like to come and see, you would be very welcome any time within reason until end of July.

There is no need to call first - just come and park on the grass inside the gate on the right and wander wherever you like around the garden. I do not have any Rottweiler's so there are very few hazards!

If you wish to make a donation to St Lawrence that would be nice.

John Clemence.

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**Services and Events at  
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart  
during August 2017**

|               |                  |                                                           |     |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>6 August</b>  | <b>The Transfiguration of our Lord</b>                    |     |
|               | 08:00            | Holy Communion                                            | BCP |
|               |                  | 2 Peter 1: 16-19                      Luke 9: 28-36       |     |
|               | 09:45            | All Age Family Service                                    |     |
|               |                  | Luke 9: 28-36                                             |     |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>13 August</b> | <b>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>                         |     |
|               | 09:45            | NO SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE                                 |     |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>20 August</b> | <b>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>                         |     |
|               | 09:45            | Family Communion                                          | CW  |
|               |                  | Genesis 45: 1-15                      Matthew 15: 21-28   |     |
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>25 August</b> | <b>Prayer Time (lasts about an hour, all are welcome)</b> |     |
|               | 14:00            | At 50 The Crescent, Sevenoak                              |     |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>27 August</b> | <b>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>                      |     |
|               | 09:45            | Matins                                                    | BCP |
|               |                  | Isaiah 51: 1-6                      Matthew 16: 13-20     |     |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>3 Sept</b>    | <b>Twelfth Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>               |     |
|               | 08:00            | Holy Communion                                            | BCP |
|               |                  | Romans 12: 9-end                      Matthew 16: 21—end  |     |
|               | 09:45            | NO SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE                                 |     |
|               | 15:00            | <b>AT St Margaret's Underriver</b>                        |     |
|               |                  | <b>Collation and Installation of</b>                      |     |
|               |                  | <b>Reverend Serena Willoughby</b>                         |     |
|               |                  | <b>By Bishop James Langstaff,</b>                         |     |
|               |                  | <b>the Rt Reverend Bishop of Rochester</b>                |     |



### Church Flowers



|        |           |             |
|--------|-----------|-------------|
| Sunday | 6 August  | Roz Morris  |
| Sunday | 13 August | Roz Morris  |
| Sunday | 20 August | Gill Beynon |
| Sunday | 27 August | Gill Beynon |
| Sunday | 3 Sept    | Pat Wilson  |

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**Children meet promptly at 09:45 in the School Hall on the dates below**

*For further information re Sunday School please contact Hilary on 01732 453929*

**All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome**

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

2 August All Age/Family Service

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*For further information re Messy Church please contact Wendy on 07880 725885*

**7 August MESSY CHURCH                      At 15:15 in the Church**

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**Please remember in your prayers**

**Serena, John, Esther and Freddie**

**as they move into the Vicarage and as Serena prepares for her collation and induction as vicar of our joint Benefice of St Lawrence and St Margaret**

