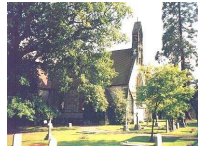


*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during September 2017*



Sunday	3 Sept	1500	Collation and Installation of Reverend Serena Willoughby and Licensing of Gretel Wakeham to the United Benefice by Bishop James Langstaff, the Rt Reverend Bishop of Rochester	
Sunday	10 Sept	11:15	No service at St Margaret's	
Sunday	17 Sept	11:15	Short Family Communion	CW
Sunday	24 Sept	11:15	Family Communion	CW
Sunday	1 Oct	11:15	Harvest Festival Service	

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Vicar - Revd Serena Willoughby (wef 03.09.17)

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	Rob Otto Vacancy	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	810214		Gary Aldridge	
	Peter Wharton	810388			
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
			Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	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			
St Lawrence Pre-School	Melissa Alchin	763354	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 13 September 2017

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 24 September 2017**

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
September 2017*



Vicar (wef 03.09.17)

Rev Serena Willoughby

St Lawrence Vicarage

Stone Street

Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ

01732 761766

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 Our Church Warden

"Carry each other's burdens," writes St Paul in his letter to the Galatians (chapter 6, verse 2) "and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ". As we come to an exciting time of new birth in the life of our church, I can only look back on the last year and marvel at just how true to those words our church family has been.

The theme of carrying burdens is certainly one that resonates with a churchwarden during interregnum - but not really any more so than it does with any of the countless others who participate so fully in the life of a church! As volunteers in some way or other - PCC members, choristers, sides persons, cleaners, flower arrangers, pastoral supporters - we are all deeply and passionately involved in the life of our church and in performing the work that our Lord has set before us in this place. A time of interregnum inevitably means additional responsibilities for all of us and with that responsibility can indeed come burden.

The wonderful thing about families, though, is that they help one another to share that load and I can honestly say that my task over the last ten months has been made significantly easier thanks to the willing and uncomplaining way in which all of you have so graciously shared my burden. I am hugely grateful to each and every one of you!

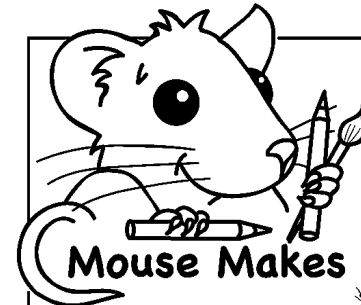
Looking to the future, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Reverend Serena Willoughby and thank her for answering the call to become our new vicar. I'm certainly looking forward to great times to come for our church, as Serena's energy and enthusiasm for mission and outreach combines with the willing hands and open hearts of our St Lawrence family.

My hope and prayer for all of us is that the grace of our Lord and the love of our Saviour will continue to guide and inspire us through this period of exciting change. Serena, remember that sharing of burdens is a two-way street and we're just as willing to help with yours as you will be with ours.

Yours in Christ's love and always in His service

Rob

For the Children



May all the peoples praise you, O God,
may all the peoples praise you!
The land has produced its harvest,
God, our God has blessed us.
God has blessed us, may all people
everywhere honour him.

Psalm 67:5-7

Can you find these harvest words in the hay bales?

HARVEST
THANKSGIVING
PRAISE • GOD • BLESSED
SEEDS • SOW • LAND
PLOUGH • SCATTER
SOIL • GROW
CROPS • REAP



WATER • RAIN • SUN
AUTUMN • GATHER
PICK • REAP • BALE
TRACTOR • BARN • CART
HAYSTACK • FOOD
MOUSE • BREAD • LOAF
GRAIN • CORN
WHEAT • OATS
RYE • BARLEY

OLIVES • GRAPES • PIPS
PEARS • PLUMS • APPLE
BERRIES • NUTS • VINE
FIGS • BEANS • PEAS
POTATOES • FLOUR
ONIONS
PARSNIPS
RICE • SUGAR

Sept17 © Deborah Noble • parisipump.co.uk

OUR HARVEST SUPPER

will be held on

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2017

at 19:00

in

St LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £12 adults £6 children

from

Sam Drury on 01732 810214 or

07964 315377

or

Teresa Anderson on 01732 763320

Good Food Good Company

Good Entertainment

The Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project

The Sevenoaks Greensand Commons project is continuing to encourage people to get involved and to give their views. Information about the project is available on the following website:

<http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/sevenoaks-greensand-commons> .

The following walks have been arranged for September:

- 5th September 2017 - Hosey Common walk - meet at Hosey Common car park, Hosey Common Road Westerham TN16 1PL
- 7th September 2017 - Farley Common walk - meet on the common by Farley Lane TN16 1UD
- 11th September 2017 - Crockhamhill Common walk - meet at Crockhamhill car park, Hosey Common Road TN16 1PP
- 13th September 2017 - Bitchet Common walk - meet at One Tree Hill Car Park, Carter's Hill TN15 0SN
- 19th September 2017 - Fawke Common walk - meet on St Julian Road, by the junction with Fawke Wood Road TN15 ORT
- 21st September 2017 - Seal Chart and Redhill Wood walk - Meet and park by St Lawrence CEP School/ St. Lawrence Church on Church Road, Stone Street TN15 0LQ
- 26th September 2017 - Sevenoaks Common walk - meet on the common at the junction of Weald Road and Windmill Road TN13 1QZ
- 28th September 2017 - Sevenoaks Weald Village Common drop-in session - meet on the common, by the Weald Community Primary School on Long Barn Road TN14 6PY

All start at 6.30pm and will last for approx. one hour. Postcodes are approx. location only.

Please contact andrew.willmore@kentwildlife.org.uk to let us know you would like to come along. If you cannot make a walk and would like to give your views please email Andrew or telephone Fidelity Weston on 01732 463372 and leave a message. Thank you.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

Angels Unawares

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels - almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger'. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'
David Winter

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dragon Boat Festival

The recent rains have added a little depth to Bawl Water and it goes without saying that we are hoping for a much support as possible for our intrepid paddlers. The 2016 event raised over £80k for various local charities, among which was our church.

There is still time for you to show your support for this year's event on Sunday 9 September

Please contact Rob Otto who will be pleased to accept your donations.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Rite of Passage - BIG School

September is an important month for many 11-year olds. After six years in a cosy Primary, they will be off to 'Big School'. Most children have enjoyed school, making friends, feeling at home, comfortable with lessons and teachers. They probably knew the name of every child in the school.

But now they know it will be different. Of course, it's exciting to move on, proudly trying on the new uniform and working out which of your friends are going to the same school. But the anticipation will be tempered with a little apprehension. What's it like being in a school of perhaps over a thousand students, and maybe a hundred teachers? Parents may have a few anxieties, too. The teenage experience lies ahead: the sulks, the hormones, the moods, the highs and lows of awakening sexuality. How will they cope, and how will we?

The great thing for the parents is that every single one of them has actually experienced it themselves. This is not uncharted territory, and we survived it, and can remember how it felt - and how our own parents dealt with it. We shall discover, as they did, that it's not easy being mum or dad to a teenager, but we also know that out of those turbulent years will emerge a new, grown-up relationship that is life-long and life-enhancing.



Please remember in your prayers
Serena, as she starts her new ministry
Young people who are starting new jobs
All those who are looking for work;
Children who are starting at new schools;





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 Bridge Stephens 01732 760150

/cont from Page 5

carried out by the school staff. All the leavers joined Alison and me for the tower climb though for safety reasons they were split into two small groups. The tower stairs are very narrow but everyone managed and the view from the top was worth the effort. They waved to their parents and friends and took photos. On the way down we stopped in the ringing room, where they were shown how the bells are rung. Each leaver was allowed to chime the treble bell under supervision. All quickly discovered the rhythm of the bell, which is not easy to change, as it weighs more than 3 times their weight.

The Leavers Service is a joyous yet poignant event and marks the end of the first big step in their education, before they stride on to bigger and greater things.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Church Warden(s)

Churches stand in ev'ry parish
 Of this green and pleasant land
 Some are small, yet so historic
 Some are large, ornate, and grand.
 Some have roofs that need repairing
 Some have other wear and tear
 Some have beetles, rot, or woodworm
 But they all need loving care!
 Thousands, then, of ancient churches
 Being kept up to their prime

In the care of all those wardens
 Giving freely of their time.
 Yet much more than just the buildings
 Occupy these sterling folk!
 Rotas, meetings, service duties
 Yet you'll hear them laugh and joke!
 So, to all these lovely people
 Who have so much work to do
 And do it all without complaining
 From our hearts, we say "Thank you!"

The School Leavers Service

For several years I have taken the school leavers up the bell tower though I must first climb the spiral stone stairs to make sure everything is satisfactory and to clear away the cobwebs. This is part of the leavers' farewell.

This year I spoke to Alison to ask whether I may attend the Leavers' Service. She agreed and told me that, about a fortnight beforehand, the leavers themselves prepare the order of service and any special hymns or prayers. They then discuss it with her and Gretel.

The Service started with Adam Reeves playing "When the Saints go marching in" on his trumpet. This was followed by a favourite hymn "When a knight won his spurs..".

The pupils were then encouraged to recount their memories of their school days, their friends and the teachers. Many of these were very amusing but it was not all comedy, some were very poignant and touching.

Each leaver was presented with a bible from Gretel and a special sweatshirt from the PTA with their name and the names of the other leavers printed on it.

Gretel gave a short address noting that as Professor Dumbledore had advised Harry Potter: it's not the abilities you are given, but the choices you make that determine the kind of person you are. The school had given them the core Christian values of "Trust, Compassion, Creation and Forgiveness" and these, together with their abilities, would help them make good choices.

Alison then wished all the leavers success in their future endeavours noting that they had been a very good year and a pleasure to teach.

We then sang another favourite Hymn "I, the Lord of sea and sky..." followed by Prayers led by years 3 and 4, for the Leavers and the School.

The leavers sang the School Blessing after which they sang "My Favourite Things" from The Sound of Music but with lyrics based on their school life and their experiences. This took Alison by surprise and she asked, "How did you practice without being found out?" So good was their singing that Alison asked them to sing it again as an accompaniment for the younger children to return to their classrooms.

Now it was time for the tower visit for which a risk assessment had been

/cont on Page 8



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

Sunday	3 Sept	Twelfth Seventh Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		Romans 12: 9-end Matthew 16: 21—end	
	09:45	NO SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE	
	15:00	AT St Margaret's Underriver Collation and Installation of Reverend Serena Willoughby and Licensing of Gretel Wakeham to the United Benefice by Bishop James Langstaff, the Rt Reverend Bishop of Rochester	
Monday	4 Sept	Prayer Time (lasts about an hour, all are welcome)	
	14:00	At Grenadier, Riding Lane	
Sunday	10 Sept	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Family Communion	CW
		Romans 13: 8-end Matthew 18: 15-20	
Sunday	17 Sept	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Family Communion	CW
		Exodus 14: 19-end Matthew 18: 21-35	
Wednesday	20 Sept	Prayer Time (lasts about an hour, all are welcome)	
	14:00	At The White House,, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	24 Sept	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	09:45	Matins	BCP
		Philemon 1: 21 -end Matthew 20: 1-16	
Sunday	1 Oct	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		Exodus 7: 1-7 Matthew 21: 23-32	
	09:45	Harvest Festival Service	
		Deuteronomy 8: 7-18	



Church Flowers



Sunday	3 Sept	Pat Wilson
Sunday	10 Sept	Pat Wilson
Sunday	17 Sept	Hilary Denby-Jones
Sunday	24 Sept	Hilary Denby-Jones
Sunday	1 Oct	Sally Rees/Bridge Stephens



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 Sept	All Age/Family Service	
17 Sept	Sunday School	Parable of the Sower
15 Oct	Sunday School	The Greatest Commandment
19 Nov	Sunday School	Parable of the Talents
10 Dec	Sunday School	Isaiah Prophecies
21 Jan	Sunday School	Jonah



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

7 Sept	Messy Church	At 15:15 in the Church
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