

**Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during August 2010**



Sunday	1 August	11:15	Youth Service at Underriver Farm (Details planned by the Youth Group)	
Sunday	8 August	08:00 18:00	Holy Communion (said) Evensong (with hymns and canticles)	BCP BCP
Sunday	15 August	11:15	A short service for all God's children	
Sunday	22 August	11:15	Parish Communion (with hymns)	CW
Sunday	29 August	11:15	Family Service with Holy Baptism	
Sunday	5 Sept	11:15	Family Service: Michael and Elspeth's farewell service for St Margaret's Parish	

(For details of joint services, bible study, prayer times, etc., please see Page 2)

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Priest in Charge - St Lawrence Church - Revd Dr Michael Cooke - 761766
Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534

Churchwardens	Hilary Denby-Jones 763883 Celeste Davis-Watling 820190	S'oaks District Councillor Seal Parish Council	Cnclr Peter Coates
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross 761202	Chairman	Robin Watson 833930
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb xd	Vice-Chairman	Edward Oatley 465905
Electoral Roll	Clive McLintock 452964	Clerk	Lorna Talbot 763488
Covenant & Envelopes	John Morris 810227	Ward Councillors	Peter Granville 763832 Chris Sutton-Mattocks 762013
Organist	Lizzie Veglio 01634 244700	St Lawrence Village Association	
Choir Director	John Morris 810227	Chairman	Graham Moynes 760640
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Elspeth Cooke 761766	Secretary	Carol Smith 763561
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Hilary Denby-Jones 763883 Peter Wharton 810388	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee	
Sunday School	Hilary Darque 453929 Elspeth Cooke 761766	Chairman	Peter Granville 763832
Child Protection Rep	Carol McLintock 452964	Secretary	Peter Wharton 810388
deputy	Gretel Wakeham 761534	Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale 760552
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson 811422	Bookings Secretary	Janice Brooker 760843
Memorial Flowers	Annie Scarsi 810864	Cricketer Club Secretary	Robin Webster 01892 862017
St Lawrence CE Primary School		Badm'ton Club Contact	Ian Lister 762416
Headteacher	Alison Saunders 761393	Bowls Club	Peter Granville 763832
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson 810050	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham 761534
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew xd	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	
St Lawrence Pre-School	Mandy McCracken 847990	Stone Street Contact	Janice Brooker 760843
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell 01959 523953	Seal Chart Contact	Nicola Mitchell 764202

**St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
August 2010**



Priest in Charge

The Reverend Dr Michael Cooke
 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

Hilary Denby-Jones
 Broomsleigh Park
 Seal Chart
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES
 01732 763883

Celeste Davis-Watling
 C/o St Lawrence Church
 Church Road, Stone Street
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LN
 01732 820190

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor (or e-mail to brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk).
to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 18 August 2010

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 19 August 2010**

Edited and Typeset by Brian Sutton, 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QY (01732 450873)
 Printed by Highland Printers, 23 High Street, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0AN (01732 762131)

*Services and Events at
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart
during August 2010*



Sunday	1 August	Ninth Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Luke 12: 13-21	CW
Monday	2 August	Prayer Time for both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 14:00 At Shepherd's Cottage, Heaverham Road, Kemsing	
Sunday	8 August	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Family Communion (with hymns) with the ministry of healing and wholeness Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12: 32-40	CW
Sunday	15 August	The Blessed Virgin Mary 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 1:46-55 09:45 All Age Family Service with Holy Baptism Revelation 11: 19-12: 6: 10 Luke 1: 46-55	CW
Wednesday	18 August	Prayer Time for both Parishes 14:00 At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	22 August	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Morning Prayer (with hymns) Isaiah 58: 9b-14 Luke 13: 10-17	BCP
Sunday	29 August	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 09:45 Songs of Praise with Holy Communion Favourite readings and hymns—a service of delights. (see page 8 for details of how to make your request) Luke 17: 1, 7-14	CW
Tuesday	31 August	Bible Study for both Parishes 20:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Thursday	2 Sept	Prayer Time for both Parishes (Open to all - lasts about 60 mins) 10:00 At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough	
Sunday	5 Sept	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 08:00 Holy Communion (said) Philemon 1-21 Luke 14: 25-33 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Michael and Elspeth's farewell service for St Lawrence's Parish Philippians 1-3-11 Psalm 121	BCP

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - a service using traditional (17th C) language and form
CW = Common Worship - a service using contemporary (21st C) language and form

New documentary highlights evidence on reliability of the Bible

‘The Jesus Accounts – Fact or Fiction?’ – a new documentary that will equip Christians to take on the sceptics over the trustworthiness of the Bible - is being released this summer.

By throwing light on scholarly, scientific and historical evidence that supports the trustworthiness of the ancient manuscripts, eyewitness accounts and more, the 30-minute documentary provides an invaluable tool that shows how the four canonical gospels can be trusted.

The Jesus Accounts has been praised by leading clergy such as Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, and Mark Meynell, Senior Associate Minister of All Souls Church, Langham Place in London. “It will prove a fantastic resource for serious enquirers and scholars alike, because it carefully examines the historical evidence and draws on the expertise on renowned scholars. I hope it will be widely used.”

Bishop Nazir-Ali says: “We have an unprecedented number of manuscripts, whether papyrus or parchment, available to us. This means we can be confident that the text is in fact the text written down by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”


At a time when the reliability of scriptures is being challenged, it is hoped that the documentary will serve as a powerful tool to churches, scholars, ministers and lay-people reaching out to their communities with the power of the gospel.

To view the trailer to the film, and for more information on the film, visit:
www.thejesusaccounts.tv.


~~~~~

***Hole for one***

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. “Cheer up,” said the layman. Remember, you’ll eventually be burying me some day.” “Yes,” said the priest. “But even then it will be your hole!”



***Flower Rota for Church Flowers***



|        |           |                |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Sunday | 1 August  | Gill Beynon    |
| Sunday | 8 August  | Gill Beynon    |
| Sunday | 15 August | Elspeth Cooke  |
| Sunday | 22 August | Elspeth Cooke  |
| Sunday | 29 August | Sheila Jackson |
| Sunday | 5 Sept    | Wedding        |

### Rainbow Rhymes

Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.

#### Where shall we go for our holidays?

As long as there are trees  
I don't mind where we go,  
To Mablethorpe or to the moon,  
Or Alaska in the snow.  
All holidays are magical  
Near mountains, lakes or seas,  
Each place a perfect playground -  
As long as there are trees.

As long as there are trees  
With branches gnarled and twisted,  
Their fascination works on me  
And cannot be resisted.  
I have this strange compulsion,  
Like a recurring disease,  
It spreads through arms and legs, to brain,  
I *have* to climb up trees.

As long as there are trees  
I can make the world my own.  
I climb and perch, the master of  
My time-free travel zone.  
No-one knows I'm out in space,  
Or surviving treacherous seas,  
Exploring all the universe -  
They think I'm climbing trees!

Sol says:  
"Trees! You can  
imagine all sorts of  
things!"

**"And all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands"**  
Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by .....

### The Vicar's Page

As I write, the weather is still gloriously sunny and hopefully many of our readers will be looking forward to a great summer holiday. May such breaks be times of real refreshment and re-creation.

For our part, Elspeth and I have returned from a once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing the Passion Play at Oberammergau in Southern Bavaria. I expect you know that the play originated as a vow to God in 1633 that if the plague would stop (and it did) the villagers would perform every 10 years a Passion Play both in God's honour and to remind them of their relatives who had already died; that the play now involves over 2,000 actors, singers, instrumentalists and technicians, all of whom must be 20-year residents of, or born in, the village of ~4,500 inhabitants.

In recent times performances have run from May to October and have involved ever-increasing changes to the original script. For example, following the 1930 performance, from which Hitler came away saying in as many words "So it's the Jews....." the portrayal of blame for Jesus' death has been made more explicit to encompass the Romans, the common people, and of course his disciples. (You and me too?) The High Priests are now seen as partly caught between a rock (Pilate – a very nasty character!) and a hard place (crowds and insurrection, and what would that do to the Jewish nation? "Better one man die than ..."); the Sanhedrin is also clearly divided in what it should be doing; was due notice given to all of the late night 'trial'? This year there was also a particularly poignant treatment of Judas Iscariot, who is portrayed as misguided, but also disillusioned – as were the other disciples. The difference is/was that Judas saw no hope and committed suicide, whereas Peter is prepared to live on and so experience the resurrection, and the life-change it brings.

Again, for the first time and only after the majority of the very conservative citizens had agreed it, the second part of the 5½ hour play takes place in the evening with night falling – very emotional as the trial and crucifixion scenes are portrayed. Finally there is the Resurrection – a bowl of light, and a single character: is (s)he an angel or Jesus? And the spreading of nightlights to the disciples, and then the cast moving off-stage - and no curtain call. Silence and wonder.

The play is interspersed with over 2 hours of music or singing, and with glorious coloured tableaux vivants (static images of mimed scenes drawn from the Hebrew Testament, and which relate to parts of the Passion). And as for the crowd scenes – a real crowd of hundreds and hundreds – camels, lambs, donkey and goats (not all of whom behaved impeccably – remember what can happen when we have a Palm Sunday 'donkey' in church?)

Can we commend "making the journey" (as Michelin Green guides used to say)? Absolutely! 100% ! But two words of ever-so-slight caution: it is not inexpensive (one has to book accommodation, meals and play as a package), and a fair grasp of German is a real help since, although there's a full English translation provided, one shouldn't be spending the whole performance looking at the booklet.

We hope this whets your appetite – do please ask if want to know more (we have a

superb book of pictures), and if you are not already booked for 2010, then health and age permitting make a diary note now as a real priority to book in 2019 for 2020.

With love and blessings,

Michael

~~~~~

Lincoln Cathedral - The Ordination of Priests - Sunday 4 July 2010

What a joyous day! Ellen Liesel Wakeham, eldest daughter of John and Gretel was ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. John Saxbee. Ellen had been in an ordinands' retreat for the past few days preparing for the Ordination.

Outside the Cathedral on that Sunday morning the sun shone brightly and there was a happy buzz of voices. The ordinands were surrounded by the hundreds of people who were to make up the congregation. There was an air of excitement. Then it was time to enter the Cathedral and the atmosphere changed to one of stillness, peacefulness and wondrous expectation.

Ellen's family, her godmother who had journeyed from New York and some of her friends gathered in the north choir transept to witness her Ordination. There were 16 ordinands to receive the Blessing, the laying of hands, their Parish Chalice and a Holy Bible from the Bishop. The laying of hands on the head of the ordinand first by the Bishop and those of other Priests and in Ellen's case two of her ordained friends was very moving. Not a sound was heard except for the Bishop as the whole congregation was awestruck by the enormity of the moment. To each of the ordinands the Bishop said: 'Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant for the office and work of a priest in your Church.'

The Bishop then addressed the congregation with The Liturgy of Ordination: 'Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation.' He then addressed the ordinands directly and asked if they would accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in



Prayer Topics for this Month

- Those able to go on holiday – that their time may be full of proper recreation; for those unable to take holiday that they find solace and comfort at home from family and neighbours
- Those preparing for their marriage at St Lawrence's this summer (as we write, that's five couples by the end of September)

~~~~~

### ***Before the ending of the day***

In some of our country parishes there are still to be found timber framed medieval churches. These can be hidden down secluded lanes with more fields than houses around. Evensong there on an August Sunday evening there with the sun beginning to set in the west can often remind one of this painting by Samuel Palmer, 'Coming from evening church.'

Samuel Palmer was born in London in 1805, but through the influence of Constable and William Blake, he moved from the city to the country to settle in Shoreham in Kent. A group of artists gathered around him known as the Ancients (because they believed ancient man was superior to modern man).

Palmer delighted in the countryside around Shoreham, which became for him 'the Valley of Vision.' His paintings capture not just the actual beauty of the landscape, but also its spiritual beauty. When he married, he moved to Italy. With the death of a much-loved son, Thomas, he became almost a recluse. But with Hannah, his wife, his final days were marked by that tranquillity and contentment he had found in earlier times. He died in Reigate in 1881.

This painting belongs to the Shoreham period of Samuel Palmer's life and was painted in 1830. The church and people are framed by the trees and by the hills behind. A quiet procession of young and old leave church to return to their homes, with a mother and children leading them. There is an innocence in this twilight scene as the congregation forms an almost stately walk up the lane. The church with its tall, thin spire and the people seem to be at one with the countryside around. That innocence and spiritual focus Samuel Palmer found in the poems and paintings of William Blake. He also found them in Virgil with his hints of a golden age when this world was at unity with itself. So the river and the hills, the buildings and the people become here the manifestation of a spiritual kingdom. He wrote of how the countryside can give off 'a mystic and dreamy glimmer.'

The picture can be seen at [www.tate.org.uk/servlet/ViewWork?workid=11045](http://www.tate.org.uk/servlet/ViewWork?workid=11045)

~~~~~

Farm Africa

We are delighted that Evi Steegmans, who works in the Programme Funding Unit, has agreed to come to St Lawrence and talk to us about the work of Farm Africa, during our 10.45 am service on Sunday, 19 September . During May of this year, Evi visited Tanzania and she hopes to show us some of the pictures that she took during her trip.

Celeste

~~~~~

***Service of Favourite Hymns and Readings on 29 August***

Have you a favourite hymn you wish we could sing in church more often? Or a Reading (which needn't be a Bible passage but ought obviously to relate to God)? Then please let Michael know by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, so your wish can be included in a special service of Favourite Hymns and Readings on Sunday 29th – the only request is that you would expect to be there in person. The 9:45 am service will also include the Eucharist.

~~~~~

Permissions etc during the forthcoming vacancy

When I leave the parish in early September, responsibility for running church activities falls on the Churchwardens and the Rural Dean (currently Revd Paul Francis of St Mary's Riverhead). In particular between them the Churchwardens and Paul will ensure that church services on Sundays and for special occasions (eg. baptisms, marriages and funerals) continue. Revd Paul Francis will be responsible for signing-off requests for special permissions (see below). So please be assured that life will carry on.

I have, however, also requested from our Bishop "Permission to Officiate" so that in very special cases I can continue to lead services within the parish or Diocese even after I am no longer your priest-in-charge. I will be using this permission, for example, to lead two weddings which I have helped prepare with the couples, and which take place in the weeks immediately after I leave.

But if you are thinking of requesting a permission for something in church or the graveyard (e.g. reserved grave space, or introduction of a headstone gravestone or memorial tablet, new inscription etc), then it might be a good idea to have a word with me **while I am still in post** and so still able to grant my delegated permissions. It may well be that the local knowledge I have can shortcut potential difficulties.

Michael

~~~~~

***The Sky at Night***

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Jesus Christ. The ordinands swore their faith.

The congregation was then asked to pray for those to be ordained Priest, who knelt before the Bishop. He then anointed their hands with Chrism saying: 'May God, who anointed the Christ with the Holy Spirit at his baptism anoint and empower you to reconcile and bless his people.' During this time the choir sang the Sanctus from the Missa Brevis by Mozart. The resonance of young and older voices alike was ethereal.

Following the Ordination the new Priests were asked to distribute Communion. The Service finished with The Sending Out when the newly ordained Priests stood before the Bishop and were each given a Bible.

After the Service in true Wakeham style a lunch party had been arranged for Ellen's guests. Whilst speaking to Ellen I asked her how she felt now that she was ordained. She replied 'I didn't expect to feel different but I do'. That says it all doesn't it?

What an amazing day – one that I personally will never forget.

*Pat Wilson*

~~~~~

Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....

Michael's last service as the Priest-In-Charge of St. Lawrence, Seal Chart will be at 9.45am on Sunday 5th September.

The PCC invites you to join Michael and Elspeth at a FAREWELL PARTY to be held that evening at 6pm at the Village Hall, Stone Street.

Everyone welcome including children. A presentation will be made at 7pm. Please RSVP to Rosemary Cole 01732 763107. The event is to be funded from Parish funds but anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of the evening should send a cheque to the Treasurer, payable to Mr A T Webb.

Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....Stop Press.....

Michael and Elspeth's Farewell

There will be a presentation at Michael & Elspeth's Farewell Party on Sunday 5th September.

The PCC invite all those who would like to show their appreciation and grateful thanks to Michael & Elspeth, for their many years of dedicated service to our parish, to contribute to their Farewell Fund.

Donations should be sent to Tony Webb, Treasurer, Camden House, School Lane, Seal Kent TN15 0BE (Please make cheques payable to: St Lawrence (Seal) PCC)

If you would like any further information please contact Tony Webb on 01732 763436.

All in the month of August

400 years ago: - on 2nd August 1610 that English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into what is now called Hudson Bay, Canada. (He mistakenly thought he had found the north-west passage, and had arrived in the Pacific.)

150 years ago: - on 30 August 1860 that the first tramway in Europe opened – in Birkenhead, England.

125 years ago: - on 29 August 1885 that the German engineer Gottlieb Daimler patented the world’s first motorcycle.

100 years ago: - on 26 August 1910 that Mother Teresa was born. This Macedonian-born Indian missionary won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, and was beatified on 19 October 2003.

90 years ago: - on 26 August 1920 that the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution came into effect, and for the first time ever American women were given the right to vote.

80 years ago: - on 21 August 1930 that Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was born. She died on 9th February 2002.

70 years ago: - on 13th August 1940 that the main phase in the Battle of Britain began. The German Luftwaffe launched raids on RAF airfields and radar installations.

Also 70 years ago: - on 20th August 1940 that the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force in a famous House of Commons speech, saying, “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”

60 years ago: - on 15th August 1950 that Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, was born.

Also 60 years ago: - on 27th August 1950 that the BBC transmitted the first ever live TV pictures across the Channel.

30 years ago: - on 14th August 1980 that Lech Walesa led a strike by shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland. It led to the formation of the Solidarity movement.

20 years ago: - on 2nd August 1990 that the Gulf War began when Iraq invaded Kuwait. On 7th August Operation Desert Shield was put in place when US President Bush sent American forces to Saudi Arabia to prevent an Iraqi invasion.

15 years ago: - on 27th August 1995 that Carl Giles, well loved British cartoonist, died.

10 years ago: - on 4th August 2000 that the Queen Mother celebrated her 100th birthday.

~~~~~

***The Parish Profile***

The Parish Profile is now complete and has been seen by the PCCs of both St Lawrence and St Margaret and also The Archdeacon of Tonbridge, Ven Clive Mansell. A copy will be available at the back of the church.

Gretel Wakeham and John Morris have kindly agreed to be our representatives in the interview process for a new Priest-in-Charge.

If anybody has any particular issues that they wish to raise with regard to the appointment, they are most welcome to discuss these with a member of the PCC.

An Administrative Assistant will be appointed for 4 hours a week during the interregnum, who will be shared between both parishes.

*Celeste*

~~~~~

Contributed by John

THE ALTO'S LAMENT

It's tough to be an Alto, when you're singing in the Choir.
The sopranos get the twiddly bits, that people all admire..
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,
But the Alto part is on two notes, (or, if you're lucky, three.)

And when we sing an anthem, and lift our hearts in praises,
The men get all the juicy bits, and telling little phrases.
Of course, the trebles sing the tune - they always come off best,
The Altos only get three notes, and twenty-two bars rest.

We practice very hard each week, from hymn book and the Psalter,
But when the conductor looks at us, our voices start to falter.
"Too high! Too low!, Too fast! You held that note too long!"
It doesn't matter WHAT we do - it's certain to be wrong!

Oh shed a tear for Altos, they're the martyrs and they know
In the ranks of choral singers, they're considered very low,
They are so very 'umble. that a lot of folk forget 'em,
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords wont let 'em!

And when the final trumpet sounds, and we are wafted higher,
Sopranos, basses, tenors - they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
While they sing “Alleluia” to celestial flats and sharps,
The Altos will be occupied, with polishing the harps.

Anon.

Discovered behind the vestry door of
All Saints Church, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

~~~~~