



# St Lawrence, Seal Chart

## May 2024

Hello everyone,

In May every year the charity Christian Aid has a focussed week of giving. St Lawrence Church has been supporting this every May with great help from the community here. I thought you might like a bit of information about the Charity's focus this May. If you'd like to give through St Lawrence Church to this charity please can you mark your donation as Christian Aid and send to the following:

***St Lawrence (Seal) PCC***

***Sort code: 405240 (CAF Bank)***

***A/c: 00017413***

Love and thanks, Serena x

### **Christian Aid Week 2024 - 12-18 May**

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12-18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides.

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# News from Annie Sinclair in Zimbabwe

Hello from a sunny Valentine's morning in Zimbabwe!

We have had a month of scorchingly hot weather. The rains seem to have gone away again raising fears for crops as they have started well but need enough rain to finish.

## Trouble in the city

There have been a couple of events in Harare recently which have put the street children and homeless population in the firing line again.

Firstly a huge fire which swept through the area called Joina City. Destroying buildings and part of a bridge. At first the gangs of street kids who live in that area were blamed for the fire but later it seemed it was a gas explosion. However, they did get blamed for looting the shops in the wake of the fire.

Then last week, a woman was stabbed in the early evening by a man who was trying to steal her phone. He was not caught but the street guys who live nearby are again the prime suspects. These kind of incidents make most people despise and shun the street people, treating them as some kind of rubbish which needs to be thrown away.

It makes our mission feel even more urgent : to let them know the God who made them in His own image and who loves them more than they will ever know. As we continue to meet daily to share food, play games and craft, sing and listen to their stories, we are convinced that this is what God wants us to do. His word really is able to transform broken and messed up lives.

It's almost time for our programme to start in town, so I must dash now!

Very much love and gratitude to you all

Annie xx



*(Continued from front page)*

The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

This Christian Aid Week – from 12-18 May – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

# MAY 2024 SERVICE INFORMATION

## Sunday 5th May (White)

8am BCP Holy Communion - St Lawrence Stone Street

9.45am Joint Morning Worship - St Margaret's, Underriver

*Rev. Adrienne McCall*

1 John 5 v 1-6 & John 15 v 9-17

## Thursday 9th May - Ascension (White)

10am Holy Communion- St Lawrence, Stone Street

## Sunday 12th May - (White)

8am BCP Holy Communion - St Margaret's, Underriver

9.45am Joint Morning Worship - St Lawrence, Stone Street

*followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting*

Acts 1 v 15-17, 21 - end & John 17 v 6-19

## Sunday 19th May - Pentecost (Red)

9.45am Holy Communion- St Lawrence, Stone Street

6pm Evensong - St Margaret's, Underriver

Acts 2 v 1-21, John 15 v 26-27 and 16 v 4b-15

(Psalm for Evensong - Psalm 104 v 26-37)

## Sunday 26th May (White)

9.45am Matins - St Lawrence, Stone Street

11.15am Holy Communion - St Margaret's, Underriver

Isaiah 6 v 1-8, John 3 v 1-17 (Psalm for Matins - Psalm 29)

## St Lawrence Church Contact Details

Vicar: Rev Serena Willoughby 01732

761766 serena@stlawrencesealchart.com

Lay Minister: Mrs Gretel Wakeham:

gretel@dircon.co.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Hilary Denby-Jones

hilary@stlawrencesealchart.com

& Mr Ron Drury



Presenting St Lawrence School

# Festival on the Field

Friday 17th May

5:30-8:30pm



## Live Bands

Dads' band

St Lawrence alumni groups

Stonepitts' Martin Clews

& GEM collective

Victoria Milnes and Mr Eaton

**BBQ** meat/vegan **Picnic** bring your own

**Bar**

**Tickets**

**£6 adults £3 child £17.50 family**

(up to 2 adults and 4 children living in the same house)

<https://buytickets.at/stlawrencepta>



What could your donations buy?



**£5** could buy a savings book for a member of a VSLA, setting them up to start their own small business and become financially independent.

**£30** would help a family buy two Jerrycans to collect water from the river to carry back to their farm. Jerrycans provide irrigation to crops, especially during the dry season, maintaining food production for the family.

**£50** would mean a vulnerable family can purchase a water storage tank. Water can then be stored for a few days rather than travelling to the communal water point, allowing instant access to water for washing, cleaning and cooking.

**£100** could help a woman set up her own small business with a starter kit; including money to purchase her first few items to sell. This means she could supply local grocery shops or restaurants with vegetables, set up a roadside shop, or buy maize to sell in bigger markets like Bujumbura.

**£100** could also help buy a family a bicycle meaning easier transport to school, quicker access to medical treatment in emergencies or support carrying produce from farm to market.

## **STOP PRESS - SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Friday 19th July**

St. Lawrence fundraising **BAND NIGHT**  
Brilliant local covers band ReVerBer8 will play  
Stone Street Village Hall. **8-11pm.**

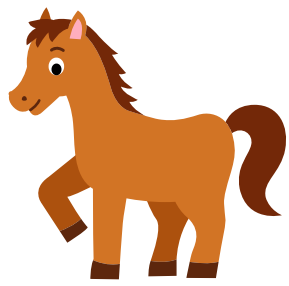


**Tickets**  
**£10**

**And Looking Ahead.....**

**1st week of June - St Lawrence Annual Gift Day Appeal**

**31st August** Annual Dragon Boat fundraising event in aid of Demelza House, Fegans and RDM.



# The Pony and Palm Sunday

## A Poem



It happened on Palm Sunday In a Church I know quite well  
When the congregation was confronted with a different smell  
Churches often have a nice aroma of incense and candle grease  
But this smell was quite different from the usual scent of peace

You see for this special service a donkey was required  
But the donkey was already booked so a little pony was hired  
To enter in the service with someone riding dressed in white  
And being led along the aisle when the time was right.

Now why was this occasion demanding such a thing  
It was a celebration of a Bible story when Jesus was the king  
He rode into Jerusalem and was greeted with special cheers  
As we know just one week later the cheers had turned to tears

So why a donkey not a big golden chariot and a white horse  
The point we all remember is his great humility of course  
No chariot for our Saviour but a humble beast to choose  
And the donkey was the beast of burden which poor people would  
use.

Into the church the pony entered some present were surprised  
For they had come to a Palm Sunday worship and had not been  
advised

That a donkey or a pony would be invited to come inside

The pony looked around and was not too upset  
As he thought there was some food for him to get  
He made his way to the choir stalls slowly with some care  
But as he arrived he could not see his special food anywhere

Now what he did next was not why he was hired  
He let go what ponies do and which was certainly not required  
The sound it made was a bit like a ball bouncing when it's flat  
A sort of "splish and splash" and then a big "kerplat"

A lady in the congregation who was dignified and serene  
Could not suppress the giggles that came with that scene  
She took out her hankie and held it to her face  
For laughing in such a service would be an utter disgrace.

As for the little pony he really couldn't care  
As long as what was inside was out and anywhere.

*Written by Fred Sandall (Headteacher at St Lawrence School 1980-1985)*

## Pop-Up Pub

Back by popular demand! The St Lawrence Pop-up Pub will be back again this Summer **starting on Friday 17th May**, it takes place at the Sports Pavilion by the cricket pitch.

In the sad absence of a village pub the pop-up has proved a nice way to meet and chat with neighbours and make new local friends. One of the loveliest things last summer was seeing multiple generations enjoying themselves. It is aimed at the people of St Lawrence parish and those in walking distance.

To stay in touch do ask to be put on the St Lawrence Events WhatsApp Group if you are not already on it.

Ed Jenne

