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**Parish  
Magazine**

**MAY 2024**



# MAY 2024 SERVICE INFORMATION

## Sunday 5th May (White)

Please note there is no 8am HC service

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

*Rev. Adrienne McCall*

*Bible Readings - 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

*Bible Readings - 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*

*Bible Readings - (Psalm for Evensong - Psalm 104 v 26-37)*

## Sunday 26th May (White)

9.45am Matins - St Lawrence, Stone Street

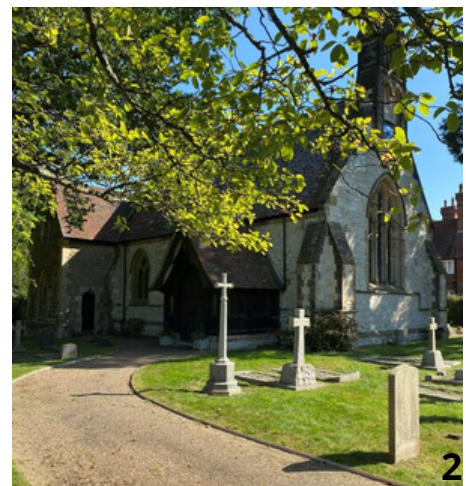
11.15am Holy Communion - St Margaret's, Underriver

*Bible Readings - Isaiah 6 v 1-8, John 3 v 1-17*

*(Psalm for Matins - Psalm 29)*

## The Church of St Margaret, Underriver

**Vicar: Rev Serena Willoughby**  
**St Lawrence Vicarage, Stone**  
**Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ**  
**Telephone: 01732 761766**  
**vicar@stlawrencesealchart.com**  
**www.stlandmchurches.com**



## NEWS FROM THE VICAR

Hello everyone,

In May every year the charity Christian Aid has a focussed week of giving. At St Margaret's we support Christian Aid and our time that we give is through the Harvest Lunch, which so many of you support.

I thought you might be interested in so more information from the charity as they have their Christian Aid focus week this May.

Much love, 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. 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.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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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, eventually to 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 transforms lives.**

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.

## VILLAGE PHOTO BOOK

Dear Underrivians,

After much hard work, Louise has finished the 2022 Platinum Jubilee village photo book and we are now ready to take orders. Have a look at the pictures below showing examples of some of the pages.

The price will be £40 per book, if you would like to order any copies please email **miles Hayward70@gmail.com** and send the money to:

*HSBC: sort code: 40-03-04*

*Account: 81776010*

*REF: YOUR SURNAME*

Regards,

Louise

**miles Hayward70@gmail.com**

**+44 7880 736165**



## MEET & MAKE

Thanks for Audrey's hospitality for our April meetings. Future meeting dates and venues are as follows:



### Meet & Make Upcoming Dates

14th May - chez the Vicar

18th June - change of venue to Linda's

16th July - Juliet Simpson

20th August - Charlotte

17th September - Caroline

Thanks to all and love

Maxine xx

## APRIL BOOK CLUB

### **The Iron King by Maurice Druon**

In April, the Book Club discussed a French classic; Maurice Druon is considered, alongside Alexandre Dumas and his musketeers, one of the most talented French historical fiction authors. The novel, the first of a series of seven, is entitled *The Accursed Kings*. American author George Martin cited Druon's novels as an inspiration for his own series "A Song of Ice and Fire" and regarded Druon's novels as the "original *Games of Thrones*"; so at least some classics have a future ahead of them!

The story throws us in the crucial year of the reign of the French monarch Phillippe the Fair. In order to steal their wealth and destroy their power, he has wrongly accused, condemned and crushed without pity the Order of the Templars\*. The book starts with the curse of the King, his sons and his ministers, uttered by the Grand master of the Templars as he is burning at the stake – a scene so brilliantly and graphically described that some of us found it just about bearable.

Then, the plot moves on to the scandals and intrigues of the court. Philippe is unaware that his three daughters in law, the princesses Marguerite, Jeanne and Blanche, are committing adultery. But his daughter, Isabelle, Queen of England, suspects this infamous affair and is determined to catch her sisters in law red-handed - a determination driven by a sense of honour and duty intensified by her unhappy marriage with Edward II. She plots with a vibrant character called Robert D'Artois, a lord whose motives are, on the contrary, quite far from dignity and morality! He is using the scandal to serve his own interests, hoping to regain his inheritance and the favour of the king.

Several other side plots are woven cleverly around the main intrigue; scenes and characters bring the medieval times back to life: the pope, the Italian bankers called The Lombards, the nobles trying to assert their influence over the King and the declining feudal system. It would be spoiler to reveal how the curse will unravel! But it is interesting to note that the descendance of the dynasty will be interrupted, which will eventually lead to the Hundred Years War.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Book club review continued from previous page)*

It was great to talk about this meeting point in the chronology of the French and British History. It was exciting to read the chapters describing the Kentish countryside and the first impression of London as a character travels on a secret mission to meet the Queen Isabella. We all agreed that it was a great book, easy to read, captivating and a fun way to learn about History.

Highly recommended by the Underriver Book Club!

*\*The Order of the Templars was a military order of the Catholic faith founded during the Crusades to secure the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Their power and influence grew to match that of the kings of Europe.*

Sandra Patricot

## APRIL RECIPE

### Cheesy Cheese Cakes

#### Ingredients

8 oz Self Raising flour

4 oz margarine or butter

(I use sunflower margarine which is always successful)

6 oz grated cheese

2 eggs

Salt and pepper

Half a teaspoon of dried mustard

A little milk



#### Method

Grease a 12 bun/muffin tin.

Oven temperature (fan) 160 deg.

Rub margarine into flour, add grated cheese, salt, pepper and mustard.

Beat eggs and milk, and add to dry ingredients.

Mixture will be quite stiff.

Put tablespoon of mixture into greased tin and cook for 18/19 minutes  
(depends on oven heat).



**TICKETS**

**£70**

# **UNDERRIVER GOLF DAY 2024 THURSDAY 16TH MAY LAMBERHURST GOLF COURSE**

[www.lamberhurstgolfclub.com](http://www.lamberhurstgolfclub.com)

Lamberhurst Golf Club, Church Road,  
Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8DT

Lamberhurst Golf Club founded in 1890 offers an 18-hole course, which is situated in parkland of outstanding beauty, on both sides of the river Teise, with spectacular views over the local Kent and Sussex countryside.

### The Day Includes:

Coffee and Bacon Rolls on arrival – 10:00 am

18 Holes – First Tee Time 11:00 am

First 9 – Individual Stableford Competition

Second 9 – Team Competition

### Followed By:

Optional Food and Refreshments  
from the Bar & Prize Giving

Young players welcomed providing  
they are proficient golfers  
& accompanied by an adult.



**TO RESERVE A PLACE PLEASE CONTACT:  
COLIN GOODWIN 07793 582206 OR  
EMAIL:COLINGOODWIN1@SKY.COM**



## JULIET SIMPSON'S OPEN STUDIO 2024

This year it will be a retrospective exhibition to celebrate living in Underriver for 63 years & being in her 90th year. Come & enjoy, nothing for sale, it's not a birthday, no presents.

**For more details visit [www.jssculptures.co.uk](http://www.jssculptures.co.uk)**

The White House, Rooks' Hill, Underriver, Sevenoaks TN15 0SL  
(The studio will be signposted from all roads in Underriver)



### **Open day dates in June 2024**

4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 18th, 19th,  
20th, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th, and 30th June

**10am - 5pm**

**Or by appointment 07787 531808**

## UNDERRIVER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This year the Spring Show looked as if it was going to be undersubscribed - all the daffs had come out early and everything was ravaged by rain, hail and gales but as usual you all defied the odds and our new judge was very complimentary!

The number of entries was good and until CJ pointed out that she hadn't won points in a class, it should have been Jean Crouch, we thought there were no "Nil Points" it's a shame you noticed CJ! The overall winner was Elaine Storey by a huge margin, Elaine also won the best exhibit in the daffodil classes, it was a fantastic effort. There is another award for the best exhibit in classes other than daffodils which was won by Ann Martin with a magnificent spray of camellia it got compliments from everybody, particularly those whose camellias had been hit by the weather.

Afterwards a lot of people came to have a look and a cup of tea and a catch up, so having it on the Easter weekend wasn't a disaster after all. Next for the diary is the **Plant Sale May 11th at 10am** on the green outside the hall. You can deliver plants the evening before or on the day early that morning, do come! Tea and coffee as usual.

Angela Ridge

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On August 11th 1979, 303 boats with crews totalling 2,700 people set off from the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes on the Isle of Wight to take part in the biannual 605 mile long yacht race from Cowes, around the Fastnet rock on Ireland's south coast and back to end the race in Plymouth.

I was crewing on a relatively small yacht of 34' together with 6 experienced sailors. We had done the race two years previously and on that occasion, we were totally becalmed in the Irish Sea and spent the time waiting for some wind by swimming off the boat- two years later it could not have been more different.

We had a lovely sail down the English Channel with the yacht's sails filled during Saturday afternoon and Sunday and into Monday by which time we had rounded the Isles of Scilly and into the Western Approaches. During the afternoon, a strange yellow sky provided a warning of a change in the weather. The forecasters were now warning of a gale coming, which normally these boats can take in their stride. As the race continued into the darkening night however, the barometer began to drop dramatically, giving the lowest reading around the British Isles for over 150 years.

The swell deepened and the waves increased in size dramatically. The wind speed increased during the night by up to 50 knots and then up to hurricane force strength with the steep seas now building to as high as 50 feet. It was like looking up at the white cliffs of Dover! Our boat, like many others, was knocked over sideways several times with our mast parallel to the water and then, fortunately, righting itself again. We had no sails up at all, they would have just been ripped by the wind, but we were still doing about 8 knots.

Two crew at a time were on the helm trying to steady the boat, doing only half hour shifts as they were constantly soaked with water and very cold and held on to the boat by their safety harnesses. Unfortunately, it was impossible to heat anything to warm us up and too dangerous, as below deck, chaos ensued with tins of food and equipment flying dangerously around as the sea tossed and rolled us about.

*(Continued on next page)*

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Unfortunately, the 5 dozen eggs and a 5 lb drum of yogurt I had bought for the duration of the race had smashed and were swishing around the cabin making a terrible mess!

To try to stabilise the boat, we tied very large warps (ropes) to huge sail bags and threw them into the sea from the stern behind us and these held us more steadily as the winds roared around us and we rode out the huge waves as best we could. My task below was to help the two crew starting their watch to get into their oilskins and the two crew coming off watch to get out of theirs to then lie tied into their bunks for some rest, before going back on watch an our later. It was not an easy task as we were constantly thrown around and they were very cold, wet and tired.

The storm lasted through the rest of the night and next day until about 6pm on August 14th and we were all exhausted, cold and hungry but safe by the time it abated. Gradually, we became aware of the tragedy that had happened around us. Most boats on the race were damaged to some degree and some crew badly injured. Six men were lost overboard and swept away when their safety harness broke and nine others drowned or died of hypothermia. In all, 24 crews abandoned their yachts, 5 of which sank. 136 men and women were rescued by heroic helicopter crews, commercial and naval seamen and by fellow yachtsmen and 70 yachts were towed to safety by lifeboats.

Thanks to the very experienced crew I was with, we eventually managed to sail our battered yacht into the safety of Milford Haven. A nimrod saw that we were safe and relayed this to the rescue headquarters in Plymouth, where my anxious parents were waiting for news.

It was the worst disaster in 150 years of ocean racing and a startling reminder of the power of nature and man's vulnerability before the elements.

Ruth Bligh



## SOUPS AND PUDS – THE RESULTS

**First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported Soups and Puds this winter.** I hope everyone has enjoyed themselves. A lovely way to spend a cold (and often wet!) winter lunchtime! I would like to add a very special and very big thank you to all who contributed a soup or a pudding. It has been much appreciated by one and all and we have had some wonderfully diverse and delicious soups and puddings to enjoy. Underriver has some very creative and extremely skilled cooks – and I am very grateful!

**We have raised just under £1,000 over the four events (we were forced to postpone in January) and we have divided the proceeds between the UVA and St Margaret's.**

Soups and Puds will return for a second season in October and we look forward to welcoming back our regulars and hope that we can persuade some new faces to come along as well.

Thank you all very much indeed, Elizabeth Shirtcliff

## ST MARGARET'S EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Day festivities started with a delicious breakfast cooked for over thirty members of St Margarets's, the benefice and Underriver by CJ Jackson.

The hall, filled with beautiful blooms, smelt wonderful with fresh pastries and CJ's kedgerree dishes - a traditional smoked fish one and a bacon and egg version.

All profits raised were donated to the Easter Day collection for vicarage expenses.

Thank you to CJ for her culinary expertise and to everyone who helped organise and clear up.

Kay Lambert







# **CARIBBEAN EVENING**

Village Get Together – Saturday 22nd June



This year's summer get together is being organised by St Margaret's & the UVA & will have a Caribbean BBQ theme!

It will take place on the Village Green & Hall from 7pm & we have booked Yaard Hut to provide the food:

"Yaard Hut is a delightful culinary haven that specializes in finest Jamaican food and beverages. Their dishes are crafted with real spices, and each meat undergoes a 12-hour marinating process. If you're craving authentic Jamaican flavors, Yaard Hut is the place to be!

They offer a range of mouthwatering Jamaican delicacies, and their food truck has been a hit at various food and music festivals across the UK. Whether you're a fan of jerk chicken, plantains, or other Caribbean delights, Yaard Hut has got you covered!"

Tickets for the BBQ are £20 per head & we are selling these via the online event ticketing portal we have used before "Eventbrite" , The link to the tickets is: <https://bit.ly/ursummer24>

Any surplus from the event will be shared between St Margaret's & The UVA.

We need to ensure we have good idea on numbers well in advance, so if you can come, please sign up ASAP. If you would prefer to pay by cheque then please drop an email to: [uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk)



## SPRING AT KETTLESHILL

Our house is at the end of a half mile track and set on the side of a slope. The garden is south facing and big and it's layout was envisioned and achieved by Jenny Thornton, as five or six "rooms" which lead into one another, below the terrace which fronts the south side of the house. The first "room" is bi-sected by the drive which has six large yew ball-shaped bushes and just now it is glowing with colour, daffodils, primroses, speedwell and forget-me-nots, all nestling in uncut grass.

A short walk down the slope, passing the flowering quince tree, takes one to a formal fishpond with pleached lime trees on each side. The water lilies are just plucking up the courage to show their heads above water and the goldfish are coming to the surface in hope for a handful of fish pellets.

A step or two takes us through an arch in the yew hedge to the lawn, which has had only one mowing this year thanks to frequent heavy rain. Cross the lawn and through another yew arch to the wisteria and campsis covered pergola - a lovely setting for a mid-morning cup of coffee in sunny weather.

Next to the vegetable garden. Planting has already begun, and we are looking forward to plentiful supplies of beans, carrots, parsley, cucumber, tomatoes, potatoes, asparagus, beetroot, lettuce, artichokes, raspberries, and strawberries.

Now up the slope, past the Greenhouse, up shallow steps to another lawn surrounded by herbaceous borders. The borders are just coming back to life after their long winter sleep, it will be a colourful display and insect paradise later.

A few more steps on to the terrace where the tamarisk tree is heavy with drooping pink blossom.

A short tour! but none of it would now be possible without the tireless help of Ian Friend.

Charlotte Thornton



# LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS



**Saturday 14th September**  
**7.00pm – 10.30pm in The Village Hall**

The UVA autumn event this year will have a truly British feel to it!  
We would like to invite you to join us in the village hall for  
a live screening of the Last Night of the Proms.

Prompt arrival at 7.00pm. Pimms or soft drink and canapes included in  
your ticket price on the terrace outside the village hall.

You are then invited to bring your own picnic and drinks to enjoy with  
friends on your table inside, whilst watching the proms on the big  
screen. Liaise with your fellow Prommers on your table and make your  
supper as simple or as lavish as you like! Cutlery, plates, glasses, napkins,  
lighting, water and flags will be provided.

We will join the BBC live for the second half of the concert at the Albert  
Hall from about 8.30pm. Singing along to the classics such as “Jerusalem”  
and “Land of Hope and Glory” is not compulsory but will be welcomed.

**Ticket price will be £15.00 each and we expect to sell out fast!** Last  
time we had a waiting list, so initially we ask that your table is made up  
of villagers and it would be helpful if you book as a table of 8 as soon as  
possible. Please advise Belinda of your requirements. If you cannot make  
up a whole table we will manage to find you a space I am sure!

**Any further questions please e mail Belinda Goodwin on  
Bindy1@icloud.com or phone 07711 611723 or 01732 833943**

# ROTAS FOR ST MARGARET'S

## **Flower Roster for May 24:**

5th May - Jan Mannering

12th May - Linda Law

19th May - Janet Rucker

26th May - Carlyne Davenay

## **Readers for May 24:**

5th May - Andrew McFadyen

12th May - C Patricot

19th May - Richard Shirtcliff

26th May - Andrew Martin

## **Cleaning Rota for May 24:**

4th May - Lambert & Rook

18th May - Clark & Bowman

## **Brass Cleaning Rota for May 24:**

25th May - Andrew McFadyen & Michael Martineau

## **Sidesmen/Women for May 24:**

5th May - E Shirtcliff & S Patricot

12th May - S Tawney

19th May - J Rucker

26th May - P Payne

**All contributions should be submitted by latest 15th of the preceding month.**

**underrivernews@gmail.com**

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If you or anyone you know would like to receive the Parish Newsletter, please contact John Clemence on 01732 833338 or **jclemence338@gmail.com**

## **Useful Names and Addresses:**

### **Church Warden**

Maxine Clark, Holt Lodge, Vines Lane, Hildenborough, TN11 9LT; 07962264801

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Janet Rucker - 01732 833227

### **Parish Administrative Assistant**

admin@stmargaretsunderriver.org.uk

### **Underriver Village Association**

Secretary: Robert Talbot, Weald Heights, Fawke Common, Underriver, TN15 0SP; 761546. uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk

### **Village Hall Reservations Hall Bookings**

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Shirtcliff

underriverhallbookings@hotmail.com

www.underriver-village.org.uk

Omar Mullick, omz2010@gmail.com

### **Horticultural Society**

Secretary: Christopher Hurrion, churrion@aol.com

**Cricket Club Captain:** Kendall Jarrett

07919 869638

**Scotts Project Secretary:** Jill Scott, 833498.

**Kent County Council Cllr.:** Roger Gough

Roger.Gough@kent.gov.uk

### **Sevenoaks District Council Ward**

**Representatives** Roderick Hogarth, 01732

760325 cllr.hogarth@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Julia Thornton, 07831 234449

cllr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk

### **Seal Parish Council**

Seal Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Clare Boland

01732 833360 Email:

sealparishcouncil@outlook.com Website:

sealparishcouncil.org.uk Underriver Ward

**Representatives** Mrs Lorna Talbot

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