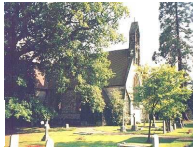


*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during February 2012*



In the Church, every Thursday at 08:30, Morning Prayer (said) - CW

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday | 5 Feb | 11:15 | All Age Family Service | |
| Sunday | 12 Feb | 08:00 | Holy Communion (said) | BCP |
| | | 11:15 | Matins | BCP |
| Sunday | 19 Feb | 10:30 | Sunday Club meets in the Village Hall | |
| | | 11:15 | All Age (Volunteers' Service) | |
| Wednesday | 22 Feb | 10:00 | Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday | CW |
| Sunday | 26 Feb | 11:15 | Parish Communion (with hymns) | CW |
| Sunday | 4 Mar | 11:15 | All Age Family Service | |

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Priest in Charge - Revd Carol Kitchener - 761766

Reader - St Lawrence Church - Mrs Gretel Wakeham - 761534

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Churchwardens | Celeste Davis-Watling 820190 Ron Drury 810214 | S'oaks District Councillors | Judith Thornton 07831 234449 Roderick Hogarth 760325 |
| PCC Hon Secretary | Richard Glencross 761202 | Seal Parish Council | |
| PCC Hon Treasurer | Tony Webb xd | Chairman | Robin Watson 833930 |
| Electoral Roll | Clive McLintock 452964 | Vice-Chairman | Edward Oatley 465905 |
| Covenant & Envelopes | John Morris 810227 | Clerk | Lorna Talbot 763488 |
| Organist | Lizzie Veglio 01634 244700 | Ward Councillors | Peter Granville 763832 Tony Bulleid |
| Choir Director | John Morris 810227 | St Lawrence Village Association | |
| Bellringers Hon Secretary | Peter Wharton 810388 | Chairman | Graham Moynes 760640 |
| Sevenoaks Deanery Synod | Ron Drury 810214 Peter Wharton 810388 | Secretary | Carol Smith 763561 |
| Sunday School | Hilary Darque 453929 Lyn Holness 764210 | St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee | |
| Child Protection Rep | Sam Drury 810214 | Chairman | Peter Wharton 810388 |
| deputy | Gretel Wakeham 761534 | Secretary | Charlotte Sinclair 764285 |
| Church Flowers | Sheila Jackson 811422 | Treasurer | Andy Smaggasgale 760552 |
| St Lawrence CE Primary School | | Bookings Secretary | Janice Brooker 760843 |
| Headteacher | Alison Saunders 761393 | Cricketer Club Secretary | Robin Webster 01892 862017 |
| Chairman of Governors | Sarah Hudson 810050 | Badm'ton Club Contact | Ian Lister 762416 |
| Clerk to the Governors | Sarah Brew 761393 | Bowls Club | Peter Granville 763832 |
| St Lawrence Pre-School | Becky Stammers 763289 | Tennis Club Contact | Gretel Wakeham 761534 |
| 1 st St Lawrence Brownies | Janet Boswell 01959 523953 | Archery Club Secretary | Mike Davies 762266 |
| | | 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 or brian@bsutton0.wanadoo.co.uk

to arrive by 08:00 on Wednesday 15 February 2012

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 26 February 2011**

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

*St Lawrence, Seal Chart Parish Magazine
February 2012*



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01732 761766

Reader

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The White House
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Letter from our Vicar

The shops are full of Valentine cards; Valentine gifts and special cakes and food to make the 14th February - Valentines' Day really special. We are given the impression that if we do not give a card and a gift to the one we love best then, we have let them down. We are not romantic, that we do not really love them and that we are a disappointment! How sad that is and how surprised St Valentine would have been to hear that.

There were two Valentines and both of them were martyred in the 3rd century. One was a priest, he was martyred on the Flamian Way by the Emperor Claudius, the other was the Bishop of Terni and he was martyred in Rome - we do not even know why they met their deaths for their faith. Some suggest that they might be one and same person, rather than two people, but there does not seem to be any connection with lovers, or courting couples.

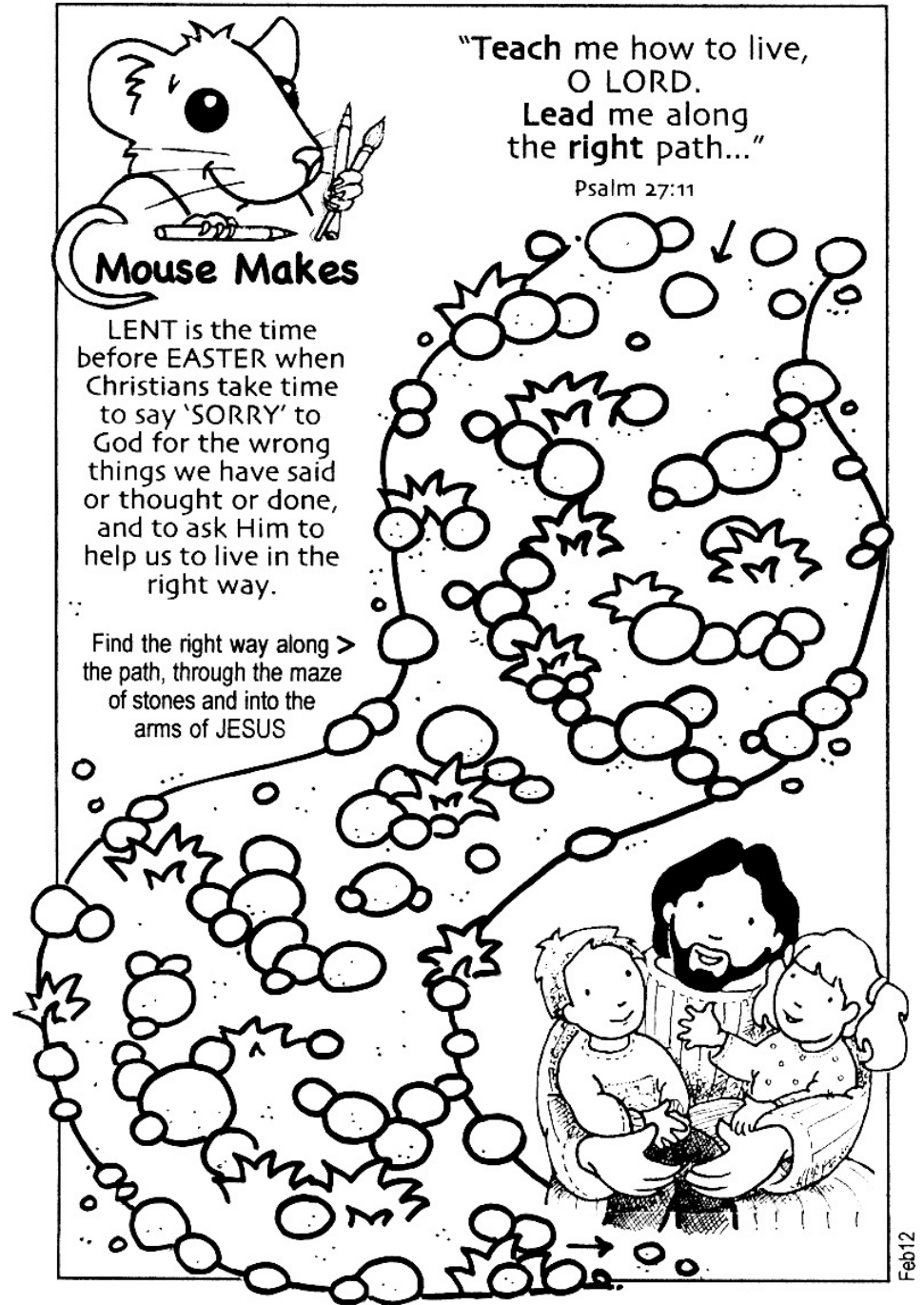
Tradition holds that on, or around the 14th February birds pair up for the coming spring mating season and this was somehow linked into St Valentine's feast day, which fell on the 14th. The custom of choosing a lifetime partner on that day is an old one and in Britain dates back to Geoffrey Chaucer's day. There are other suggestions linking the choosing of a partner with the Roman Feast of Lupercalia, which took place in the middle of February.

Whatever the source of St Valentines' Day, we know have celebrations on February 14th - they are a part of our tradition, as well as being a commercial opportunity for retailers. But, we should not allow the Valentine's Day celebrations to take over. Love, care and celebrating the people we love should be part of everyday if we in a relationship with them, they should not have to wait until the middle of February to know how much we love them!

God is the source of all love. His nature is to love his creation. He loves us so much that sent his Son Jesus into the world that we might know him better, to draw humankind into a deeper, better relationship with Him. Through Jesus' we have small window into God's nature, into his priorities. Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross our sins can be forgiven and we can renew our relationship with God, knowing that we have been forgiven. Love is much more than a card, a present or a cake, it should be the foundation of our lives!

Yours in the love of Christ,

FOR THE CHILDREN



The Sistine Chapel

Last year when Mary and I were in Italy, we spent a day in Rome. Our courier gave us an option: we could join the queue to see the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel or we could see the sights of the city, firstly from the coach and then on foot with a local guide. We chose the latter and thoroughly enjoyed all we saw although by the end of the afternoon, as a result of the heat, we were feeling a bit limp. At last we arrived in St Peter's Square and saw that queue. It was then estimated at about 2¾ hours long with not a vestige of shelter. In some ways we were glad we had chosen as we did but we had not seen the chapel. An old friend of mine found this link and sent it to me to enjoy.

I was so pleased and impressed that I have sent it to a number of my friends and would now like to share it with you. Enjoy.

The link is http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html

You can virtually view every part of Michelangelo's masterpiece. Here is an amazing bit of technology that allows us into a place that most of us will probably never see in person, and where we would almost certainly never be alone in the room. The Chapel is always quite crowded and, of course, you wouldn't see Michelangelo's artwork close up as you can with this technology.

It is especially spectacular if you have a large high-definition screen! Just click and drag your arrow in the direction of the part you wish to see. In the lower left, click on the plus (+) to move closer, on the minus (-) to move away. The choir music can be toggled off & on. Move your cursor and you will see every part of the Chapel.

This virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel is incredible. (Apparently done by Villanova at the request of the Vatican. *Ed*

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At the Name of Jesus

Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because he will save his people from their sins".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hidden Meanings

A good friend of mine has explained the meaning of a Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and charity.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit, viz Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

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Winter Travel

A government warning said that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take: shovel, blankets, sleeping bag, scarf, hat and gloves, 24 hours supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare batteries, road flares, reflective triangles, tow rope, a five gallon petrol jerrycan, first aid kit, and jump leads. So ... I looked a complete idiot on the bus this morning!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Found on my Facebook Page

Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed,
This tiny little prayer
Keeps running through my head:

I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.

God bless all my 'family'
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm
For they're so close to me.

By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.

And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.

Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love.

Now I know that it's unusual
To bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.

Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits 'send'.

You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.

When you update your Heavenly list
On your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer
Sent up to GOD.Com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Magazine Subscriptions

May I extend my grateful thanks to all who have paid their subscription for 2012. If you have not and you collect your magazine from the back of the church or receive it by post please send your cheque to me as soon as possible. If you have you magazine delivered then please pay whoever delivers your magazine. From January 2011 when the subscriptions fall due, the (slightly) revised charges for the eleven copies, including one Christmas/January double issue are as follows:

£7 per year for hand-delivered or copies collected from the Church
£12 per year for posted copies.

All cheques should be made payable to St. Lawrence (Seal) PCC and sent to Mrs. Rosemary Attenborough, Coldhanger, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks , Kent TN15 0EJ .
Thank you!

Rosemary

The Keeper of the Spring

The following story was a favourite of the late Rev Peter Marshall, who for several years served as the chaplain of the US Senate.

An old man who lived near an Austrian village high in the Alps was hired by his village council to clear away the debris from the pools of water high up in the mountain crevices. These pools fed the spring that flowed through the town. So with faithful regularity, year after year, the old man patrolled the pool, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt.

In time the village became a popular attraction. Swans and ducks floated along the sparkling spring, the mill wheels of various businesses turned day and night, farms were irrigated, and the view of the spring from restaurants was picturesque beyond description.

Then one evening the town council met to review the budget. Someone queried the salary paid to the obscure keeper of the spring. Others joined in: "He is a waste of money. Drop him". And so they did.

For several weeks, nothing changed. Then in early autumn, the trees shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools. Down in the village, they soon noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the water. Soon a slimy film covered sections of the stream. The mill wheels got entangled with twigs. Soon the stench of rotting vegetation in the water drove away the swans and ducks and the tourists.

In a panic, the village council met. Quickly they set off to visit the old man, and pleaded with him to keep the spring clean again. Within a few weeks, the village's 'river of life' began to clear up. The water ran pure and clear, the birds returned, the mill wheels turned, and even the tourists came back.

Are there leaves of anger, twigs of resentment, or a silt of unforgiveness clogging your spring of living water? Just as little by little the stream became contaminated by debris, so our spirits can become obstructed by the 'small sins' of daily life. Let's allow our Keeper of the Spring to do his job in renewing and cleansing us, so that we can 'run free' and bring blessing to others.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

How to reduce your pain

It seems that laughter really is a great medicine, if recent research at Oxford University is anything to go by. Researchers found that hearty laughing with friends for 15 minutes a day was enough to raise a person's pain threshold by 10 per cent. Laughing makes us exhale several times in a row, which prompts the brain to release pain-killing chemicals known as endorphins.

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**AN EVENING WITH TOM HART-DYKE
AT 7.30 PM
ON SATURDAY, 24 MARCH 2012
IN ST LAWRENCE CHURCH**

Tickets: £10 (including Refreshments)

From Ron Drury (01732 810214) or Celeste Davis-Watling (01732 820190)

Limited Seating - Please book early

We are delighted to welcome Tom Hart-Dyke to St Lawrence Church at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 24 March 2012, during which we will hear him speak about his work, recount his adventures and present slides. The talk will be followed by drinks and light refreshments in the School Hall and a raffle is being organised with some great prizes!

Tom is an English horticulturist and plant hunter who, along with his travelling companion, was kidnapped in the Panamanian jungle in the year 2000 whilst hunting for rare orchids. The idea for his World Garden was born whilst he was in captivity.

After his return home, Tom penned 'The Cloud Garden' which detailed their experiences in the jungle. The World Garden, within the grounds of his home at Lullingstone Castle, contains over 10,000 species of plants, many of which were collected by him from their native environments.

Tickets for the evening cost £10 each, including refreshments, so if you would like to come and hear more about his work, please contact Ron or Celeste. Due to limited seating in church, ticket numbers will be limited to 80. *Celeste*

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A Thought

How is it that nobody has dreamed up any moral advances since Christ's teaching? What was there in his heredity and his environment to account for this unique teacher, and the remarkable fact that no greater has ever looked like emerging? *Michael Green*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Time for a Cuppa on 15 February! - Supporting Dementia UK

Dementia UK is the charity intent on improving the quality of life of dementia patients. It provides nurse training programmes and training for others involved in dementia care and it sponsors the Admiral Nurses, a vital lifeline for the family and carers of dementia sufferers.

My book, A Misted Mirror, is dedicated to the Admiral Nurses and on February 15th I am combining a 'Time for a Cuppa' fundraising event with a book-signing. Do come! Whether to buy a book or to enjoy a cuppa (tea, coffee or something else that takes your fancy), a chat and some cakes, any time between 11 am and 5pm.

'Time for a Cuppa 2012' is supported, among others, by Jo Brand, a former mental health nurse. See her on www.dementiauk.org

Join me, Gillian Jones, at Number 4 Broadhoath, on February 15th between 11 am and 5pm. All money raised from cuppas and cakes and a donation from the cost of each book sold will go towards helping dementia sufferers and the Admiral Nurses who support carers.

PS If baking cakes is your forte and you would like to help, do let me know!
Email snow.drops@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01732 761466

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What's orange and sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees the first ever National Marmalade Week (25th Feb to 3rd Mar). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they will have dozens of samples on offer at a Marmalade Festival, and are even giving out awards.

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a ship-load of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you want to get your fingers sticky, visit: www.marmaladeawards.com.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



*Services and Events at
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart
during February 2012*

In the Church, every Tuesday at 08:30, Morning Prayer (said), (CW)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Thursday | 2 Feb | Prayer Time - All are welcome (lasts about 60 minutes) At The White House, Bitchet Green | |
| Sunday | 5 Feb | Third Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (said) 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23 Mark 1: 29-39 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) Mark 1: 29-39 | BCP |
| Sunday | 12 Feb | Second Sunday before Lent Family Communion Colossians 1: 5-20 John 1: 1-14 | CW |
| Tuesday | 14 Feb | Prayer Time - All are welcome (lasts about 60 minutes) At Thrums, Vines Lane, Hildenborough | |
| Sunday | 19 Feb | Sunday next before Lent Holy Communion (said) 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9 09:45 All Age Family Service (children in church) 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9 | CW |
| Wed | 22 Feb | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (at St Margaret's Underriver) | CW |
| Sunday | 26 Feb | First Sunday of Lent Matins (with Sunday School) 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15 | BCP |
| Sunday | 4 Mar | Second Sunday of Lent Holy Communion (said) Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Mark 8: 31-38 09:45 All Age Family Service Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 | 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

Is Proof Reading a dying art?

These newspaper headlines didn't quite make it!

1. Man kills self before shooting wife and daughter
2. Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says
3. Miners refuse to work after death
4. Juvenile court to try shooting defendant
5. War dims hope for peace
6. If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last awhile
7. Cold wave linked to temperatures
8. Enfield (London) couple slain; police suspect homicide
9. Red tape holds up new bridges
10. New study of obesity looks for larger test group
11. Kids make nutritious snacks
12. Hospitals are sued by seven foot doctors

Church Flowers

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday 5 Feb | Christine Hughes |
| Sunday 12 Feb | Kate Clark |
| Sunday 19 Feb | Kate Clark |
| Sunday 26 Feb | LENT - No Flowers |
| Sunday 4 Mar | LENT - No Flowers |

St LAWRENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL
meets in St Lawrence School at 09:45
All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <i>26 February</i> | <i>Sunday School</i> | <i>Wendy & Lyn</i> |
| <i>11 March</i> | <i>Sunday School</i> | <i>Lesley & Lyn</i> |
| <i>17 March</i> | <i>Posy Making for Mothering Sunday - 3.30pm in the church</i> | |
| <i>22 April</i> | <i>Sunday School</i> | <i>Wendy & Lesley</i> |
| <i>20 May</i> | <i>Sunday School</i> | <i>Hilary & Lyn</i> |
| <i>17 June</i> | <i>Sunday School</i> | <i>Wendy & Lyn</i> |

For further information contact Hilary Darque (453929) or Lyn Holness (764210)