

*Services at St Margaret's Underriver
during February 2013*



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

Sunday	3 Feb	18:00	Joint Service for Candlemas	
Sunday	10 Feb	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		11:15	Matins - Joint Service	BCP
Sunday	17 Feb	10:30	Sunday club meets in the Village Hall	
		11:15	All Age Family Service	
Sunday	24 Feb	11:15	Parish Communion	CW
Sunday	3 Mar	11:15	Service to celebrate our volunteers	

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND VILLAGE CONTACTS

Vicar - Revd Carol Kitchener - 01732 761766

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	Celeste Davis-Watling	820190	S'oaks District Councillors	Julia Thornton	07831 234449
	Ron Drury	810214		Roderick Hogarth	760325
PCC Hon Secretary	Richard Glencross	761202	Seal Parish Council		
PCC Hon Treasurer	Tony Webb	763436	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
Choir Director	John Morris	810227		Tony Bulleid	
Bellringers Hon Secretary	Peter Wharton	810388	St Lawrence Village Association		
Sevenoaks Deanery Synod	Ron Drury	810214	Chairman	Graham Moynes	760640
	Peter Wharton	810388	Secretary	Carol Smith	763561
Sunday School	Hilary Darque	453929	St Lawrence Village Hall Management Committee		
	Lyn Holness	764210	Chairman	Peter Wharton	810388
Child Protection Rep	Sam Drury	810214	Secretary	Charlotte Sinclair	764285
deputy	Gretel Wakeham	761534	Treasurer	Andy Smaggasgale	760552
Church Flowers	Sheila Jackson	811422	Bookings Secretary	Patricia Wilson	761282
St Lawrence CE Primary School			Crickets Club Secretary	Robin Webster	01892 862017
Headteacher	Alison Saunders	761393	Badm'ton Club Contact	Peter Wharton	810388
Chairman of Governors	Sarah Hudson	810050	Bowls Club	Peter Granville	763832
Clerk to the Governors	Sarah Brew	761393	Tennis Club Contact	Gretel Wakeham	761534
St Lawrence Pre-School	Becky Stammers	763289	Archery Club Secretary	Mike Davies	762266
1 st St Lawrence Brownies	Janet Boswell	01959 523953	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 13 February 2013

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be in Church on **Sunday 24 February 2013**

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
February 2013*



Vicar

The Revd Carol Kitchener

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

Celeste Davis-Watling

C/o St Lawrence Church

Church Road, Stone Street

Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LN

01732 820190

Ron Drury

Garden Cottage, Raspit Hill

Ivy Hatch

Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0PE

01732 810214

From our Vicar

During this month the Church celebrates the occasion on which Jesus' parents presented him in the Temple in Jerusalem, as part of the ceremonies that surrounded the birth of a child in first-century Israel.

The need to bring a much-loved child to God to say 'thank you' is timeless. The arrival of a child in the family is usually a time of celebration. Parents keep looking at their baby - marvelling at tiny fingers and toes and people search the baby's face, for a likeness to someone on their side of the family. Parents still look for a way of marking the birth of their child and saying 'thank-you' for their safe arrival today. The Church is asked to baptise babies and is always delighted to do so and each year we baptise a number of children in our church.

Baptism is the way that we become a Christian. We can be born into a Christian family, but each of us needs to be baptised before we can begin the journey which will last for the whole of our lives. Each child brought for baptism, is marked on their forehead with the sign of the cross and then water is poured over their heads '...in the name of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit'. The service finishes with a blessing for the child and with prayers for the family.

Baptism is only the beginning and in order to grow up into a Christian child, or adult, we need to spend time with other Christians. I have heard the need for a Christian to spend time with other Christians likened to coals in a fire. When all the coals are together they glow brightly, but if you take one out and put it on the hearth by itself, it gradually loses its brightness, eventually becoming dark and cold.

The gospel of Luke describes for us the occasion on which Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple (Luke 2: 21-40). There they met two faithful elderly people, Simeon and Anna, who were worshipping in the Temple each day. Simeon rejoiced when he saw Jesus - God had promised him that he would live long enough to see the child who would redeem (buy back) the people of Israel. Anna saw baby Jesus and recognised him as the child that God had promised would come and she also rejoiced – telling everyone she met that she had seen this wonderful child!

We should rejoice in our baptism, we might not be able to remember it, but it was the beginning of our Christian journey. We should remember that by our baptism we belong to God, as his children alongside the other Christian peoples of this world. If you have recently been making that journey on your own, without the company of other Christian people, then come and join us in church, you will be most welcome – our service times are to be found in the magazine.

Yours in the love of Christ 

The Parochial Church Council - Roles and Opportunities !

Have you considered becoming a member of the PCC ?

The PCC meets approximately four times a year, and considers a diverse range of issues connected to the Church (local and in a wider context). Finance, care of the Church building, Bells, Charitable Giving, Deanery Synod, Harvest Supper, Garden Party and social events, Women Bishops right through to Rabbits in the churchyard. If you have a desire to be involved, and help to shape our mission, please speak with Carol, Gretel or Ron.

We have a number of vacancies coming up in May for officers on the PCC !

Do you have secretarial skills, or are you a likely Treasurer ? Is God calling you as a Churchwarden, or a deputy Churchwarden. Please prayerfully consider these roles. If you would like to know anything further at all, without obligation, please just ask.

Ron

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**Our Commitment to SAYT - Can you help?**

As part of our continued commitment to the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, the PCC undertake each year to raise a target amount, quite apart from our other charitable giving. This year we are committed to raising £750.00 . SAYT really is a much needed local charity.

In the past we have held Coffee Mornings, Bridge Afternoons, Musical Concerts, and sponsored events. Do you have an idea for a fundraiser ( no matter how small ) which could help us to achieve our target ? If so, please speak with Ron if you would like any further information, or have an idea for fundraising. Thank you.

Ron

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Your Prayers are asked for . . .

All people who are living with poverty;

For organisations that come to the aid of others;

For fund raisers and volunteers;

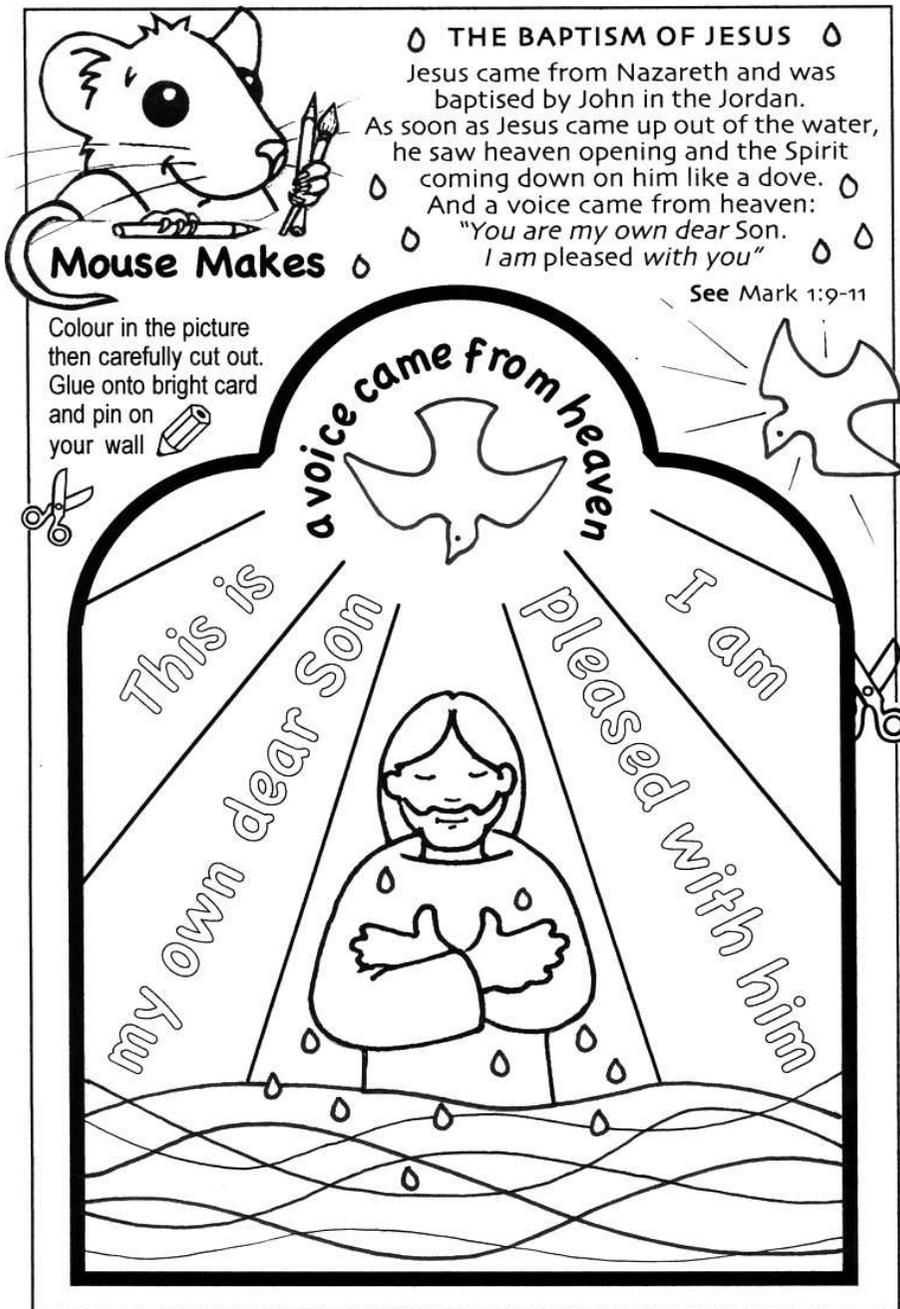
For a year of peace across the world;

For all teachers and children in our local schools;

For volunteers to fill the pending vacancies for officers on our PCC, viz, a churchwarden, a secretary and a treasurer .

Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.





Your Church's Finances and Regular Church Giving

Unlike a visit to the Cinema there are no seat charges for a visit to the Church and no entrance fees!! However, our church, in common with most organisations and households, needs to match its income and outgoings on an annual basis.

The reason we are writing to you now is because as we look into the future our current level of income will fail to meet all our expenditure.

What are our major items of expenditure?

Vicar's stipend (50%) (inc NI and pension contributions)	£8,850
Vicar's expenses (50%)(Heating allce, Tel rental/calls, mileage)	£1,300
Council Tax (50%) (Assessed on the Vicarage)	£900
Insurance of Church Building and Contents	£2,350
Upkeep of Church & Services (Electricity, Organ Servicing, Security, Candles, Service Orders, Equipment Repairs)	£3,100
Parish Share (Annual contribution levied by Rochester Diocese) *	£8,400
Organist's Fees	£2,400
Admin Assistant, Bookstall, Subs, Fees, Postage, Stationery.	£2,600
Charitable Donations (set at approximately 10% of income + SAYT)	£4,600
Transfer to Repairs Reserve *	<u>£3,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>£38,000</u>

You may not be aware that we "share" our Vicar with St Margaret's Underriver on a 50/50 basis, or that our Vicar is "part-time" being paid for, and working, 3 days per week. The Vicarage is provided rent free by the Diocese (under a long standing agreement with the Knole Estates). This includes all external repairs and maintenance.

The savings which this represents to our two parishes are considerable.

Further details of the items marked * will be given in the March issue of the magazine, together with any other issues that may arise from the article.

However, this still means that the cost of each service works out at about £540 per service.

How is our income raised?

Our church congregations and the wider circle of church supporters have continued to be extremely generous. Following the magnificent support for the Bell Tower (Bells) Appeal, the 2012 Gift Day raised £6,200. But even this additional Gift Day income would have left the church with a deficit in 2012, had it not been for two legacies amounting to £4,500. We rarely benefit from such legacies and certainly cannot budget for this source of income. / cont

Our regular church collections, which includes standing orders, orange and blue envelopes and Gift Aid recovered, total about £18,200. Income from investments is £3,000, fund raising £3,200, wedding and funeral fees £1,500 (an unpredictable source of income), miscellaneous donations £1,000.

Our estimated total income for 2013 including an estimated Gift Day appeal of £6,200, comes to a total income of £33,100 giving us an estimated deficit of £4,900.

Put another way, this means that there is an estimated average shortfall per service of £70.

The PCC is committed to maintaining our active presence and witness in the community as well our beautiful church building.

We want to bring this financial situation to the attention of all members of our congregation, those on our electoral role and wider circle of supporters of St Lawrence Church, so that together we can collectively and individually consider possible solutions and ensure a healthy and viable future for our church.

Ways in which you can help.

1. Regular giving – Standing Orders. You will appreciate that the cost of keeping the church available for worship and visits is ongoing, whether or not you attend a Sunday Service. You can ensure a regular donation by setting up a monthly or quarterly standing order in the amount you wish to give.

2. Regular Giving – Orange Envelopes. Contributors to this alternative scheme receive a box containing 52 orange envelopes at the beginning of April and “commit” to donating £xx each week by placing the envelopes in the collection bags. When a service is not attended two or more envelopes are used at a subsequent service.

The value of these two regular methods of giving is that income can be more easily predicted, which in turn helps the PCC in its decision making.

Both of the above methods of giving will enable Gift Aid to be recovered provided that the donors themselves pay Income Tax up to the level of their donations.

Currently the above two methods of payment only account for 25% of receipts from parishioners.

3. Blue Envelopes. These are placed in the pews every Sunday and account for more than half of total collections. The envelopes enable us as a charity to reclaim Gift Aid and enhance income by some £2,000 per annum without any extra cost to the giver. So many thanks to all who give using the blue envelopes and to John Morris who completes the forms to reclaim Gift Aid from HMRC.

Preparing a new electoral roll

Every six years, by canon law, every church in the Church of England must prepare a brand new electoral roll. We last did this in 2007, and the time has now come round again. Very simply, this is what happens:

*At least two months before the annual parochial church meeting is held, the official rules that govern a new electoral roll must be pinned to the principal door of our church. Those rules need to stay there for at least 14 days, while a new roll is prepared.

* At every service that is held on each of the two Sundays within that period of 14 days, the person conducting the service will inform our congregation about the preparation of the new roll.

* The parochial church council will also do all it can to alert every person currently on the electoral roll that a new roll is being prepared, and that if he/she wishes to have his/her name entered on the new roll he/she **MUST** apply for enrolment. It is **NOT** automatically carried over from last time.

* The preparation of the new roll needs to be completed at least 15 days before our annual parochial church meeting, to be held on 21st April 2013. After the completion of the new roll, a copy will be available for inspection from 7th April 2013, on written application to Clive McLintock, the Electoral Roll Officer.

The period for renewal applications is from Sunday 10 March to Saturday 6 April and application forms will be available at the back of the church. Completed forms may be left in the box provided.

Our electoral roll is the official listing of our church family. We would strongly encourage everyone who considers this church their ‘home church’ to apply for enrolment on the electoral roll.

If you want the full picture of electoral rolls, set out in formal legal language, please visit:

www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/

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Weather

A young curate was impressed by how her vicar always seemed to know what the weather was about to do. One day she commented on this impressive spiritual gift of knowledge. The vicar sighed. “Sadly, it is not spiritual. My joints are more accurate meteorologists than the BBC weather forecast.”

The Twelve Days of Christmas

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? This week, I found out

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 love.

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 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.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish.

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Don't sleep on it

When I asked a friend the secret to his 52 years of marriage, he replied, "We never go to sleep angry. The longest we've been awake so far is five days."

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4. Cash Collections. A very welcome source of income although no Gift Aid can be reclaimed on this part of the collection, which represents 20% of the total..

We realise that this article will not deal with everyone's queries so please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Churchwarden or any member of the PCC. All donations are treated in the strictest confidence and are known only to those directly responsible for the administration of the Church's affairs.

We do hope that you will all give this matter some thought so that we may continue to participate in the life and worship of the church whilst also enjoying the beauty, peace and tranquillity of St Lawrence Church. *Parochial Church Council.*

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St Lawrence Christmas Fayre

Following a highly successful Christmas Fayre last year it was decided to repeat the event this year with the intention of alternating the Fayre with St Lawrence's turn to organise the joint annual garden party. The advent of cold and rainy conditions caused the organisers some anxious moments. They need not have been concerned! The threatened reduction in the attendance certainly did not materialise.

Children seemed to be everywhere. Painted faces were appearing faster than Christmas decorations; at the opposite end of the hall a heavily stocked chocolate stall provided fare for all sizes of purse. The cake stall was groaning under the weight of beautifully decorated cakes, buns and pies. The Stitchers Group produced a selection of knitted teddies and some beautifully fabricated cushions to choose from. The more speculative adults tried to win bottles of wine whilst others opted for the certainty of some excellent mulled wine proffered by the "The two Johnnies".

The buzz and chatter was only subdued by two musical sessions provided by the St Lawrence C of E primary school orchestra ably led by Alison Saunders, the headmistress, playing the drums. The orchestra has become a feature of our annual celebrations and is always well received and appreciated.

In addition to support from the local community the Fayre received help from local businesses. Chart Farm shop generously gave a token to the value of £25 and The Bucks Head gave a voucher for a meal for two. These provided just two of a wide variety of raffle prizes. Ian Mitchell kindly agreed to allow the use of Foxbury Farm for car parking.

Ron and Sam Drury worked tirelessly to organise this event. They both earned and deserved the unstinting support of every helper who was involved in making this event such a great success. Many thanks to all who helped in so many different ways to raise the grand total of £1250. *Eric*



***Services and Events at
The Church of St Lawrence Seal Chart
during February 2013***

Every Tuesday at 08:30, in the Church, Morning Prayer (said), (CW)

Sunday	3 Feb	Candlemas - Second Sunday before Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40	
	09:45	All Age Service with Holy Baptism	
		Luke 2: 22-40	
	18:00	Joint Service for Candlemas at St Margaret's, Underriver	
		Luke 2: 22-40	
Tuesday	5 Feb	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)	
	10:00	At The White House, Bitchet Green	
Sunday	10 Feb	Sunday next before Lent	
		NO SERVICES AT St LAWRENCE THIS WEEK	
		THE BELLS ARE BEING REMOVED THIS WEEKEND	
	11:15	Matins A joint service at St Margaret's Underriver	BCP
		2 Cor 3: 12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36	
Wednesday	13 Feb	Ash Wednesday	
	10:00	Holy Communion	CW
		Joel 2: 1-2 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	
Sunday	17 Feb	First Sunday of Lent	
	09:45	Family Communion with Sunday School	CW
		Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Luke 4: 1-13	
Monday	18 Feb	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)	
	14:00	At st Lawrence Vicarage	
Sunday	24 Feb	Second Sunday of Lent	
	09:45	Matins	BCP
		Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Luke 13:31-35	
Sunday	3 March	Third Sunday of Lent	
	08:00	Holy Communion	BCP
		Isaiah 55: 1-9 Luke 13:1-9	
	09:45	All Age Family Service	
		Psalms 63: 1-8 (from Contemporary English Version)	
Thursday	7 Mar	Prayer Time - (lasts about an hour - all are welcome)	
	10:00	At the White House, Bitchet Green	

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

The Cover Picture

The Seven Churches of Revelation are the seven major churches of early Christianity as mentioned in the book of Revelation and written by John the Apostle. These sites are now in Asiatic Turkey. Jesus instructs John to: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea", (Rev 2: 1 to Rev 3: 22)

Having enjoyed a pilgrimage to these sites, I should like to share some memories through this year's cover pictures and comments. But we must start in Istanbul.

Byzantium, now Istanbul, was once ruled by the Persians, then by the Greeks and still later by the Romans. In the modern city lie the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia, the Church of the Holy Wisdom, once a Christian church, then a mosque, and now a museum, which was built in the 6th century. A 14th-century traveller, Stephen of Novgorod, wrote, "As for St Sophia, the human mind can neither tell it nor make description of it." The picture is of this wonderful building. In this series, all images are by courtesy of www.holylandphotos.org.

	<i>Church Flowers</i>	
Sunday	3 Feb	Kate Clark
Sunday	10 Feb	Kate Clark
Sunday	17 Feb	LENT—No flowers
Sunday	24 Feb	LENT—No flowers
Sunday	3 Mar	LENT—No flowers

	<i>St LAWRENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL</i>	
<i>Children meet promptly at 09:45</i>		
<i>in St Lawrence School Hall on the dates shown in bold and will then rejoin their parents in the church towards the end of the service. Other dates are for information</i>		
<i>All children aged 3 and upwards are welcome</i>		
<i>For further information contact Hilary Darque [01732 453929]</i>		
17 Feb	Lent - Stained Glass Crosses	Sam & Hilary
9 Mar	3:30 pm at the church: Posy Making for Mothering Sunday	
10 Mar	Mothering Sunday	
17 Mar	Easter Frieze & Gardens	Wendy & Hilary