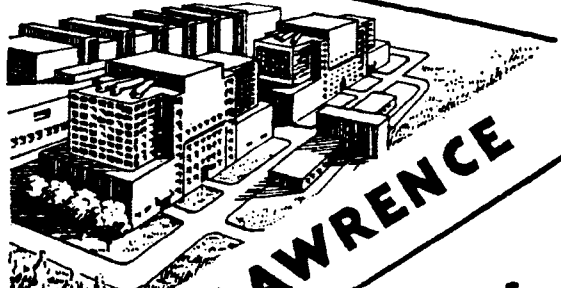


**ST THOMAS, BRADWELL
JUXTA MARE**

WITH



ST. LAWRENCE



MARCH 2018

Village View

Light, newness and Messy Church!

Dear Friends,

Mothering Sunday and Holy Week fall in this month. We also continue through the season of Lent and our Lent course is still going, do try and come along to one of the sessions if you can. March also includes St David's Day on the 1st and St Patrick's Day on the 17th, as well as the season of Spring beginning and the clocks go forward. As the colder weather hopefully disappears, and the evenings are brighter and warmer, we look forward to new life and beginnings which Easter Sunday brings as we celebrate the Easter resurrection on April 1st.

Our diocesan Bishop Stephen will be starting the Easter celebrations at 6am at St Peter on the Wall Chapel in Bradwell for those who can brave the early start, and then there will be services at all four churches. I will be at the chapel service at 6am, then the 8am service at St James Dengie and then at 11am at St Lawrence Church.

As well as our Joint Benefice Maundy Thursday service in Holy Week at Bradwell at 7.30pm, we will be hosting our first Messy Churches for children and adults on Good Friday at St Lawrence from 10-12, and at St Nicholas Tillingham from 11-1pm, do come along for Easter crafts, songs, prayers and story time. There will also be a Walk of Witness with the Othona community from St Thomas Church in Bradwell to the Chapel at 1pm, and a service at the Chapel from 2-3pm.

Our social calendars across the 4 churches are filling up quickly, so do be on the look out for the various services and events happening throughout the year.

Easter blessings to you all when it comes!

Reverend Steven

April Magazine

All copy for the April magazine should be sent to Roger Scurrell by phone (776341), posted through the letterbox of 6 St Thomas' Row, Bradwell, or by email to the address below, all by **Saturday March 10th**.

Those living in St Lawrence may give copy to Shirley Lea at 51 Main Road (779403) by this date. Copy may also be submitted as a jpeg, text or Microsoft Word or Publisher file, either on CD or, better still, by email to stthomaspcc@btinternet.com.

If you belong to an organisation that does not yet submit articles for the magazine we would like to hear from you. Any news you have is always very welcome.

Lent Course 2018

Handing on the Torch – sacred words for a secular world

A 5-session course

If you want to:

- learn more about the Christian faith.
- tackle the biggest questions facing humanity
- examine your own beliefs, in fellowship with others

Session 3

A Beleaguered Church? Wednesday 7 March 2018. St Lawrence Church, St Lawrence. 11 – 12 or 7.30pm – 8.30pm at the Vicarage, 6 Bakery Close, Tillingham.

Session 4

Competing Creeds? Wednesday 14 March 2018. St James Church, Dengie. 11 – 12 or 7.30pm – 8.30pm at the Vicarage, 6 Bakery Close, Tillingham.

Session 5

Handing on the Torch. Wednesday 21 March 2018. St Nicholas Church, Tillingham. 11 – 12 or 7.30pm – 8.30pm at the Vicarage, 6 Bakery Close, Tillingham.

Course booklets provided. Any queries, please contact Rev Steven Poss on 779620, stevenposs@hotmail.com or 07830 150713.

Bradwell Community Shop

On Friday February 23rd our shop was nominated for a business award from Maldon District Council, so Brian and I went to the presentation at Stow Maries aerodrome. There were over one hundred people there all wondering if they had won the coveted prize for best business. There were four categories and once it got going we realised that we were small fry compared to some other nominees. The winners were two engineering businesses, a smoked salmon farm, and special beef products.

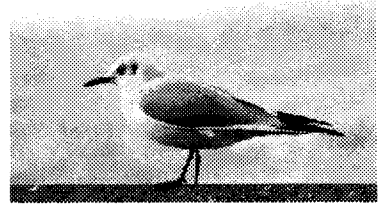
We had a most entertaining afternoon with a delicious tea provided by the volunteers at Stow Maries. We sat on a table with several people from Bradwell and the Dengie, namely Misha who runs a book keeping business, Adele who runs a website business, Phil from Lineout, and Darren, a butcher from Southminster. It was most enlightening to hear what they were all doing. I think that it must be very hard looking after a family and running a successful business in addition to making the books balance. The mayor came round and spoke to each of us, and the general feeling was that at least we were on the map as an enterprising small business.



Birds of a feather

This photograph was taken on the Sheringham, Norfolk, promenade in mid-February. It is a photo of a Black-headed Gull. But where is its black head?

All birds moult their feathers at least once a year, some more often. This is because feathers are so important to birds, they do have to be in really good condition. Without an annual renewal, the feathers would become unable to serve their function – providing that all-important ability to fly and of course insulation.



But some birds have a winter and a summer wardrobe – don't we all? But the bird's winter garb is no warmer than its summer outfit. The Black-headed Gull's dark head (actually a rather delightful dark chocolate brown when seen close up) is its breeding plumage. Does this assist in pair bonding? Who knows.

During the winter all Black-headed Gulls just have that dark smudge behind the eye. The

black feathers gradually appear over a period of weeks. Here are two birds at different stages. All three photos were taken at the same time.

Look at some of our common garden birds over the coming months. By April a Great Tit will have a resplendent brilliant yellow chest, the male with his black line running all the way down to between his legs. During the winter he was rather dingy looking. But *his* feathers were renewed in the autumn. Back then they had brownish fringes, but the rough and tumble of the winter has gradually worn these fringes off, giving him the appearance of brand new clothes. A Robin's red breast will brighten in the same way – all the better for the male to show to other males who's boss.

A Sparrowhawk has a different moulting regime. A bird of prey unable to fly perfectly will be a hungry bird of prey. So flight feathers are replaced one at a time.

Whatever method a bird uses to replace its feathers, first and foremost it will retain its flying ability – and also will show off its colours to deter other males, and to attract females.



SPEAKER GIVES AUDIENCE THE BIRD

The recently added Anne Harper Room annexe at St. Lawrence Church was packed for the newly formed St Lawrence Wildlife Group's first meeting on 24 January. Graham Mee from the RSPB gave a presentation entitled "The Magic of Birds in your garden" and entertained those gathered with his wonderful photographs, anecdotes and tips on how to attract more birds into our gardens.

There followed a brain-teasing bird based quiz. Cups of tea accompanied much informal discussion and everyone left inspired to make their gardens more attractive to wildlife, and to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch over the following weekend. Graham Mee left very pleased with a donation to RSPB funds which hopefully will entice him back.

Anyone interested in forthcoming talks which are to include stories from Bird-watching Boat Trips, the work of the Woodland Trust and Moths, should contact Paul on slwildlifetalks@gmail.com

MUSICALITY



I imagine there are very few people who are not affected by music one way or another or at one time or another. Whether your taste is pop, jazz, folk, classical or even 'musak', we all use it, enjoy it or bump into it at sometime in our lives.

All music, whether classical or popular, is based on the same rules of harmony that make it sound right and while some may consider popular music an unstructured 'noise' it is usually based on at least some of the rules of harmony. If you consider pop music a 'noise' you might be amused to know

that in some places, such as railway stations in remote places, classical music is played to keep troublemakers away as they cannot bear the 'noise'!

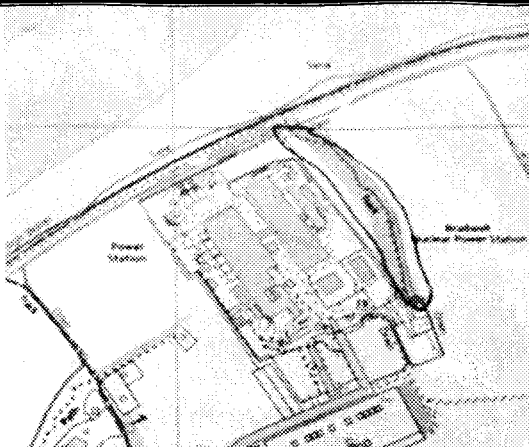
The harmony rules that are followed in composition came about because of how the great composers constructed their music. Mozart and Co did not have books of the rules of harmony to study, these came later as a result of what they did to make their music sound right. Musicians who came after them analysed their music and how it was constructed and from this came the basic rules of harmony.

Even the Beatles were congratulated by a music critic in one of the newspapers, for their intricate and interesting harmonies.

We all have different tastes in music but the 'rules' on which all types of music are based, began a long time ago, so whatever our tastes, we all have a lot in common.

Music Lover from St Lawrence

**IF YOU
USE IT
DON'T
LOSE IT**



IF YOU USE THE FOOTPATH THAT RUNS ALONGSIDE THE POWER STATION PLEASE COMPLETE AN EVIDENCE FORM TO HELP THIS BECOME A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, SO THAT IT REMAINS OPEN FOR THE COMMUNITY TO KEEP USING. ESSEX LEGAL SERVICES REQUIRE MANY MORE COMPLETED EVIDENCE FORMS BY THE END OF MARCH IF THIS APPLICATION IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PAPER AND THE ON-LINE PETITION WON'T BE ACCEPTED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM FROM EITHER THE VILLAGE SHOP OR THE CHURCH AND PLACE IN THE ENVELOPE THERE, READY FOR COLLECTION.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A FORM TO BE E-MAILED TO YOU PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK - EMMA SMITH
07585 445307 bradwellpc@yahoo.co.uk
THANK YOU**

Pop Up Café Bradwell Church



The Pop-up café meets on Friday mornings during school term time from 8:45 to 11am. Do come along for a tea or coffee, all free! Mums, dads, toddlers, babies - all are welcome.

Wild Church Big Garden Bird Morning

On the last Saturday of January, as part of an annual survey, the St Lawrence Church volunteers and families of St Lawrence came together to take part in the RSPB big green watch.

Last year the children and their families made organic bird feeders to take home and place in their gardens, providing food during the cold Days of January.

This year 13 children, with their families, came to the Anne Harper Annexe at St Lawrence Church and took part in a number of activities including the RSPB big garden watch. The volunteers had produced hand made willow wreaths that the children could decorate with bird treats, bacon, lard, peanut butter, seeds and berries. Thick tree branches had holes drilled into them to provide another organic food source for our lovely garden birds. Children were able to get their hands messy when they mixed together a variety of bird seeds, meal worms and low salt peanut butter into a bird friendly mixture that they were then able to squeeze into the drilled holes of the wooden blocks.

Last year's bird ID and quiz was a huge hit as the children went up against their parents to see who knew their garden birds better! This year we continued the fun, with more birds to name, more fun facts and group competitions in preparation for the bird watch itself.



Finally, we got to take our families out with binoculars and 'scopes at the ready to participate in our hour bird watch. With stunning views over the River Blackwater, we were able to see and hear a variety of species. To our delight we spotted a fair number of birds: dunnock, robin, blackbird, blue tit, great tit, house sparrow, chaffinch, wood pigeon, stock dove, black headed gull, kestrel, buzzard and crow. The wintry sun shone down long enough for us to have a beautiful, fun filled morning outdoors with nature. Our morning however, would not be complete without a warming drink and bird shaped biscuit to wipe away the fresh January breeze.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers for all their hard work and preparation for our nature days that we hold. We would also like to thank the families for coming along and being a part of the RSPB bird watch. Our results have been submitted and we are eagerly awaiting the national results for 2018! Our next family event will be our first Messy Church on Good Friday at 10:30am. To book or enquire please email jacquelinemonk3@gmail.com.



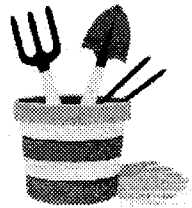
Gardening Notes

Flowers

- After spring bulbs have flowered pick off any seed heads but leave foliage to die back.
- Divide clumps of snowdrops and aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies Prune late summer-flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base
- Finish pruning roses early in the month. Cut dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia right down to the base for new growth
- Plant out hyacinth and other bulbs that have flowered in the house in the garden for blooms next year
- Feed ericaceous shrubs,(rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and pieris), with an ericaceous fertiliser
- Tidy up borders, removing established and newly germinating weeds, then mulch generously with garden compost
- Plant new roses and other shrubs and climbers, Also plant out lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders
- Scatter general-purpose fertiliser on flowerbeds, around roses, shrubs and hedges

Fruit and veg

- Avoid carrot root fly by sowing an early crop of carrots under cloches or fleece
- Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers and aubergines in pots indoors
- Buy young herbs to plant in containers near your back door, for handy pickings
- Plant onion and shallot sets, spacing them 10-15cm apart, and keep the bed free of weeds
- After chitting first-early potato tubers, such as 'Foremost', plant in trenches and cover.
- Sow parsnips as soon as the soil starts to warm up, as they need a long growing season
- Plant bare-root asparagus crowns in an open sunny spot in well-drained soil or raised beds.
- Start hoeing veg beds as soon as the weather warms up, as weeds will germinate quickly



Greenhouse

- Get crops off to a good start indoors to transplant into the garden later, such as lettuces and parsley
- Sow a selection of vibrant annual climbers, such as Spanish flag (*Ipomoea lobata*) and black-eyed Susan (*Thunbergia alata*)
- Pot up overwintering cannas into fresh compost, water in, then place in a warm spot to spur them into growth
- Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill
- Open greenhouse vents on sunny days to prevent humidity building up

- Take basal cuttings from perennials, such as delphiniums and lupins, to root pots indoors

Children's Gardening

- Growing Mustard and Cress. Line a plastic food container with cotton wool or kitchen roll. Wet well and sprinkle seeds over the surface and cover the tray with cling film. A container that's around an inch or two deep is perfect.
- Place the tray on a warm windowsill .The seeds will germinate in a couple of days and be ready to harvest when around 1½ to 2 inches high five to seven days later. Snip off at the base to use in salads.
- Clear a corner of the garden for the children to plant out some vegetable seeds, suggesting sowing radish and lettuce seeds.

Garden maintenance

- Mow lawns once they start back into growth, and cut the edges with an edging tool
- Apply residual path weed killers to paved and gravel areas during a dry spell
- Put slug barrier products around the new shoots of hostas and other susceptible perennials .
- Place the tray on a warm windowsill and see it germinate in a couple of days and is ready to harvest when it's around 1½ to 2 inches high five to seven days later. Snip off at the base to use as in salads or in sandwiches.

Seed Swap

Sunday 4th March

St Lawrence Church CM0 7LN

2.30

Including seeds kindly donated by Claremont Garden centre Maldon.

Contact: Lois Gardner watersedgeesayiew@gmail.com 07795610900

How it works:

Bring along any seed packets or opened packets you no longer want

Bring seeds and cuttings you've collected from your garden

Take away seed and cuttings you do want.

Nothing to bring? Come anyway. *(People who have brought things to swap have first choice.)*

Don't know much about gardening? - come along and find out more; experienced gardeners will be here to chat with.

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Time	Service	Place	Readings
4th Mar	3rd Sunday after Lent		
8.00	BCP Holy Communion	St James Dengie	Exodus 20; 1-17 1 Corinthians 1; 18-25 John 2; 13-22
9.00	Holy Communion	St Lawrence Church	
10.00	All Age Worship	St Lawrence Centre	
10.00	Family Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	
10.30	Parish Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	
3.30	Evening Service	Downhall	TBA
11th	Mothering Sunday		
10.00	Family Communion	St Lawrence Centre	Exodus 2; 1-10
10.00	Mothering Sunday	St Nicholas Tillingham	2 Corinthians 1; 3-7
10.30	Service	St Thomas Bradwell	Luke 2; 33-35
3.00	Evening Service	St James Dengie	TBA
6.00	Evensong	St Lawrence Church	TBA
18th	Lent 5 Passion Sunday		
8.00	Holy Communion	St James Dengie	Jeremiah 31; 31-34 Hebrews 5; 5-10 John 12; 20-33
9.00	Holy Communion	St Lawrence Church	
10.00	All Age Worship	St Lawrence Centre	
10.00	Family Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	
10.30	Parish Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	
25th	Palm Sunday		
8.00	Holy Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	Psalm 118 1-2, 19-24 Mark 11; 1-11
9.00	Holy Communion	St Lawrence Church	
10.00	All Age Worship	St Lawrence Centre	
10.00	Parish Communion	St Nicholas Tillingham	
10.30	Family Service	St Thomas' Bradwell	
3.00pm	Evening Service	St James Dengie	TBA
26th	School		
9.30	School Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	TBA
28th	School		
14.00	School Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	TBA
29th	Maundy Thursday		
19.30	Joint Service Communion followed by the Watch with Christ at St Thomas Bradwell		1 Corinthians 11; 23-26 John 13; 1-17, 31b-35

30th		Good Friday	
10.00	Messy Church	St. Lawrence Church	Hebrews 10; 16-25 John 18; 1-end of 19
10.30	Good Friday Service	St Thomas Bradwell	
12.00	Messy Church	St Nicholas Tillingham	
1.00	Walk to St Peters	St Thomas Bradwell	
2.00	Good Friday Meditation	St Peters Chapel	TBA
1st Apr		Easter Day	
6.00	Dawn Service	St Peters Chapel	Acts 10; 34-43 1 Corinthians 15; 1-11 Mark 16; 1-8
8.00	BCP Holy Communion	St James Dengie	
10.00	Family Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	
10.00	Easter Prayers before joining St. Lawrence Church Communion	St Lawrence Centre	
10.30	Easter Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	
11.00	Church and Centre Communion	St. Lawrence Church	
3.30	Evening Service	Downhall	TBA



Messy Church at St Lawrence Church
A time to be creative, pray, learn and sing.
For children and their parents.

Good Friday 30th March 2018

10-12pm.

All Welcome.

For more details contact: Rev Steven Poss, 01621 779620

CHURCH READERS, SIDESMEN, INTERCESSORS AND COFFEE ROTA

Date	Time	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Sidesmen	Intercessor	Coffee Rota
4th	10.30	D Thorpe	J Rushton	J Hill	T Reed	Z Lawrence
		Gospel Rev S Poss				
11th	10.30	C Orrin	J Hill	M Neall	Z Lawrence	J Bateman
18th	10.30	M Neall	L Main	Wyn & Sheila	R Scurrell	C Orrin S Barker
		Gospel Rev S Poss				
25th	8.00	J Bateman	Rev S Poss	D Thorpe		
	10.30	T Reed	M French	Z Lawrence	T Reed	R Scurrell
29th	20.00	Joint Benefice Readers				
30th	10.30	Z Lawrence	M Neall	M French	D Thorpe	Wyn & Sheila
	14.00	Readers TBA		R Scurrell		
1 st April	06.00	M Neall	T Reed	Othona		
		D Thorpe				
	10.30	M French	T Reed	J Rushton	C Orrin	J Ruston
		Gospel: J Hill				

Regular Church Activities

Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Tillingham 9.15am

Wednesdays: Café Extra at St Lawrence Centre 2.30pm to 4pm

Thursdays: Holy Communion at St Peter's Chapel 9.00am

1st Thursday of the Month 2.30 to 4pm Thursday Club St. Thomas's Church

Fridays: 8.15am Morning Prayer at St Thomas Church

Fridays: Pop in Café at St Thomas from 8.45 – 11am. All are welcome.

Fridays 11.00am Holy Communion at Downhall Residential Home

From the Registers St Thomas' Bradwell-on-Sea and St Lawrence

Baptisms

- October 2017 Benjamin Daniel John Potts (St Lawrence)
November 2017 Sefton Henry Corbridge (Bradwell)

Marriages

- September 2017 Aiden Graham Smith and Lucy Elizabeth Montague
(St Lawrence)
February 2018 David Robert Starsmeare and Danelle Elizabeth De Barry
(Bradwell)

Funerals

- October 2017 William Joseph Lakey (St Lawrence)
October 2017 Arthur John Steele (St Lawrence)
December 2017 Diana Hillman (St Lawrence)
January 2018 Kenneth Ward (Tillingham)
January 2018 Martin Taylor (Tillingham)

Cremations service at Chelmsford Crematorium

- October 2017 Andree Day (Bradwell)
November 2017 Joan Payne (Bradwell)
November 2017 Annie Breed (Bradwell)
November 2017 Lesley Benton (Bradwell)

Burial of ashes

- October 2017 Rita Joy Broë (St Lawrence)
October 2017 Michael John Geeves (St Lawrence)
October 2017 Valerie Jaycock (St Lawrence)
January 2018 Henry Alfred Mitchell (St Lawrence)



If you would like to arrange a baptism, wedding or funeral please speak to Revd Steven or one of the Churchwardens.

For all the information on Christenings, Weddings or Funeral see;

<https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/>

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

<https://churchofenglandfunerals.org/>

Gift Aid notes

We are most grateful to everyone who contributes to the funds using Gift Aid and we would appreciate it if you could spare time to read the following notes so that we and any other charities to which you subscribe should not miss out.

For refunds to be claimed the donor - that's you - must be a **tax payer**.

All contributions must be traceable and attributable to **one** individual. In this event there is no limitation on the amount you give, be it great or small.

If envelopes are used, as is often the case in churches, they must be from **one** person only.

If a subscription is paid to a charity from which the donor receives no special benefit, apart from items like a newsletter concerning the activities of that organisation, payment must be by an **individual** and not on a family basis. For example Jack and Jill are married and have tax paying children who all subscribe to the charity. Jack should not make a contribution covering all the members, or even just for his wife, as the money he pays for the others will be regarded as a gift to them and not to the charity. So each subscriber, please make sure your membership payment is from you individually so that we can reclaim the tax, but please make sure that your declaration as a tax payer is up to date.



Finally, those of you who are higher rate taxpayers it may be worth remembering that we can only reclaim at the basic rate and you are able to claim the difference between the two on your own behalf.

Thank you everyone and if you feel you are not able to contribute in this way it is still possible for us to claim on the loose collections taken in our church services, provided that the gift is not identifiably greater than £20 at one time (avoid the £50 notes!), so in this way we are all equal before The Tax Man.

Parish Council Monday 19th February.

It was decided to replace the seat outside the cemetery but to remove the broken one by the garage.

There were no objections to any of the planning applications before the council this month. The council still have not had enough quotations to enable them to repair the rendering of the outside walls. It was agreed to be part of the Essex Park watch scheme and this will be discussed with the Park Rangers. Applications have been made for funding to buy gym equipment for the hall grounds.

Salt Bin There is plenty of salt in the bin for people to use in the event of icy weather, please help yourselves to as much as you need.

Councillors will be having another litter pick in early April. Any help will be appreciated.

Cllr Allen gave a report from the Dengie Hundred meeting and the discussions on the Parish Trigger and the New Local District Plan. Next Meeting Monday 19th March 2018

Bradwell-on -Sea W.I

This month's meeting was a trip around New Zealand. Brigid and Laurie talked about their experiences travelling around the North and South Islands, showing us fantastic pictures of 'Lord of the Rings' scenery and explaining the history and traditions of the Maori people.

There will be a progressive meal on 28th March, with the profits to go toward the trip to Denman College in July. The Group meeting will be held on 16th May in the Memorial Hall.

Birthdays this month were celebrated by Ann, Teresa and Sam. The raffle was won by Anthea.

The next meeting will be on the 14th March and called 'Our Response to Life's Changes'. Please can everyone remember their subscrip-

St. Lawrence WI

There was not a large turn-out for the February meeting - probably because of the terrible weather- but those who braved the elements had a good time. We divided into 4 groups, and each group devised a costume for one member only using bin bags, plastic carrier bags, odd bits of material, ribbon, etc. The final results were very impressive, though they did tend to fall apart as the models paraded around!

The traditional Pancake Race - being held indoors it was for two heats. There was a very strong line-up, and it was a hard fought race, but the final winner was Eunice Siggins.

There will be a Coffee morning and Sale on Saturday, 26th May, with cakes, bric a brac, craft items, etc. Members were asked for donations, and help on the day. Proceeds will go to the Church Centre and the W.I.

It is hoped to have an outing to Beth Chatto's Garden and Jimmie's Farm in the Spring.

Members were told about this years' Spring Group meeting on 16th May.

Our President asked for volunteers to join the Committee, as some long-standing members wished to stand down.

The Competition - for an artwork - was won jointly by Linda and Val. The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

At the March meeting, Eve Regulous will be talking on 'The life of a Celebrity Agent'. Eve has been to our meetings before, and she is always entertaining.

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

From The Wensleyhouse



The 'Wensleyhouse' is a moveable field shelter built on skids; a field shelter for two Wensleydale Sheep, Frederica and Ethel. Ethel is a white Wensleydale, and her friend Frederica is a black Wensleydale. They have lived together all their life, and

came to their new home when they were just 6 months old. When they were 18 months old they meet Woolfrid the Ram, who was very keen to get on with his job, and really rather pleased to have two such beautiful Ewes to share a field with.

Soon, both Ethel and then Frederica were sporting a green spot on their bottoms - which means that in March last year they became proud mothers. Frederica had Bess and Baarbara (two ewe lambs, we were delighted), and loves them dearly - although she is apt to forget about them in the hunt for the tastiest cow-parsley leaves available. Baarbara particularly could have inspired the writing of the evening prayer 'we have wandered and strayed like lost sheep,' because she was always getting left behind, wandering off, and finding herself lost and alone; then she would run round and round the house calling and calling!! Frederica, like all good mums, would lift her head, see she was alright, then continue eating. Bess would often be the one to look for her sister when she heard her calling and together they would skip back to mum! And she still wanders off now!

Ethel, now, Ethel was different. She had to wait a whole 2 weeks before Bella arrived. During these two weeks she was very worried. Freddie had to spend a lot of her time in the maternity ward, and Ethel missed her company and worried about where she was. She didn't much appreciate being Aunty Ethel either; at night Bess and Baarbara nibbled her ears and in the day they were another responsibility for her to look out for. She's always looked out for Frederica, now there were Bess and Baarbara to guard too. But when Bella arrived, as far as Ethel was concerned she was the most beautiful thing imaginable. (We were rather be-sotted too...)

Bella was however very, very stupid at getting the idea of drinking! She had us all worried for quite a while; Ethel standing, almost still, while we squirted milk into Bella's face, and still she insisted on sucking a long curl of fleece! In desperation we left them together while getting a bottle of powdered milk; when we arrived

anyone, not anyone, near to Bella. She would stamp her feet fiercely and look very worried if anyone wanted a cuddle with Bella, which was disappointing because Bella was really quite cuddly. There was no leaving Bella behind either. Ethel would put Bella in a safe place, often hidden the other side of a tree, while she munched grass nearby. Where Ethel was, Bella was never far away. Bella soon learnt to stay very close to Mum, she wasn't going to get lost!

Now Bess and Baarbara and Bella are nearly as big as Ethel and Frederica. On 15th November Frederica met Mill House Marvin who came for a visit, and stayed with us for about 2 weeks. By the end of his stay they were good friends and on the afternoon of 22nd Nov Frederica was sporting a Yellow Spot! This means, hopefully, more lambs in April - around 16/17th. But what will they be? We could have two more Ewes like last year, or she could have 1, or 3. Will they be ewe lambs or one of each?

It's £1 to guess the number, sex and date of lambing. (Funds towards Friends of St Lawrence Church), and the winner gets an exclusive introduction to the new lambs and an éclair tea at The Denery.

Fill in the form and return to Phil or Lois before April 15th.

(watersedgeseaview@gmail.com 01621 778263)

Entry form for Frederica's Lambs (2018) (£1 a guess)

Number of Ewe lambs	
Number of Ram lambs	
When (Please give date & hr)	

Contact details: (Full name, phone numbers & email)