

**Hello everyone,**

It seems like only two minutes ago we were celebrating Christmas, and we are already coming to the start of lent. Feasting and Fasting in one small step!

Luckily, we have the Florence Nightingale coffee morning on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February so come along to get all your cake in before Ash Wednesday and the start of lent on 18<sup>th</sup>. Donations of cakes and help would be greatly appreciated.



Lent of course is not all bad. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lecten meaning Spring and the lengthening of days. We will be able to see the days get longer and, hopefully, the weather improve.

Then Easter is on 5<sup>th</sup> April this year, and we will be celebrating with a Palm Sunday lunch after the service the Sunday before (29<sup>th</sup> March) and communion on Easter Sunday itself.



## **The Mousetrap – A salutary tail**

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "Could this be food?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Rushing into the farmyard, the terrified mouse squeaked a warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can see this is a grave concern to you, but it is of little consequence to me. Please do not bother me with it again.

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathised, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do for you but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. While I empathise with your plight, it's really no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That night a sound was heard throughout the house – the snap of a mousetrap. The farmer's wife rushed to see what it had caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people said they were coming to the funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in the other's tapestry. (Anon and edited)

## Diary Dates

**Florence Nightingale House Coffee Morning 16<sup>th</sup> February 10:30 to 12:30**

**Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Homemade soup and bread lunch**

## Prayer Diary

If you have anyone you would like to be on the prayer diary next month, please let Mike know.

1st	Heather - Communion
2nd	Diego & Louisa Arboleda
3rd	Chris (in hospital)
4th	Jayne & Jerry
5th	Monty & Heather
6th	Dorothy
7th	Cathy
8th	Tony Eccleston
9th	Lindsay
10th	David & Jill
11th	Bren
12th	John & Pushpa
13th	Alex Truby (Cancer treatment)
14th	Sandra & Mike
15th	Mary Tuckker
16th	Coffee Morning
17th	Yvonne E
18th	Mandi
19th	Claudette
20th	Janet
21st	Betty
22nd	Elly van den Heuval
23rd	Mary
24th	Susan
25th	Rachael
26th	Yvonne K
27th	Sandra C
28th	John B



We meet at 10:30 each Sunday morning and the chapel hall is available for hire at other times. We would love to see you there, just for a visit or for longer too.

If you have prayer requests, please email us or speak to Heather.