Painting with Julie
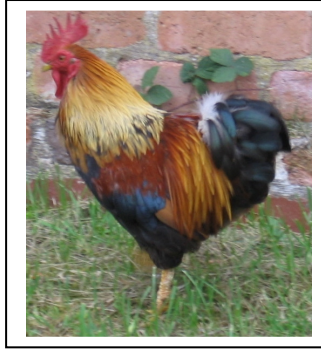
If anyone saw a strange person, with a camera, chasing chickens around St. Laurence's church yard last year…it was me! It is not easy getting chickens to pose for a photograph and I found myself laughing at my own antics as I tried to get the escaped chickens to keep still.

Chicken

Using a ruler, very lightly draw a 1" border around the edge or your watercolour paper. This is because your chicken will probably grow as you are painting so the border will give you space to spread without it falling off the piece of paper.

Lightly draw two rounded "V" shapes, one above the other.

Mix separate puddles of water colours in the following colours, make them quiet strong:-
- Red
- Yellow (a Yellow Ochre is best if you have got it…that is a slightly more brown yellow)
- Reddish Brown (Burnt Sienna)
- Blue
- Dark Green (try mixing a green with dark blue and a yellow)

Start with the head. Load your brush with the Red (I used a No.8 round brush) and in the top, left hand side of the picture, paint the wobbly red bits of his comb and side cheeks, leaving a small circle without paint, in the middle, where the eye will be.
When this is dry, add a yellow blob for the eye and a yellow streak for the beak.
When this is dry, add the dark spot for the pupil of the eye and a little dark streak at the bottom of the beak.

Working down the body, add different coloured streaks in patches. Overlapping the faint pencil "V" shapes. Use the Yellow Ochre (or Yellow) at the top, changing to the reddish brown on the back and the blue on the chest. Paint the streaks in the direction of the feathers.

Using the Blue and then the dark Green add longer streaks for the tail.

Add a couple of streaks of the Yellow for the legs.

Add a few streaks of the dark Green on the body where the legs join.

Add a few streaks of Green, over the feet for grass.

When it's all dry, rub out any pencil lines.

Detail of head