

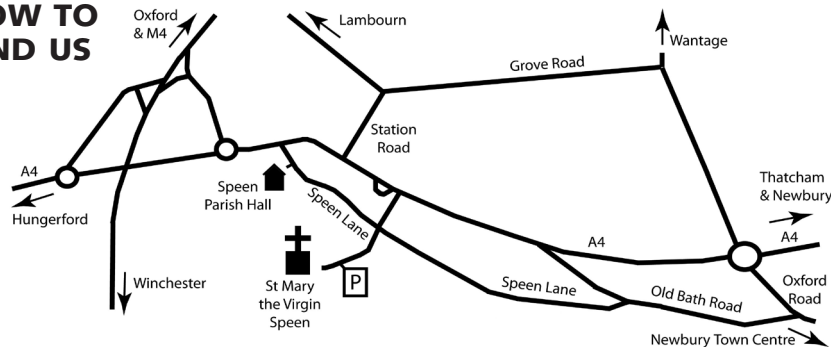
CONTACTS - ST MARY'S CHURCH

Rector: Rev Will Hunter Smart (will@st-nics.org; 01635 285710)
 Baptisms & Marriages: Libby Lake (libby@st-nics.org; 01635 285711)
 Funerals & Burials: Mandy Maskell (mandy@st-nics.org; 01635 47018)
 Churchwardens: Brian Nobes (enquiries@st-mary-speen.org; 01635 821305),
 Jo Fageant (01635 32657)
 Secretary, Parochial Church Council (PCC): (pccsecretary@st-mary-speen.org)
 Newsletter Editor: Jo Fageant (editor@st-mary-speen.org; 01635 32657)
 Majendie Hall Bookings: Marion Mottram (majendiehall@st-mary-speen.org;
 01635 551066)
 Church Flowers: Mavis Brind (01635 44364)
 Tower Captain: Carrie Jones-Hinton (01635 35302)
 Electoral Roll Officer: Jo Fageant (01635 32657)
 Cherubs: Becca Scorey (07775 670577). <http://www.stmarysspeen.org.uk/Cherubs.html>
 Tuesday Club: Jean Read (01635 521756)
 Website: www.st-mary-speen.org
 E-mail: enquiries@st-mary-speen.org
 Speen Parish Hall Bookings: Eileen Littlewood (01635 820456)

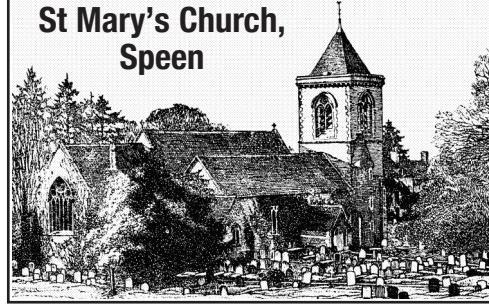
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL from April 2017

Michael Bell (01488 608284), Ted Curtis, Jo Fageant (32657). Keith Hardman, John Hughesdon (43120), Mavis Hughesdon (43120), Will Hunter Smart (285710), Nikki Monger, Marion Mottram (551066), Brian Nobes (821305), Robin Read (521756), Paul Thompson, Ruth Tibbetts.

HOW TO FIND US



St Mary's Church, Speen



NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2018

Lent and Easter Services

- Mothering Sunday** Service of the Word - 11th March at 10.30am led by Rev Joy Mawdesley
- Palm Sunday** Service of the Word - 25th March at 10.30am led by Rev Pam McKellen
- Maundy Thursday** Benefice service - 29th March at 8.00pm at St Nicolas' Church led by Rev Will Briggs
- Good Friday** Reflections - 30th March at 2.00pm led by Rev Joy Mawdesley
- Easter Sunday** Holy Communion - 1st April at 10.30am led by Rev Will Briggs

ST MARY'S SERVICE DATES

Arrangements for evensong services from the end of March have not been finalised. Please see the website for details when they become available.

Sun	04	Mar	10.30	Holy Communion and baptism - Rev Will Hunter Smart
			15.30	Choral Evensong - Rev Margaret Yates
Sun	11	Mar	10.30	Service of the Word, Mothering Sunday - Rev Joy Mawdesley
Sun	18	Mar	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Raymond Obin
			15.30	Evensong - Rev Will Hunter Smart
Sun	25	Mar	10.30	Service of the Word, Palm Sunday - Rev Pam McKellen
Thur	29	Mar	20.00	Maundy Thursday, held at St Nicolas' Church - Rev Will Briggs
Fri	30	Mar	14.00	Good Friday reflections - Rev Joy Mawdesley
Sun	01	Apr	10.30	Holy Communion, Easter Day - Rev Will Briggs
Sun	08	Apr	10.30	Service of the Word - Jane Sutton
Sun	15	Apr	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Margaret Yates
Sun	22	Apr	10.30	Service of the Word - Jo Fageant

continued overleaf

SERVICE DATES CONTINUED

Sun 29 Apr 10:30	tbc
Sun 06 May 10.30	Holy Communion and baptism - tbc
Sun 13 May 10.30	Service of the Word - Julian Shelley
Sun 20 May 10:30	Holy Communion - tbc
Sun 27 May 10.30	Service of the Word - John Hughesdon

Looking in the wrong place?

My daughter once lost a wooden puzzle piece and we searched high and low for it, in amongst the toys, in the bedroom, behind the sofa, but it seemed to have vanished. One breakfast, I found it when I wasn't looking for it – a blue sheep sat inside the Ready Brek packet! I would never have thought of looking there!

On the first Easter Day as women came to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body, they met two men in shining clothes who said

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

If they wanted to find Jesus, they had gone to the logical place to look – the tomb that his body had been laid to rest in, but the women were told that they were looking for Jesus in the wrong place – they were looking among the dead when in fact he is alive . . .

If Jesus remains among the dead, we are left with a teacher who dies in his 30s as a failed Messiah, someone who makes great promises about God but comes to a pitiful end, why should we bother with a dead Jesus? If he remains among the dead, we can't really assume that anything he said is true or that he is worth following.

But if Jesus rose from the dead and we find him among the living, things start to look a bit different. We have someone in whom God is at work - so what he said and what he did are worth looking at. We are living in a world where God has stepped in, making things different now and offering hope for the future.

Yet still we tend to look for what Jesus gives in all the wrong places.

We think that we will be satisfied if we can have the most up to date iPhone or that brand of handbag or the next holiday. Our feelings of security are often caught up with our house or our salary or who our friends are. We are in danger of looking in the wrong places for God.

Perhaps we even still try to find Jesus among the dead?

Maybe we think Christianity has nothing to say beyond Jesus' death and we need to learn to follow a living person not a dead one. The Christian message of Easter is not

a message of the past – Jesus is alive today and we need to live in the light of that. That means that we can live as if we have been forgiven – because we have.

And if we decide to follow Jesus – we discover that being a Christian is not primarily about obeying a set of commandments or being religious, but enjoying a relationship with a living person.

So, look in the right places for what you need for your life – decide to take a look at the person of Jesus and you may well be surprised when you find him.

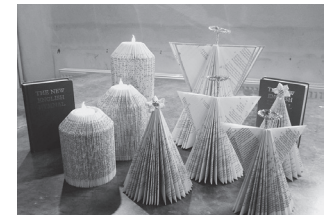
Rev Joy Marwdesley

ST MARY'S REGULAR DATES

Every Tuesday	9.45-11.15 CHERUBS (Majendie Hall at St Mary's) 19.30-21.30 SING FOR FUN (Majendie Hall at St Mary's)
Alternate Tuesdays	14.00-16.00 TUESDAY CLUB (Majendie Hall at St Mary's every other Tuesday. For details contact Jean Read on 521756)
Every Wednesday	10.00-11.30 NEWBURY MORNING ROCK CHOIR (Majendie Hall at St Mary's)
Every Thursday	19.30 BELLRINGING PRACTICE – new learners welcome
Every Sunday	10.00 SERVICE BELLRINGING

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas bazaar which was our most successful ever. Particularly popular, and profitable, were the angels and candles made out of our old redundant hymn books.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

03 Dec 2017 Axel Christopher Paul, born 22 May 2017, son of Christopher & Laura Harding

03 Dec 2017 Jack Matthew, born 22 Jul 2017, son of Matthew & Claire Payne

BURIALS

07 Feb 2018 Jeremy Holden Bell, died 18 Dec 2017 aged 83yrs

19 Feb 2018 George Gilchrist Dunbar, died 31 Mar 2016, ashes interred

19 Feb 2018 Margaret Dunbar, died 28 Jan 2018 aged 79yrs

DEATH

Doreen Fish, died 30 Dec 2017, aged 89yrs, for many years a faithful member of the congregation.