

St Mary' Speen Pew News 4/2021

Dear friends,

- 1) Firstly , to let the St Mary's congregation know that Will is currently off work – Ellen's mother is very seriously ill in hospital. Please be praying for the Hunter Smart family.
From Joy Mawdesley

2) DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2a) **SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY:** The Women's Ministry Team at St Nic's are hosting a breakfast (for both men and women) via Zoom on Saturday 6th February. Further details to follow. (I can recommend these events. Zoom means you don't actually have to get out of bed to join in breakfast meetings if you don't want to , although personally I like to have coffee and toast beside me, and try to look as though I have been up for hours MJH)

2b) **SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**

If anyone would like to join in with the St Nic's service livestreamed at 10am on Sunday morning, they can do so via this link https://youtu.be/3_XIUKjFDMc

Jackie is leading and Joy preaching. **Topic : "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'" (Matthew 10:7)**

This Sunday St Nic's begins a new sermon series, "Following Jesus" . This will take us up to Easter, in the company of Matthew, as we see what it means from his account of Jesus' life to be a disciple of Jesus. We start this week from Matthew 10, thinking about travelling light and being ready! As last week, St Nic's church building is closed for public worship, but we will be livestreaming the service at 10am. Please do join us – JM

3) ANNA NEWTON WRITES:

Sustain us dear Lord as you have promised and we shall live and do not let us be disappointed in our hope."

*Harvest. In Courtesy to God.
A shadow casts itself across my form.
Lays for a while heavy, dark and torn.
Be it anger, doubt or fear,
I see the Lord's way clear.*

*Monkey mind in meditation fails
To clarify and help me understand my tales.
It jumps from right to wrong put upon or sad.
Lord of your healing ear I am truly glad.*

I know your humanity is with me every hour

*Your precious spirit left to us, left to empower.
So to you I can repent of human folly,
Burden you with what is less than jolly.*

*I Try to know me through and through but
As a novice find I often have to bother you.
But in courtesy I feel presumption to assume,
You did not want to share both light and gloom.*

Anna (Written about 20 years ago for the book of Poetry put together at Elmore Abbey. "A Spiritual Landscape")

4) FROM RUTH TIBBETTS



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" Ruth writes that she has been lighting candles each evening and finds it restorative. She found this poem recently by Howard Thurman .

*" I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy despite all the sadness*

*Candles of hope where despair keeps watch
Candles of courage for fears ever present*

*Candles of peace for tempest - tossed days
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens*

*Candles of love to inspire all my living
Candles that will burn all year long. - not just at Christmas'.*

Howard Thurman was a prominent African American author, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He lived in turbulent times, helping to found one of the first racially integrated churches in America.) RT

5) Re the **COVID JAB**: If anyone should be invited to have a JAB, do please let me know. I would like the joy of being pleased for you, knowing that at least one of our church family will be protected!

Best Wishes Mavis. 01635 4320 mhughesdon@hotmail.com. Newsy emails and phone calls welcomed.

