

St Mary's Speen Pew News 11/ 2021

Dear friends,



Goldwell Park, From Joy.

**1) FROM THIS SUNDAY, ST MARY'S SPEEN WILL BE OPEN AGAIN!**

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Holy Communion** led by Rev Janice Macdonald in St Mary's Speen.

With infection rates coming down and numbers of those vaccinated going up, it seems appropriate to be open once more. But we must remain on our guard and we will, of course, continue to comply with the various restrictions to make sure that our building is a safe place to be. Please continue to keep your distance and follow the directions of the stewards in church. Please do be praying for the life of St Mary's as we prepare for more changes – we are grateful to God that the changes are in a positive direction this time!

And pray for everyone at Robert Sandilands School as all their children go back to school next week.

**St Nic's Sunday Service online:** if you would like to watch the St Nic's service online the link (I hope) is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UanhGvmFb9U>.

**Sabbath Sustenance is still available each week.** Thank you, Janice for preparing this for us each week.

Our Wednesday afternoon for quiet time and prayer in church will be resumed at a later date, probably after Easter.

**2) St Nic's Big Breakfast.** St Nic's have been holding Saturday morning breakfast meetings by Zoom, a spin off from the Women's Breakfasts that were so popular and open to all. Have your own breakfast at home in your pyjamas if you like, and at 9am listen to an interesting speaker talking about their Christian life and drink your coffee. So It's not a sermon, we break out into chat rooms half way, so there is a bit of discussion, and you can ask questions at the end. The next one is on 20<sup>th</sup> March and the speaker will be speaking from India! Joy hosts it. I will put more details in PN beforehand, and an email to Mandy at St Nic's office will book your place.

**3) DAPHNE.** My item last week about Daphne, one of our organists, emigrating to Australia caused amusement amongst those who had received the news by other routes. Apparently she will be living in Perth, Scotland! Well, it's a long way from Speen anyway.

**4) REV FRED BONHAM** At the Deanery Synod meeting on Thursday it was reported that this former vicar of Speen (?retired C1998) died earlier this week. JSH.

**5) WEST BERKS FOOD BANK**

the West Berkshire foodbank, is raising funds (£1500) to ensure that all children that are on the poverty line get their Easter eggs this year. For details

see <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg/products/copy-of-real-easter-egg-donation-to-a-food-bank>

If you wish to contribute to the Food bank for Easter Eggs or general food supplies, collection please send your payment directly to the Foodbank's account:

**Lloyds Bank, Newbury : Sort Code 77-95-05**

**West Berks Foodbank : Account No. 72784660**

Alternatively, if online banking is not suitable for you, then you may send a cheque payable to "West Berks Foodbank" and send to: The Treasurer, West Berks Foodbank, 23 Charter Road, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7EW.

Our Waitrose is, of course, the nearest place to contribute packets and tins to the Food Bank.. It is just inside on the right.

## 6) WELCOME TO THE MAHABBA NETWORK

“We are a relational network giving people of Muslim heritage the opportunity to find and follow Jesus.

Our vision is to see ministry among people of Muslim heritage as a normal part of church life.

"The Muslim month of fasting and seeking God begins this year on Monday April 12th and the Feast of Eid when the fast ends is on the 12th and 13th May. This is such a great time for the Christian community to make concerted, targeted, fervent prayer for the Muslim world that they will find and receive the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God delights to bring hope, help and salvation to all people. To aid us in our prayer for Muslims during Ramadan a beautifully illustrated and informative prayer guide is available, '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.'

People can order direct through Kitab/ Interserve by contacting [sales@kitab.org.uk](mailto:sales@kitab.org.uk) or phoning 01908 552714”.

7) **EXERCISE!** I would like to a personal recommendation for free seated exercise class on Tuesday mornings by Zoom, run by I <http://www.mindset-massage.com/>. You can do it as energetically as you like, or not, and no one will shout at you! (no, I don't have shares in them). They are funded by the charity “Get Berkshire Active”. You have to register each week to get the Zoom link. They are starting more classes next week so you may find something else to suit you.

8) I look forward to being in Church on Sunday and hope to meet lots of us back again and . I think we have all earned a celebratory toffee afterwards. Love Mavis. 01635 43120