

St Mary's Speen Pew News 12/ 2021

Dear friends,

## 1) SERVICES AT ST MARY'S



**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am MOTHERS' DAY.** Our Service of The word will be led by Rev Joy Mawdesley and Karen West\*. The readings are Ephesians 2, v1-10 and John 3, v14- 21 . Regulars will know that we have the delightful tradition at St M's of giving posies to the ladies. Many thanks to Mavis Brind and Marion Mottram our talented flower ladies, for preparing these for us.

\*Karen West is an ordinand in Winchester Diocese on placement with us and St Nic's. No doubt we will give her a warm welcome. (Ordinand: A person who is training to be ordained as a priest or minister).

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am.** Our Service of The Word will be led by John Hughesdon

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am PALM SUNDAY** Holy Communion led by Rev Pam McKellen. Palm Crosses will be available.

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

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10am St Nic's online service** may be found on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePOwmCEGv2c>

2) **Saturday at 20th March at 9am BIG BREAKFAST** next Saturday, will take place by Zoom. The speaker is the Reverend Mathansingh Leo Edward coming to us *live from India!* He will be sharing his experience of following Jesus, having come to faith at the age of 14, and been a full time missionary in North India for more than 30 years. Now retired and based in South India, Mathansingh and his wife, Lalitha, run a small Bible teaching organisation. The vision is to equip, edify, enlighten and empower believers and grassroot workers for Christian service. If you would like to join in do let the St Nic's office know at [office@st-nics.org](mailto:office@st-nics.org) by 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March and you will be sent the Zoom link

There breakfast meetings are so easy to join in, no need to get up except to comb your hair and collect coffee and avocado on toast. No one need see you if you don't click on "Video". Besides which, what else are you likely to be doing at 9am on a wintry Saturday morning ?

### 3) From Jo Fageant re last week's article IN PN taken from the Christians Together in Newbury Newsletter

In last week's pew news we were invited to support an initiative of the MAHABBA Network to use the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan, as a 'concerted and targeted time of fervent prayer for the Muslim world that they will find and receive the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Respecting the broad church that St Mary's claims to be I should like to offer pew news an alternative understanding of relationships with our Muslim brothers and sisters. I consider it has been one of the greatest privileges and benefits of my life to have spent my career mixing with and learning from people from a wide diversity of faiths. Not having such easy opportunities now I'm retired is something I miss so I was excited recently to hear of the bringing back to life of Reading Inter Faith Group (RIFG). I signed up as a member as soon as I was able. At the virtual AGM it was lovely to see Jewish and Muslim friends from way back.

All of us want others to understand and respect our views. Some people will also want to persuade others to join their faith. In a multi faith society where this is permitted, the attempt should always be characterised by self-restraint and a concern for the other's freedom and dignity. Fundamental to good inter-faith relations are

- respect for the views and beliefs of others and their right to disagree with us
- the avoidance of imposing ourselves and our views on individuals or communities
- sensitivity and courtesy
- the recognition that all of us at times fall short of the ideals of our own traditions and we should never compare our own ideals with other people's practices.

I should like to suggest that the best way for any of us to attract others to Christianity is by living the most Christlike life we can (I know I fall way short) thereby inspiring others to ask what underpins all we do and are.

Jo Fageant 11 March 2021

### 4) Easter Herb Garden Kits



The Women's Ministry at St Nic's (they are a very imaginative team!) is offering us all the opportunity to make our own Easter Herb Garden! They are putting together packs with full instructions to enable you to make your garden.

Please let Mavis H know if you would like one of these packs either by leaving you name at the desk on Sunday morning or giving her a ring 01635 43120, or emailing [mhughesdon@hotmail.com](mailto:mhughesdon@hotmail.com). Your pack should reach you during the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

There will be a video up on YouTube on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March giving you a step by step demonstration and an Easter Thought to go with it from Will Hunter Smart! They are very easy to do and you do not need to be crafty or green-fingered! Do join in as we prepare our hearts and our homes for Easter.

I look forward to being in Church on Sunday and hope to meet lots of  
. Love Mavis H. 01635 43120