

ST MARY'S SPEEN PEW NEWS 21 /2021

1) SERVICES

This week: : Sunday 16th May 10.30am Holy Communion led by our Rector, Revd Will Hunter Smart. This service will be a celebration of Ascension.

READINGS Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53

Hymns: Immortal invisible

Alleluia sing to Jesus

O worship the king

Crown him with many crowns

St Mary's is open on **Wednesday afternoons** from 2 - 4 pm for reflective prayer. Ruth and Judy are "in charge" this week.

Next week: Sunday 23rd May PENTECOST Holy Communion led by Rev Pam McKellen.

2) MARION BURKE

This is to let you know that Marion will be joining, by agreement with Will, Joy and our Worship Group, in leading and preaching at services at St Mary's. We are delighted to have her contributing to the life of St Mary's in this way. You may recall that building the preaching and leading team is one of the aims in our Mission Action Plan.

Many of you will know that Marion used to be a preacher in the Methodist Church and was a missionary in Peru for a number of years. She returned to the UK in 2015 and since then has completed a degree in Applied Theology at Moorlands Bible College. One of her placements was at St Nic's as well as another church in Dorset and with these she gained further experience in preaching and leading. Marion feels called to the life of St Mary's and it is great to have her with us. She is going to begin by leading the Service of the Word on 30th May, sharing the service with Janice who is preaching on that day. JM

3) THY KINGDOM COME

In 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited the Church of England to pray for more people to come to know Jesus for a period of eleven days from Ascension Day to Pentecost, through a programme called "Thy Kingdom Come". It has continued every year since and will be held this year from Thursday 13 to Sunday 23 May. Under the guidance of Marion Burke there is the opportunity to gather together via Zoom each evening at 6pm for 20 minutes beginning on Thursday 13th May, until 22nd. Please do join us if you would like to. We will be using the "Thy Kingdom Come" Novena Prayer Guide for this year, based on the Psalms.

Alternatively, if you would like to use the booklet personally here is the link:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2021-03/RC1053_TKC_Novena2021_V5-WEB.pdf

Marion has some printed copies of the Guide for convenience. If anyone would like one, please see Marion on Sunday. You may like one, even if you are unable to attend any of the Zoom meetings. MB

Please follow this Zoom link to join in. We look forward to praying together!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81299646321?pwd=MW12NXNLcjBCUEtwWENZQXA1ZnJCdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 9964 6321

Password: 273889

4) ST MARY'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) on Sunday 4th July at 12noon, after our morning service;

Our annual meeting will be chaired by Rev Will Hunter Smart, our Rector. Our APCM is usually held earlier in the year, but due to COVID restrictions, holidays and Will's availability it has been delayed. Please can those who usually contribute to the report think about preparing one for the last year and letting Mavis H have it by the end of May, please, to allow time for editing, printing, emailing, (and me to see family), in good time for the meeting. Thanks. MJH

5) COVID IN INDIA APPEAL..

A big thank you to all who have contributed to our appeal for help for in responding to the devastating Covid crisis in India. We have, so far, raised £750 including Gift Aid. We are supporting Leonard Hospital in south India, through our contacts with the Miriam



Dean Fund. Leonard Hospital is a Christian hospital which functions under the auspices of the catholic Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod.

If you have not yet made a donation and would like to, please either

- Give cash or a cheque made out to "St Mary's Church, Speen" and use the orange envelopes in the pews to leave in the offertory plate in church, or send to John Hughesdon. Please marking your envelope with your name and 'India' so that John can claim Gift Aid where appropriate..

OR · Make a BACS payment to St M's account: Lloyds bank 30-95-89, a/c no 01430179. Please, similarly, give your name and say 'INDIA' eg 'Smith India'.

On behalf of all those that the hospital is serving: Thank you. The St Mary's fundraising project will be open until Sunday 23rd May **PMac**.

6) **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.** This week (10-16 May 2021) is Christian Aid week. In the past, we have enjoyed the Christian Aid envelope scheme via a door-to-door delivery and collection service provided by volunteers acting on behalf of this fantastic charity. This will not be able to take place this year. So, members of St Mary's are being invited to make their contributions on-line this year, via the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org where you can make a one-off donation or arrange to make regular donations." Thank you, PRIM.

7) HISTORY OF ST MARY'S: JEAN READ'S BOOK

As you are no doubt aware there is a history of Saint Mary The Virgin Speen on display in the entrance to the church. Plans to convert this document into a book are well advanced. It will replicate the contents of the historical document but will additionally contain colour photographs. It will be an A5 size volume of approximately pages at an estimated price of £6.50 per book. It is intended to donate all proceeds of sale to St Mary's.

However the level of demand for the book has to be established in order to ascertain how many books will be printed. The date of printing is yet to be decided.

It would assist if those who would like to purchase one please contact Robin Read on Email Robin. Readmcs@gmail.com or telephone 01635 521756.

8) SABBATH SUSTENANCE

Revd Janice writes: With the provision of Sabbath Sustenance coming to an end next week with the Pentecost edition , I have been asked to explain how it started and how I choose elements within it.

When we first entered Lockdown at the end of March 2020, Joy and I were considering how best to keep people connected and spiritually fed whilst we were physically separated. Initially I was going to put together the set readings for the day and a few prayers but, like Topsy, it grew! The name came about after Mavis asked for the sheets to be called something other than "Readings for . . ." We threw a few ideas around and Sabbath Sustenance was born; I rather like alliteration!

It seemed a good idea to have a picture associated with, or connected to, one of the readings or the theme as an illustration; sometimes a picture is worth more than words. There are times when I already have an idea of what I'm looking for when I enter the reading reference into my search engine; magically, various art work, photos, cartoons and graphics appear. Some weeks it is harder to find a suitable illustration than others but it is amazing what one can find!

During such strange times it has been both a discipline and a joy to draw Sabbath Sustenance together week by week; a regularly repeated refrain at a time when life was so very different, uncertain, unsafe and unsure which anchored me and, I hope, you. I was delighted that our two guest editors, Pam and Margaret, took on their weeks with

enthusiasm enabling me to have an occasional break – and the readership to experience a different ‘voice’.

Similarly, the development of including the intercessions compiled by our faithful band of intercessors also introduced another element. I always hear the writer’s voice as I read them, and am grateful that they cheerfully compiled them far in advance of usual for ‘their’ Sunday so they would be ready by the Wednesday each week.

I must also thank Mandy in the church office and Robin without whom the hard copies would never have been delivered, and Mavis and Paul T for ensuring the electronic and website copies were circulated. Thank you, everyone, it’s been a real team effort and wouldn’t have been the same without you.

And so, since all good things come to an end, so must Sabbath Sustenance; it has run its course, more and more of our church family are returning to worshipping together at St Mary’s and ministry is picking up where it left off for me in March 2020. I trust it has filled a hole for you and that you have felt loved, included and connected whenever you have used it.

We are currently considering how those who cannot return, particularly those without access to the internet, can still feel part of our community so I invite your ideas or suggestions; please bear in mind it has to be sustainable in the long term. May your spiritual lives continue to be fed as we move back to worshipping and being together again.

Best Wishes, Mavis

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