

St Mary's Speen Pew News 7/ 2021

Dear friends,

1)



We would usually be visiting Welford to see the beautiful drifts of snowdrops there. Here are some in our garden instead.

2) NEWS FROM WILL AND JOY

"Having suspended public worship at St Mary's in January we have now reviewed this in consultation with the PCC and have reluctantly made the decision that we will continue to suspend public worship for the duration of February. It is good that churches can offer opportunities for worship, but we are also mindful of the need to protect our community and our volunteers.

The Wednesday afternoon time of prayer will also continue to be suspended during February. It is with a heavy heart that we make this decision, St Mary's has done an amazing job at keeping going throughout 2020 in very difficult circumstances and continues to do so. We are hopeful that, with the decrease in infection rates and the increased numbers of vaccinations, we shall be able to worship together in person during March and as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

Please continue to be praying for our church life, our community, and our nation at this time.
Will Hunter Smart and Joy Mawdesley.

3) **ONLINE SERVICE OF THE WORD LED BY REV JOY MAWDESELY** As an alternative means of meeting this weekend, Sunday 7th February, Joy Mawdesley is going to lead a Service of the Word via an online Zoom meeting for those who can join us. NB This will be at 10am rather than our usual service time of 10.30am.

The link for this Service is as follows:

Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Time: Feb 7, 2021 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85102969066?pwd=Sm9EMIRrbFJ0cG8zYmg4NkJKSmpSZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 0296 9066

Passcode: 271379

If you are new to Zoom here are the instructions you need:

- Click on the above link.
- Click on 'Open Zoom meeting' and wait for it to connect.
- If asked, click on 'Join with video'.

The waiting room function will be on, so you will be asked to wait until Joy lets you in. It might be worth joining about five minutes before the service is due to begin.

Attached to Pew News is the Order of Service – if you would like to print it off for the service, that would be helpful, though not essential. The service will last up to 45 minutes.

4) SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT ACTIVITIES

4a) **DONATIONS TO THE FOOD BANK.** Please see the attachment about donations to the Food Bank over Lent. Our nearest collection bin for packets and tins is in Waitrose. But West Berks Food Bank would be very happy to receive donations and I have downloaded the following from their website:

"We shall be very grateful to receive your donations of money directly to our bank account.

Donations may be made directly to our bank account, with the following details:

Lloyds Bank, Newbury : Sorting 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.

You may in addition, if you wish (provided that you are a UK tax-payer) complete a Gift Aid form to add 25% value to your donation"

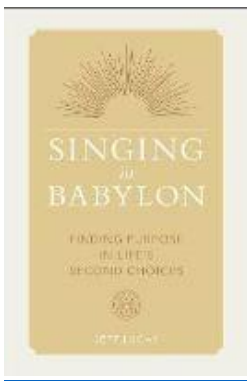
It is possible to download a Gift Aid Form on their website,

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> or I (MJH) can print one off for you if you let me know.

4b) **HOW ABOUT JOINING IN THE BIG CHURCH READ?** .. see details on e the website below.

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

“The Big Church Read was founded in 2020 to encourage a culture of reading good Christian books and this year one of the books we are being encouraged to read is “Singing in Babylon” by Jeff Lucas.



This exceptionally timely book explores what it looks like to live with second choices—events and circumstances that they would not choose, some trivial, some tragic.

Daniel was a man whose life was filled with second choices, but he did more than just survive; he stayed faithful to God and thrived. So what is there to learn from his story in Scripture? Pastor and author Jeff Lucas challenges readers to ask, "How can we, like Daniel, be faithful in the 'Babylon' of second choices?" Down-to-earth but inspirational, Singing in Babylon explores how the reader, like Daniel, can find purpose and meaning in life's second choices.

There are then some questions and other resources available for us to help think about it. We can buy this book at a discount from Shoemakers on click and collect and I have included below their instructions from their website on how to do this

*SHOEMAKERS IS STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS. Whilst we are in lockdown we will be OPEN for click-and-collect and deliveries. * online at www.christophershoeemaker.org.uk*

** via email at office@christophershoeemaker.org.uk and*

** on the phone on 01635 37836*

Our physical shop will be closed but collections can be made on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS during our normal opening hours of 9:30-4pm.

SOFA NEWS (Ruth Tibbetts reported that another church thought up this title!)

EVELYN LAWSON. I am so sorry to have to report that Evelyn did not recover and died this week.

RUTH TIBBETTS writes " I have just been appointed as a Probationary Waterways Chaplain for the canal stretch around Newbury. At the moment I am in training and familiarising myself

with all that the job entails. Waterways Chaplaincy is an ecumenical activity of Workplace Matters providing a listening and supporting ministry to those who benefit from and use the inland waterways. It is being a visible presence to boaters walkers, anglers ,the homeless, Canal and River Trust staff, volunteers and all those who chose to spend time on the waterways .I would value your prayers as I begin this challenging and rewarding role."