

St Mary's Speen Pew News 354

Dear friends,

1) **SUNDAY SERVICES.** We meet in St M's on Sunday's for Morning Service at 10.30am as usual. This week it will be a Service of the Word led by John Hughesdon.

The readings will be Romans 10 v5-15

Matthew 14 22-33

Our Rector, Rev Will Hunter Smart will be leading our Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 30th August.

If you are joining us in St M's Church, you will probably already be aware that face coverings are required by law in churches from this Sunday. Please bring a face covering with you – although, should you forget, there will be some available in church. They are not required by those who are involved in some way in leading the service and we should also be aware that there may be some people who may have a valid reason under government guidelines for not wearing them.

Please park in the church car park which will be open on Sundays, if you possibly can. This leaves space for those less able to walk to park near the church.

2) **WEDNESDAY PRAYERS.** There is also an opportunity to come to St Mary's on Wednesdays any time between 2 and 4pm for a time of private prayer. You can come and go when you like. There will be prayer resources around the church and someone will lead us in prayer at 3pm to attend church again. This is a good opportunity to come for a short informal time, become reacquainted and have a chat too.

3) Members of the congregation have kindly contributed items for Pew News recently. This week Shelagh Bell writes to us:

Lockdown in Woodspeen

We arrived home from visiting our son and his family down under in mid-March and almost immediately, found ourselves in "lockdown". Looking back four months later, it then seemed more of an unwelcome experience than it has turned out to be. Like many of us, Michael and I

have got round to doing a number of jobs that we had put off for ages, and, just like Graham and Brian and Denise, that included many days sorting through some very old papers! For my own part, I have given the garden a lot of attention and although it looks pretty reasonable at the moment, I am not sure that I can keep it up in future years! It's been a remarkable time for wildlife and although none of the cygnets of our local swans survived this year, we had three Canada goslings, and half a dozen young great tits. As I write, there is a pigeon sitting on her nest a few feet from our front door. It's surprising how such a sizeable bird has such a small nest - quite a balancing act!

When the rules on staying at home were eased a couple of weeks ago, we spent a few days in the Peak District, and we were rewarded with a close up of the bearded vulture which was mentioned extensively in the papers. It's a very impressive sight, with a wingspan of around 3 metres. We weren't quick enough with our own camera, but here is someone else's photo which is just as we saw it as it flew over our heads.

The main event in our family's calendar for 2020 was to be the wedding of our youngest son a couple of weeks ago. Naturally, it had to be postponed and we all now have something to look forward to next May. Fortunately, he and his fiancée have dealt with the disappointment very well.



It has been difficult, I think, for all of us not to be able to worship together in St Mary's but we are very fortunate to have so many people working hard to ensure that our church community continues to flourish, albeit in a different way. Michael and I are extremely grateful to all those who have made this possible.

The reopening of the church for formal worship recently was an important landmark for all of us. We can only look forward to times when everyone again feels able to gather together. In the meantime, we continue to be struck by the acts of kindness which are helping us all through these unusual times.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Shelagh

Best wishes to you all, and I hope to see some of you on Sunday or Wednesday, Mavis

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