

St Mary's Speen Pew News 356

Dear friends,

- 1) **MARY HASSELL.** I am sorry to have to begin with some sad news. We learnt that a longstanding member of our church family, Mary Hassell, died recently after being frail and in a nursing home for quite a few years after a stroke. Please remember her family in your prayers. **Mary's funeral service will be at St. Mary's on Friday 21st August at 12noon. Attendance at the funeral will be initially by invitation only as, of course at the moment, numbers must be limited. Please wait for more information about this from Mary's family, which will go out in a PewNewsExtra as soon as I have the information.**

- 2) **COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** Please be aware that the West Berkshire Community Support Hub continues to be available to support our community despite the easing of restrictions and the official ending of shielding. They remain open to ensure that the most vulnerable are able to have the food or medication that they need. In case this is helpful for you or someone you know, their contact details are: 01635 503579
westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk

- 3) **SUNDAY SERVICES.** We meet in St M's on Sunday's for Morning Service at 10.30am as usual. Pam McKellen will be leading a service of Holy Communion, the first since Lockdown. This Sunday the theme of our service is "MASKS". The readings are Corinthians 3:12-18 and John 4: 8-26.

It will also be our first Communion service since March (Hooray! Another little step forward MJH) and of course we need to know how it will work.

Please don't worry about personal safety. We will sit in a properly spaced way, as usual and we need to remind ourselves that face masks must be worn while we're in church and all the usual sanitising guidelines still apply.

The way we will do communion is that the priest will prepare all the elements having sanitised hands etc. The wafers will be put into a ciborium and covered until the time for them to be distributed. At that stage Pam will walk down the central aisle wearing a mask and you are asked to stretch your arm out to her and she will place a wafer into your hand at arms' length. There will not be wine for the congregation.*

If you would prefer not to actually receive a wafer that's fine. Just come into

the service and join in anyway.

If you have any questions, please ask Pam before the service begins.

* **CIBORIUM:** a) receptacle shaped like a shrine or a cup with an arched cover, used in the a Christian Church to hold the Eucharist.

b) a ciborium is defined as a large, covered cup – such as a chalice or goblet – which features a cover, usually surmounted by a cross. ... The shape of the ciborium is one which is slightly different to that of a chalice, with the bowl element of the ciborium being more rotund, rather than conical.

Noun: ciborium; plural noun: ciboria.



4)

So now you know.

Our Rector, Rev Will Hunter Smart will be leading our next Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 30th August AND, folks, there will be an **ORGANIST**, our friend Oliver, playing.

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, as they are in shops and other public places. Please bring a face covering with you – although, should you forget, there will be some available in church. (We would like to welcome as many people to join us as possible!) 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.

Numbers are slowly creeping up. Sally and I sat in the choir stalls on Sunday which felt more like our normal place. Everyone is so delighted to be able to come. The doors are wide open and there is so much room that one cannot help feeling safe and relaxed and ready to share In the Service.

5) **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.

6) COVID TESTS

Someone was asking this week about what to do if you think you need a COVID test. The website to go to is found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>. All the information you need is there. Either that or ring 119.

7) **COLD CALLERS** We seem to be getting a lot of "Cold Callers" along the Lane. If you open the door to them, which of course you don't have to, I advise you to say immediately that you do not buy or sell at the door. Do not give your name, your telephone number or your email address.

8) And now for something much more attractive....

Members of the congregation have kindly contributed items for Pew News recently. **This time it is Sarah Sandford on the High Seas.** I think this will make you either green with envy or green for some other reason.. ..

"An e-mail from the Isles of Scilly.

I shall be thinking of St Mary's congregation starting to return to church. Hopefully a vaccine will soon enable the whole congregation to be together again.

I am still being very cautious and so Tim and I, being very fortunate to have a boat can escape the world of the virus to some extent. We don't go into marinas as we mostly anchor so this is perfect social isolation.

Aiming to spend a few months on the boat we left Portsmouth two weeks ago heading West. Our first stop was Portland Harbour where we saw the resident Bottlenose dolphin jumping out of the water in the early morning as we moved off to Dartmouth where we spent a week up the River Dart at Dittisham, walking, bird watching and thinking about swimming! We were joined most days by a resident seal (picture attached).

We were aiming for the Isles of Scilly which are very exposed and you need a good few days of calm settled conditions to stay there. We moved to Plymouth and the Falmouth. Seeing the weather window we needed we crossed to the Scillies last Monday. We were joined by a lot of dolphins on the crossing.

The Scillies are low lying and idyllic. Like everywhere they are affected by Covid and none of the restaurants are open. The weather is warm and calm so we are spending our time walking on the various islands and watching the sea birds. We aren't quite sure but thought we saw a puffin. Last night we watched a dolphin appearing to be playing with a large buoy in the water for much of the evening.

We will head back to the Helford River on Friday then leave the boat in Plymouth for a couple of weeks while we come back to Newbury to, among other things, mow the lawn! Then we will head for the French coast if they will have us... we had wanted to go to Ireland but they don't want visiting yachtsmen yet.

So that's us isolating. It's still not normal. Weymouth Bay is being used as a parking area for some 5 cruise ships, their crew playing basketball on the top decks. All very weird".

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

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