

Dear friends,

1) I am delighted to say that yet a few more St M's people came on Sunday for Communion. Oliver played the organ for us. Everyone clapped, which I think is the first time we have all clapped since Lockdown (except for Thursday evenings for the NHS, of course). I am so pleased to be able to see members of our church family and exchange the Peace by waving at them, as well as praying for those on our circulation list when I send out PN. We now have a pool of about 30 people who come.

2) Rev Pam McKellen is in charge this Sunday at 10.30am. It's our Patronal Festival! Our service will be Communion and should last no more than 40-45 minutes. The Readings are Galatians 4: 4-7 and Luke 1: 46-55. Alan Booth will be leading our intercessions.

But it's also the blessing of the Lady Well, our very own, unique, ceremony. As usual after the morning service we will process to the Well and have a short service of blessing there. Do come along if you can.... Those who prefer to stay outside might enjoy the short well blessing!



3) Just a reminder that face coverings are required in church by law, unless there are health reasons for not wearing one.

CoffeeTime has been replaced by ToffeeTime.. which inhibits conversation momentarily. Please park in our carpark on the left as you drive down Church Lane if you are able to walk down to church. This leaves space for less able friends to park by the church gate.

**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 are 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. Marion Burke has kindly taken over as host from Rev Pam McKellen.

4) I am delighted that we will be able to sing Jerusalem on the Last Night of The Proms.  
5) At least I think we will. But if you would like to sing along to something now, Lord for the Years' I am sure we have sung that before during the last 6 months but I think it is so relevant .. click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

**6) THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.** This week our "Thought" was from Rev Will Hunter Smart. Message from John H .

"Margaret Yates will be writing next week and that will be our last TFTW. Now that our church has reopened on Sundays, it is felt that the project has run its course. Very many thanks to all who have contributed. That's 15 different people, many more than I had imagined back in March! I do hope you have all enjoyed the variety of contributions, and that those who contributed also enjoyed putting them together for us".  
Thanks, too, to John for organising that.

Pew News, with a guest editor in mind, contributions gratefully received, and Sabbath Sustenance from Janice will continue as usual.

**7) JENNIFER.** I am sorry to say that Jennifer has had a fall, broken her arm, and has gone to Basingstoke Hospital. Other than that I do not know. But I have absolutely no doubt that Jennifer will be keeping the staff and wardmates highly entertained.

**8) HELEN F.** Helen is now resident in Argyles Care Home, Pound Street, Newbury RG14 6AE. I am sure a card would be welcome.

**9) Our PCC** has been very pleased that we now have a booking for our Majendie Hall. Slimming World will be in residence on Monday afternoons/early evenings. We expect Cherubs to begin meeting on Tuesday mornings. Of course, during Lockdown, no one was allowed in our church building, and as yet, our building is not suitable for choirs. Our PCC has recently had a Zoom meeting which was an improvement on an exchange of emails

**10) BRIAN RADFORD** asks: Is the following incredible happening just coincidences or the wonderful work of God? I'll let you decide...

HYMN 222... God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform... When regular churchgoer Jean Campbell arrived in Bucklebury from Edinburgh, she badly missed her family and friends. So she wrote on a postcard: 'Loving home awaits two special cats.' And she went straight to the local shop to ask if they would put it in the window for her. Jean noticed that the woman in front of her was also carrying a card, and when they chatted she saw that it said---'Two cats looking for a lovely home.' Yes, incredible. But wait, there's more... Jean said: "And what do you call them?" "Jock and Campbell," she replied. Jean's arms shot up in shock, as she gasped, "But that's our family name!"

**SCAMS: Local News** "Do not listen to calls from 0208 1610120 purporting to be from a company offering "Boiler Service Insurance Cover" ; They request you take a number /extension and call back plus your new documents will be in the post. It is quite clever as they are using native English speaking agents (or a very well-crafted /blended system generated voice) John from London ! When one requests name of company they merely repeat their mantra - totally not listening !"

**FROM BRIAN NOBES:** "I received an interesting anecdote out of the blue from Jane Crook, who tells me her grandfather Roland Bond delivered Speen War Memorial, from Eton Wick near Windsor by horse and cart in 1920, and stayed at the local inn, which was more than likely the Hare and Hounds".



Best Wishes, Mavis.

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