

## St Mary's Speen Pew News 372

**1) Sunday 25th October 10.30am: Service of the Word** led by John Hughesdon. **NB the clocks go back** on Saturday night. Of course we would be pleased to see you any time, but you may not want to be in church an hour early

Readings :Colossians 3:12-17 and John 8:1-11

Hymns: Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Love divine

Shine Jesus, shine

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood

Make me a channel of your peace'

**2) Sunday 1st November 10.30am. Holy Communion** led by Rev Joy Mawdesley.

**3.30pm All Saints Service.** See below for important booking arrangements.

### **3) ELECTORAL ROLL**

In time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which we expect to be in November, the electoral roll must be brought up to date. If you filled in a form last year you don't have to do anything but if you live in the parish or have been attending St Mary's regularly for six months and have not filled in a form and wish to be included on the roll please either collect a form from the church, complete it and post it to Jo Fageant at 1 Howard Court, 37 Howard Road, Newbury, RG14 7QF or contact Jo either at [jofageant@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jofageant@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01635 32657 to obtain a copy of the form.

**4) IST NOV 3.30pm: ALL SAINTS SERVICE AT ST MARY'S.** This is a chance for all those who have been bereaved recently, or not so recently, to come and remember their loved one in a short service.

**You will understand that this year we need people to sign up – please do so via Mandy in the St Nic's office – either by phone (01635 47018) or email [mandy@st-nics.org](mailto:mandy@st-nics.org).**

Also, if you would like the name of your loved one to be read out in the roll of remembrance, whether or not you are able to attend, again, please contact Mandy in the office.

### **5) Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**This will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Rev Will Hunter Smart will be leading our Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am and the APCM will follow afterwards.**

(If you would like to bring your own refreshments, that will be fine but St M's is not allowed for COVID reasons to provide anything. Leaving the crunchy crisps at home might be a good idea.)

The APCM meeting we should have had in April had to be cancelled, of course, due to Lockdown.

## **REPORT TO APCM ON ST MARY'S SPEEN UP TO DATE FINANCIAL POSITION**

It's been a very odd year for us all, and also for our church finances.

Lettings and fund-raising (remember the Christmas Bazaar?) have all but dried up. Fees from weddings were £1,700 last year, nil this, though we've had a fair number of funerals and memorial fees.

The good news is, most of our regular supporters have maintained or even increased their giving, so, despite numbers on Sundays currently about half our usual attendance (nil from end March to July) our giving is only about £2,000 down.

Of course we have had lower costs (eg no organists, little electricity), and we also had a refund of overpaid electricity charges (estimated usage was way in advance of actual) which brought us in some £2,400 in August! As a result, we expect to have a deficit of less than £1,000 this year.

And my first shot at next year's budget suggests we will see that year through as well.

Praise the Lord!!

And most importantly:

**Thank you SO MUCH to those who have continued to support St M's financially so generously and so faithfully. It has been a tremendous encouragement to me, and to your PCC, in a situation where I was wondering how we were going to meet our basic but sizeable everyday bills such as insurance and clergy expenses. I felt increasingly humbled.** There will, of course, be full accounts for our APCM.

**John Hughesdon**

Best Wishes, Mavis

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