

## St Mary's Speen Pew News 375

Here we are again folks. But you now know how St M's works during lockdown. We stay together and we pray together, wherever we are.

**1) ST MARY'S IN CHURCH.** You will probably be aware by now that, sadly, due to the national lockdown, St Mary's is required to close for public worship for the next four Sundays. We anticipate that our next service will be on Sunday 6th December. However, **the church will be open for an hour between 10.30 and 11.30am on each Sunday** for private prayer if you would like to come and enjoy some time for your own reflection and prayer in the church building. This Sunday Jill, Ros and Nikki will be there to welcome you.

**The church will also continue to be open on Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm.**

### **2) Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 9am at the war memorial**

a) We now know that the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial in Speen at 9am this Sunday will be a **small private ceremony only**, with wreath-laying by St Mary's Church and the Parish Council.

#### **Remember from Home**

b) **BUT** this year is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two and we would love as many people as possible from Speen **to join in with the two-minute doorstep silence at 11am** as we honour those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom – in that war and in many others before and since.

c) There will also be a number of wooden crosses in a box at the War Memorial. They will be left there for a few days after Sunday's ceremony so, if you would like to, while on your daily exercise, please place a cross in the grass and take time to remember

**d) Watch, listen and remember at home for this year's Remembrance Sunday.**

A small, restricted service and wreath laying ceremony will be taking place at the Newbury War Memorial, where the public will be able to watch, listen and remember from their own homes. To view the video live stream, please follow the link to our YouTube Channel where our live stream will be available to view from Sunday 8th November from 10:50am:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX4A1m0MjWcaC-sFhDpPQtQ>

To listen to the live radio broadcast, please visit [www.kennetradio.com](http://www.kennetradio.com) or tune into station **106.7**.

**3) Last week's All Saints Benefice Service** led by Rev Jackie Fountain and Rev Joy Mawdesley. There were around 40 in the Pews for the service last Sunday.. ie full to capacity in our socially distanced arrangements. The readings were Psalm 23 and Matthew 11:25-30.

Jill Wilson lit a candle on the Table for each of those named to be remembered and then the church lights were dimmed so the flames shone out in the darkness.

I quote here from the hymn "For All the Saints" which I think applies to us at the moment.

“And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song.  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia”

#### **4) DIOCESE OF OXFORD CHURCH AT HOME SERVICES**

Church at Home is available to watch, or listen to in higher quality, each Sunday at 10am.

You'll find full details on the website at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream>

Dial in telephone service:

For those unable to watch or listen online dial 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full version of the service, or dial 1 a short version of the service. Standard call rates apply. There will be a few seconds of silence before the service starts.

#### **5) ELECTORAL ROLL and APCM**

Our 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.

Our APCM will have to be in the form of a Zoom meeting. More details about that later.

#### **) ST MARY'S SPEEN FINANCES**

I am delighted to report that The Sutton Estates has given St M's a most generous and, of course, most welcome donation. Our Treasurer is looking even more cheerful this week! Some of you will know that there was a plan to hold garden-gate sales over the next few weeks but that has been suspended for the time being. But please look out for St M's on-line bargains starting with a list supplied by Janice today. Brian N will have a supply of bulbs in pots for sale later.

#### **Ruth Tibbets kindly supplied the following from the Talmud**

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly - NOW

Love mercy - NOW

Walk humbly - NOW

You are not obligated to complete the work,

But neither are you free to abandon it.'

(Further information from Wikipedia “The **Talmud** is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law (*halakha*) and Jewish theology. Until the advent of modernity, in nearly all Jewish communities, the Talmud was the centrepiece of Jewish cultural life and was foundational to "all Jewish thought and aspirations", serving also as "the guide for the daily life" of Jews.”)

If a poem by Pam Ayres rocks your boat, I have included her poem about COVID as an attachment this week. I can't remember if I sent it to you 6 months ago, but maybe you can't either! It still makes me laugh.

Best Wishes, Mavis

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