

## St Mary's Speen Pew News 329.

Dear friends

1) **Hymn of the Week.** Janet Treasure suggests “Holy overshadowing” Click on the blue line below to listen.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8irziaoRPFI&list=RD8irziaoRPFI&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8irziaoRPFI&list=RD8irziaoRPFI&start_radio=1)

It is not one known to us,(yet!) but it is gentle and most and appropriate for our times.

2) **VE day celebrations.** There were some interesting celebrations last week as we remembered VE day. Jennifer’s photo, with medals, was on the front of Newbury Weekly News. If anyone has a copy of the NWN that has the photo, please could you take a photo and send it to me so that I can pass it on to our readers? Sarah Sandford reports “I asked mum, who was 16 when war ended what she was doing on VE day and she said she was dancing in Piccadilly Circus!”

### 3) FROM JOY

a) You may be aware that the Church of England is now allowing clergy back into church buildings for the purposes of praying or recording video messages or livestreaming services. This has meant that I was able to go into St Mary’s this week and I have recorded a video message for this Sunday which is available to view using this link:

<https://youtu.be/THeDO7ECAmc>

It was wonderful to be back in the church again!

b) Unfortunately there are still fairly strict restrictions on entering church buildings, so if you are a keyholder please do not just decide to enter the church. Only approved people can enter for specific purposes and safe practices must be observed.

We now know that places of worship will be open on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the earliest – and even then, quite what that will look like in terms of our safety is not yet known.

c) I had been hoping that the restrictions might be lifted more quickly than is the case and so it may be that, like me, you are having days when you feel ‘war weary’ at how we are having to live our lives.

With that in mind, I wanted to include in Pew News this week some helpful contact details and Ruth Tibbetts (as our Safeguarding Officer) has provided these for us:

Ruth herself is available on 01635 30576 if you are in need of a St Mary’s helping hand.

You can also contact a member of the clergy if you would like to –

Joy – 07786 106636 or [joy@st-nics.org](mailto:joy@st-nics.org)

Janice - [janice.nnb.speen@gmail.com](mailto:janice.nnb.speen@gmail.com)

We do want to ensure that people are well-supported at this time.

#### **Other contacts:**

West Berkshire Community Hub 01635 503579

Age UK 0118 9594242

Citizens Advice Bureau 01635 516605

Emotional Health Academy Helpline for 11-18 year olds expressing concerns etc around Covid 19. 01635 503587, 9am - 5pm Monday – Friday (You may have children/grandchildren etc who would value this)

Eight bells for Mental Health [www.eightbellsnewbury.co.uk](http://www.eightbellsnewbury.co.uk) 07785254828 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Anxiety UK 03444 775774 [www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)

Let's keep praying for each other, for the life of our church and for our nation as we navigate these difficult times.

Joy Mawdesley

#### 4) **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020 from Peter Rimmer**

While the Coronavirus might have halted the annual Christian Aid door-to-door collection, it has not put a halt to the need for Christian Aid to raise funds for its work with vulnerable communities in the poorest parts of the world. Indeed, the virus has made the work of the charity all the more critical. Under normal circumstances, this week would see me doing the rounds in Speen posting collection envelopes through peoples' front doors and then visiting the same houses a few days later to seek a contribution to this vital charity.

This year Christian Aid has gone digital, which means that you can now contribute through their website at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

#### [UK charity fighting global poverty | Christian Aid](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Christian Aid UK charity that works in 37 countries helping people, regardless of religion or race.

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

where you can simply press the 'Donate' button. Alternatively, if you don't have access to the internet, you could place your donation - either in cash or cheque payable to Christian Aid - in an envelope (it doesn't have to be a Christian Aid envelope) and pop it through my front door at 22 Speen Lane, and I'll gladly ensure it reaches the charity.

#### 5) **Takeaways**

The Hare and Hounds in our parish is now providing a takeaway food service. John and I tried their fish and chips and it was excellent, hot and crispy with big portions. I ordered and paid by phone and agreed a collection time. I parked in the H&H car park just on the left as you go in. Someone came out at the appointed time, called my name, brought my food over and put it in the boot of my car. See their website for details of more dishes including Sunday lunch. They have also opened a new shop called "The Barn", which has flour and yeast and all sorts of other things. Again see their website for opening hours. MJH

The Blackbird Pub similarly has a takeaway menu including Sunday roasts. Sally says it is good food.

Best Wishes Mavis