

NOTICEBOARD for the week beginning Sunday 19 January

KEVAN'S FAREWELL LUNCH - will be on Sunday, 9th February in the Abbey School Hall. It will be a bring-and-share meal to which you are invited. Details will be refined as the day approaches, but - in the meantime - please do sign up at the back of the church, to secure your seat(s) and offer food item(s), so that we are all well prepared. Please note that there will be no facilities to heat any food.

HEALING SERVICE and Eucharist – the next Service will be on Friday 31 January 2020 at 7pm in the Church. As always, we start with an informal discussion and light supper and start the Service at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to this informal Service – but it would be helpful if you add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are thinking of coming – so we prepare enough sandwiches! Please speak to Margie Stagg if you want more information (387280)

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP NOTES There are a variety of publications which are available to help us to read our bibles on a regular basis. If you are interested in talking about trying one of these do not hesitate to contact me. There are one or two free samples at the back of the church from time to time. If you would like to order Guidelines, or New Daylight or Upper Room for the year May 2020 - April 2021, please let me know. Sandra Schur 01394 380544 or sandraschur@btinternet.com.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME As of 1 January 2020 there were 43 donors using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – thank you to everyone who has signed up to this new scheme. Take up has inevitably slowed but the number on the scheme is still less than half the number of gift forms that have been distributed.

The benefits to St Mary's of the PGS are that it reduces the amount of cash handled and/or quickens up the process of claiming Gift Aid. It also enables donors to inflation link their gifts so that they keep pace with the increasing costs of running St Mary's.

All current forms of giving remain unchanged but if you do feel able to transfer to the PGS it would be very much appreciated, especially those of you who currently donate via the standing order/faster payments scheme. For anyone wishing to place something in the collection bags there are PGS tokens available at the back of the Church, which are recycled each Sunday.

Michael Holland

givingsteward@stmaryswoodbridge.org

HAWKER DELIGHTS - A SINGAPORE EVENING - The Hawker Culture in Singapore is an integral part of the way of life for Singaporeans, where people from all walks of life gather at hawker centres to dine and bond over their favourite foods, which are prepared by hawkers. Helena Lim-Poole will be cooking up a storm, for 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 1st February (**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**), of the favourite hawker foods from spicy chicken wings, satays (meat on skewers with an aromatic peanut sauce) to stir-fry bee hoon (rice vermicelli), beef rendang, chicken curries, sayor lodeh (curry vegetables) and more! It will be buffet style with tickets at £15.00 each *and selling very fast* available after Sunday 10 a.m services on 19th & 26th January or from the Church Shop. There will be a licensed bar that evening and drinks can be purchased. All profits to our 'housekeeping fund'. If you would like to assist Helena in the clear up, please let her know.

2020 EVENTS CALENDAR - Please take a copy home and keep it safe for future reference. NB Woodbridge Regatta has been confirmed now for 24th May.

SOUTH SUDAN Members of 2nd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Guides would like to work with you to support this appeal, which came from Major Matthew Teeling to Mrs Karen Read, Headteacher of St Mary's Primary School:

(Early in December) we arrived in South Sudan, where the deployed men and women are building infrastructure to assist with resolution of the crisis here. However, today we visited the Protection of Civilian camp immediately next to our base where 30,000 people reside. Opposite our front gate is a tin shack school/orphanage. After 14 years in the Army it was devastating to see the level of incomprehensible poverty and suffering, especially as a parent.

Children have little to no clothing or shoes, they are covered in fleas, playing and washing in the adjacent sewerage ditch, have no resources to learn and only three toys (broken plastic tractors on a string). They share a trough to drink out of, which considering the threat of disease (cholera, etc.) is unbelievable.

A few of us have decided that we want to use and focus any spare time we have to improve life for these kids; I appreciate that it won't solve the greater problem in the country but we would like to do what we can.

If you or your friends have any old kids' shoes, clothes, toys, books, stationery, baby wipes, etc., please put them in a shoe box weighing no more than 2kg, which is free to post to me at:

565835 Major M R Teeling
Malakal
Op TRENTON
BFPO 619

Whatever you send, I promise it will be given to these children and make more of a difference than you realise. Matt

For the next six weeks, there will be a large box at the back of the church for individual items for the Guides to pack, but filled shoeboxes, sealed and addressed would be most welcome too. They will be counted and sent, week by week, so that Major Teeling and his colleagues can make that difference.

To pinch a well-known phrase: Giving is for life, not just for Christmas ... Veronica Howe

CHURCH CENTRE HALL - The floor has been sanded and re-surfaced. It is now drying, but will be available for use from tomorrow. If anyone can help to restore the room sufficiently for our regular hirers, please meet at 8.00 a.m. The rest can come in later in the afternoon, by agreement. (10 a.m. Coffee will be in Church today).

BRING & BUY - The first stall of 2020 will take place next week (26th, delayed because of floor). If you have unwanted (new/good as new items), please bring them for sale. Baked items are always popular too! All proceeds to 'housekeeping'.