

Dear Friends,

Perhaps inspired by all the celebrity chefs that seem to appear on our television screens these days, from time to time, I like to prepare a 'concoction' for Jane and myself. In our house, the term 'concoction' is understood to refer to spaghetti bolognese, curry or some similar dish. The fun part for me when cooking a meal like these, is adding the various herbs and spices. As such, in our kitchen we have a huge collection, which contains every spice imaginable.

Those of you who enjoy cooking savoury dishes will know that if you add too much of one seasoning, it can overpower others and destroy the overall flavour of the food. On the other hand, when the correct choice of spices and herbs are added in appropriate proportions, the dish can be 'magnifique'. (I'm still working on that!)

I think there are some interesting parallels to be drawn here with our understanding of community. Imagine our village community to be like a huge spice rack and each one of us is a spice or herb. If we are to contribute effectively to the life of the community, we need to recognise that we all have different flavours and characteristics. Too much of any one of us and we might interfere with the overall taste, too little and the same result occurs.

On the other hand, when we make ourselves available or offer ourselves we can contribute to a tasty meal. Of course, just as some recipes require only certain additions, so specific tasks and activities require people with specific gifts and talents. Perhaps what is important is that we recognise where there is a need and make ourselves available to fulfil that need when it arises and where our talents and gifts allow.

In short, we need to be in the spice rack, ready to be used.

So the next time you are cooking up a storm in your kitchen, perhaps you might like to consider that you are a valuable member of the community in which we all live, ready to add your own flavour when the need arises.

Happy cooking and warmest regards to you all.

Craig

Vicar's Diary Dates

4th May	Friday Reflections	7.00pm	The School House, Hurstbourne Priors
22nd May	Bible Study	11.00am	The Vicarage, St. Mary Bourne
Thursdays	Home Group	3.30pm	4 Applegate, St. Mary Bourne

Thy Kingdom Come 2018

Christians around the country will pray for our church and communities between Ascension (10th May) and Pentecost (20th May). Our response in our benefice is to organise some activities and times of worship to which you are all invited.

Thursday 10th May	Ascension Day Communion	9.30am	St. Peter's
	Ascension Day Communion	7.00pm	St. Nicholas'
Friday 11th May	Prayer walk in Longparish	7.00pm	Begin at the church
Tuesday 15th May	Prayers at St. Mary Bourne	7.00pm	St. Peter's
Friday 18th May	Prayers at Hurstbourne Priors	7.00pm	St. Andrew's