

## Preparing for Royal Maundy – 43 days to go!

#RoyalMaundy



Local florist Rosie Hughes is busy preparing for the Royal Maundy service. Rosemary creates the nosegays which are carried on Maundy Thursday. The 'Nosegays' of today consist of Yellow, White, Purple and Lavender flowers and also herbs. As it is Springtime the flowers used include: Daffodils, mixed Spring flowers, white stocks, purple statice (replacing the purple violets used by my predecessor), Freesia, Primroses, Rosemary, Thyme, Cupressus and Ivy leaves. The actual recipe of quantities and construction of the 'Nosegays' is known only to the 'Supplier of Nosegays'.

Here's what Rosie has to say about her role:-

*I hold the Royal Warrant of HM Queen as 'Supplier of Nosegays' for the Royal Maundy Service which takes place the day before Good Friday. The Royal Maundy can be traced back in England with certainty to the thirteenth century. There are also continuous records relating to the Distribution of the Maundy money by the Sovereign from the reign of King Edward I. The first Royal Maundy Distribution was at Knaresborough by King John in 1210. Previous Monarchs and members of their processions have also carried the 'Nosegays', evidence of this can be seen in prints and paintings. Queen Victoria's chosen colours for her Royal Maundy 'Nosegays' were Red, Yellow and White, completely different to that of our present day Queen Elizabeth II. During the 1930's photographic evidence shows the traditional 'Nosegays' being carried were much larger, as loose bouquets consisting of flowers and herbs.*

*These fresh beautiful 'Nosegays' are presented before the commencement of the service of the Royal Maundy. There are eight adult Nosegays constructed and four smaller for the children of the 'Royal Almonry'. The 'Nosegays' are carried by HM The Queen, HRH Duke of Edinburgh, The Lord High Almoner (currently the Bishop of Worcester), Sub Almoner, Secretary of the Royal Almonry, Assistant Secretary, the Dean of the Cathedral and the Bishop of the Diocese. Smaller versions of the adult 'Nosegays' are made for the young children, two girls and two boys chosen from local schools. Originally elderly gents walked in front of the Monarch with their herbs and flowers, the fragrance wafting in front of the procession.*

Rosemary has been involved with the 'Nosegays' for over 30years. She was granted the Royal Warrant by H.M The Queen in 2008.

*By Appointment to  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Supplier of Nosegays  
Rosemary Hughes*

**Alison Adams, Sub-Dean of Leicester Cathedral**