



# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter

## Parish Room Bookings:

**Sabina Harvey**

Mobile: 079799 14449

[harvey.sabina48@gmail.com](mailto:harvey.sabina48@gmail.com)

# May 2015

Church enquiries to:

Revd Jonathan Gordon

01442 871547

[revjagordon@gmail.com](mailto:revjagordon@gmail.com)

## Community and Relationship

Over the last month there has been a box at the back of church asking for suggestions regarding a tag line for St Mary's that we can put in the church porch. A reoccurring theme in the suggestions has been community. Although not quite sure what the final version will be it is a good suggestion as it focuses on the importance of relationship. A church is a place where people should feel valued and supported and at the heart of this is friendship and belonging.

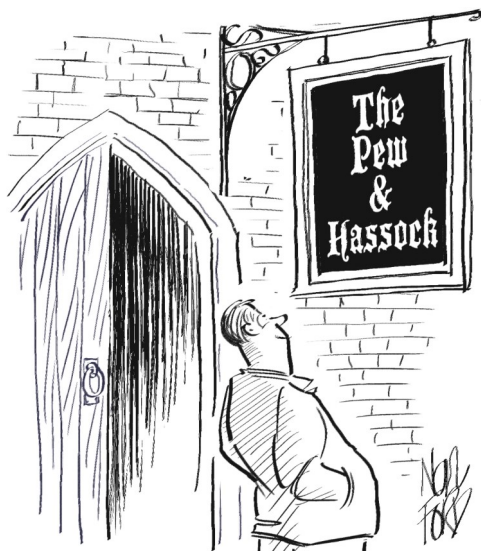
The centrality of relationship is bound up with one of the festivals in May. We move from Pentecost to Trinity Sunday and we celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In a way every Sunday is Trinity

Sunday but in recent years there has been a rediscovery of Trinitarian theology. It has been described as the Christian form about speaking of God and perhaps most importantly the self description of God in the Bible.

I heard a speaker called Sam Wells recently. He is the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, London and I really enjoyed his talk and have been reading one of his books called "Learning to Dream Again: Rediscovering the Heart of God." The book is a series of meditations on a Biblical theme and he writes from the perspective of everyday experiences and struggles that we can face. In one chapter he writes about the importance of relationships and how the things which are most important in life involve other people. He then moves onto the Trinity and describes how this is how the church celebrates "the power, importance, indispensability and everlasting quality of relationship... God is a relationship. God is a relationship of three persons, so wonderfully shaped towards one another, so wondrously with one another, that we call them one, but so exquisitely diverse and distinct within that unity that we call them three. The life of the Trinity is so shaped, not simply to be in perfect relationship, but to be in relationship with us. These are the two dynamics that lie at the centre of the universe: God's perfect inner relationship and God's very life shaped to be in relationship with us through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. There isn't anything in God that isn't relationship."

It is very fitting that community is at the heart of a possible motto for St Mary's as community is about relationship and relationship is at the heart of the God we worship.

Rev Jonathan Gordon



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

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## Northchurch Notebook      Early Memories of 'Trying to Play the Game'

With April near upon me, I thought what *can* I write of next?

Then when some photos came to light, I thought that is good, they can improve this text.

At Northchurch School, organised sport hardly happened as I recall,

Two or three trips to the Rec, that was 'bout all!

'Kick and run football' - no football boots, no-one had heard of PT  
kit -

You wore what you had on, and that was it.

I remember Jebbie Smith, from his boots his chilblained toes, they  
stuck,

Next morning he came to school in a truck!!

Of course in the playground, other games -

Warney, King-Over, Jump Jimmy Nagtail - some of the names.

Football of a sort and, oh yes, a kind of cricket

Where a block of wood, with hinged stumps comprised the wicket.

Also a sport, looked for in winter tide -

Bucket a' water 'cross the playground, frosty night - a wonderful 'slide'!

I recall a teacher, Mr Desborough, he would come out and play ...

Would that, could that (health and safety) happen today?

I have searched out some photos of Northchurch sportsmen, some names you may know?

Plus a 'kind of a cricket match', quite a few years ago. (c1937)



'A kind of cricket match', 1937

### HEDGEHOG



Northchurch Cricket Team, 1951



Northchurch Football Team, 1960

### **The Monday Club**

May 11<sup>th</sup>      A games afternoon; Scrabble, Whist  
etc.

June 1<sup>st</sup>      Coach trip to Frost's Garden Centre at  
Woburn Sands.  
Depart from Mandelyns at 9.45am.

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865821 or Barbara Lloyd on 865059.

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## St Mary's Summer Fete 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015

This event will be running from 12.30 – 4pm this year in the rectory, school and church grounds. There will be all the usual attractions for all age-groups and the money raised will be divided between the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Service, Phakamisa (a charity which supports AIDS orphans in South Africa) and the St Mary's church roof fund.

Any donations of good quality second hand books or children's toys, bottles, items for tombola, gifts and toiletries, white elephant, cakes, or plants would be gratefully received and can be brought to church or the Rectory.

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## Doubting Thomas

In the Gospel of John in the New Testament, we read how the disciple Thomas says he would NEVER believe that Jesus was living, unless he saw him alive and put his finger in the wounds left by crucifixion. Jesus did come again to the disciples when Thomas was there and excitedly Thomas called out: 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus had told Philip that 'He that has seen me has seen the Father'. If we want to know what God is like in his thinking, speaking and doing, we have to look at Jesus and observe how he behaved. Yet, as we think of Jesus when we pray, we often find it difficult to imagine that He is alive and interests Himself in our life. He gives an extraordinary flavour to our ordinary lives.

But, being human, we do find ourselves assailed by doubt from time to time. The picture we have seen of Jesus in the New Testament may seem too good to be true. We need constantly to soak ourselves in

reading the Gospels and Epistles so that doubt may be kept at bay. Jesus responded to Thomas's overcoming of doubt by saying: 'Happy are those who find faith without seeing me'.

When we say the Lord's Prayer, we may find doubt knocking at the door when we say: 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven'. Can we imagine the whole world transformed by the second coming of Jesus to banish violence and war from the Earth? He will also wipe away our covetousness which makes us long for possessions, many of which we don't need. Christ's new age will see us ending our petty personal quarrels and displays of bad temper. The New Testament tells us more than a hundred times of His coming again.

The Apostle Peter, in his Epistle, says that Christians generally have never seen Jesus 'yet they love Him and are filled with joy too great for words', as when Thomas cried out 'My Lord and my God!'



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## Plants and Gardening Items needed for Summer Fete

With our Summer Fete just a couple of months away, we are now making preparations for the Plant/Garden Stall. If you have any surplus plants, cuttings, seedlings or seeds we would be delighted to hear from you. Any donations of garden related items would be most welcome.

For collections and/or further information please contact Vanessa Hudson 01442 879646 or Diane Whitaker on 01442 875543. Thank you for your support.



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## THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

battalion returned to England in early 1915 expecting to be sent to the Western Front. Instead, they were sent to the Gallipoli to fight the German-supported Ottoman Turks.

British, French and ANZAC troops had initially landed there in March 1915 hoping to secure a new sea route to the Black Sea in support their ally Russia, and divert German forces from the Western Front.

Frederick landed at Gallipoli on 24<sup>th</sup> April under heavy fire and found that conditions on the beaches were atrocious.

## 9890 Private Frederick Geary, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment Died 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1915

Frederick Geary was born in Northchurch in 1893. On reaching 18, Frederick joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment in which his older brother, Walter, was already serving. Posted to Burma on garrison duty, Frederick's

battalion returned to England in early 1915 expecting to be sent to the Western Front. Instead, they were sent to the Gallipoli to fight the German-supported Ottoman Turks.

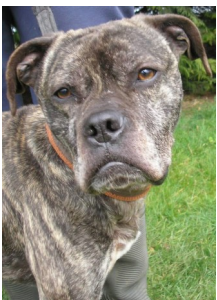
Poor planning meant that wounded troops remained unattended for long periods with lengthy delays occurring before they were evacuated to the support ships. Many of the front-line troops were also already exhausted by the noise from the constant artillery and mortar fire and food and water were in short supply. To make things even worse Frederick's battalion were still wearing their European winter serge uniforms, as opposed to the lighter khaki uniforms more suited to the hot climate.

A major British attack was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> April and fighting would continue for the next few days. The Turks made frequent counter-attacks and it was during one of these, during the early morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, that Frederick Geary was killed.

Frederick's name is recorded on the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Richard North

## Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



This is **Ollie**, he is a 5 year-old boxer cross. Through no fault of his own Ollie has spent most of his life in kennels. He is happy here with us but we would love to see him settled with his own family. Ollie is a very friendly laid back boy who would live with a female dog. Due to the length of time he has been with us we would like him to have a gradual transition into his new home. Ollie will be well worth the effort as he is such a lovable character. He cannot live in Luton.

If you feel you could offer Ollie, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

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**3rd May**

*Fifth Sunday after Easter*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Benefice Evening Prayer St Bartholomews

**10th May**

*Sixth Sunday after Easter*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am All-Age Worship  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**17th May**

*Seventh Sunday after Easter*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am All-Age Worship  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**24th May**

*Pentecost*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**31st May**

*Trinity Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

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