



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
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September 2016

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01442 871547

Hillsborough—issues of justice need persistence

The summer is a good time to catch up on reading and I managed to get through some really interesting books. The first was Phil Scraton's **Hillsborough: The Truth**, which describes the long and painful journey of the bereaved families after the disaster in which 96 men, woman and children were killed at the FA Cup semi final in 1989. The author was part of the Independent Panel in 2012 that through intensive research and testimony led to the new inquest that gave the verdict that the 96 were unlawfully killed. The book describes the appalling way in which the bereaved families were treated in the days following the disaster, alongside the manipulation of the facts to place the blame on the supporters and most powerfully the determination of the families to achieve justice. The book end with a poem entitled "Their Voices will be heard."

*Shattered by loss but unbroken in spirit
In the face of injustice you never backed down
You forced them to listen, you sacrificed your lives,
You bore witness with dignity on the day of reckoning
And their voices, your voices, have been heard*

By way of contrast I also read a book by an old college friend called Nigel Leaves, entitled **Religion under Attack**. He outlines in a comprehensive way the reasons religious faith is being questioned, undermined and rejected. He describes the philosophical objection that in a scientific age it is hard to accept the idea of a supernatural deity who

created and watches over the world. It is an uncomfortable and challenging book and after reading the book on Hillsborough it made me think about issues of truth and justice from a faith perspective.

Perhaps the first thing that is evident in Scraton's account is that justice was only achieved by the tireless efforts of many people to get to the truth and their refusal to be intimidated and broken by the equally determined resistance of organisations to cover up the facts. In relation to faith it is a helpful reminder that prayer does not involve sitting back and leaving everything to God, but issues of justice require persistence and the tireless effort of people of goodwill. Maybe one of the problems about talking about the supernatural is that can give the impression that God is removed from the world and may or may not intervene. The Hillsborough book made me think that God is more likely to be found in the struggles and longings of ordinary people. The Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool is an impressive sight and was the place where the Independent Panel issued its groundbreaking report and represents a witness to how God stands alongside the bereaved families. The words of Isaiah have a continuing relevance: "learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." (1.17)

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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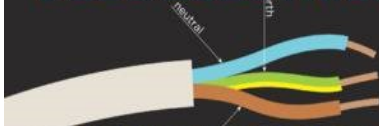
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Turning water into wine (John 2, verses 1-12)

This is the story of Jesus' first recorded miracle. Jesus was no 'sober sides'. He happily went to a wedding party, and when the excellent wine ran out, he readily turned water, stored in large jars, into wine. It supplied over 100 gallons of wine superior to the original provision. It was shared out among many people who had come to the party from nearby locations. We are not told that they got drunk, but perhaps they were good at holding their drink. It was a merry occasion.

John calls this miracle a 'sign'. It spoke of the superiority of Jesus over all the marvellous things that God had done in the past.

As the Epistle to the Hebrews puts it: God had inspired many wonderful acts, largely carried out by

prophets like Elijah and Elisha, who even raised people from the dead. Their prophecies, hidden in literal happenings, also had a symbolic meaning. THE prophet whom God intended to send in fulfilment of his coded promises would exhibit his greatness and enable repentant sinners to be forgiven and enter eternal life.

The story is one of many in the Old Testament which in a strange way foreshadow the whole mission of Jesus, which would give real life to people who believed in him. The New Testament gives the fulfilment of these hints and promises, which Jesus and the Apostles frequently referred to as they taught the gospel.

Edgar Wille

Northchurch Revisited

My name is Denise Chennells and I am 76 years old. I was born in London, and my Father, Lenny, was born there in 1902. My Grandfather, Harry, was born at Bittacy Farm, Mill Hill. His family had moved there from Little Gaddesden, to try to find work.

Dad's cousin, David Chennells, lived with his wife, Lilly, at 1, Bell Lane, Northchurch. Lilly attended St. Mary's Church, and for many years delivered the Church magazine between the "Old Grey Mare" and the "Crooked Billet" pubs! As a young man, Dad and his brothers often used to come to Northchurch by bus to meet his cousins. They would go to Berkhamsted Golf Club to pick up the golf balls which rich golfers had lost, and sell them back to them at sixpence each, then go for a drink with the proceeds! Dad told me many stories about these magical days.

In 1966 I passed my driving test and Dad lost no time in

bringing me from London to Northchurch to meet David and Lilly. We had many years of wonderful family times together, exploring the neighbourhood and chatting about our family. Lilly worked for Elizabeth (Lavender) Loxley at her beautiful home in Dudswell. I visited there several times, meeting this charming lady and admiring the beautiful tapestries she sewed.

All these dear people are dead now, but I am so glad to renew my association with Northchurch by attending musical events at St. Mary's, as I now live in Hemel Hempstead.

The recent "Sing Gloria" was a marvellous musical experience – good teaching of performance skills, great musicianship and friendliness, and wonderful food!

Thank you, everyone!

Denise Chennells CT ABRSM

The Monday Club

September 12th. Enrolment of members and discussion of the programme.

September 26th. A quiz-"The Queen". We look forward to a visit from the Bishop of Hertford during the course of the afternoon.

For more information please contact:
Joan Downhill on 865821 or
Barbara Lloyd on 865059.

People Not Borders Berkhamsted
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THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

On 1st September 1916 the fighting on the Somme entered its third month. Following the enormous losses on the first day the British had regrouped and had slowly begun to push the Germans back. Newly trained troops arriving from England and Reserves were moved up to the front to make up for the earlier losses. Three of these men came from Northchurch – Joseph Aldridge, William Sibley and Walter Welling.

Joseph Aldridge was born in 1887 and was a keen footballer. Enlisting with the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1915 Joseph was later transferred to 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers to make up for earlier casualties. On 24th September Joseph was killed whilst taking part in an assault on the German lines near Martinpuich.

William Sibley was a gardener who moved to Northchurch to work and enlisted in December 1915 just before the introduction of conscription. On 22nd June 1916 he married

Nora Moore in St Mary's and soon after left for France. William was killed on 26th September whilst serving with 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment during the battle to capture the area around Thiepval.

Born in Northchurch in 1891, Walter Welling worked as a labourer. He enlisted in November 1915 and two months later whilst still undergoing military training he married Kate Keen at Berkhamsted Registry Office. Walter remained in England until July 1916 when he was sent to the Somme. He was killed by German shellfire on 29th September whilst attacking a German strongpoint at Thiepval with 6th Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment).

Joseph Aldridge's and William Sibley's bodies were never recovered from the battlefield. Their names are consequently engraved on the Thiepval Memorial. Walter Welling's body now lies in the Communal Cemetery extension at Warloy-Baillon.

Richard North

Interested in becoming a school governor?

The Governing Body of Westfield Primary School and Nursery needs two governors and would love to attract the skills and experience of those in our community.

School governors are volunteers who work together with the head teacher of the school to deliver the best education for the children at their school. They are not specialists in education. Instead, much of the role is about exercising common sense – and of course working together in the best interests of the children. The governors at Westfield work with the head teacher on a diverse range of matters – from deciding what kind of school we want Westfield to be and thinking about how we want it to get there, to setting school policies and ensuring money is spent on the right things. Ultimately, they work with the school to ensure that pupils receive the best opportunities to learn in an environment in which they feel happy and secure.

This is a hugely exciting time to be a governor at Westfield. The school is currently rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted and we have recently transitioned from being a first school to a primary school, with a new head teacher who joined us in 2014. However, Westfield is not standing still, with many innovative changes having been made over the past year.

If you would be interested in having an informal chat about the role to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, please email the school at admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk and our Chair of Governors, Andrew Doran, will contact you.



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NB. Halton House has
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Herts Police July 2016 Crime & ASB figures

Offence	No. in parish	No. in Dacorum
Dwelling Burglary	1	35
Burglary Other	1	26
Criminal Damage	0	110
Vehicle Crime	3	73
Anti-Social Behaviour*	0	441

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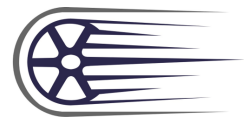
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4th September

Trinity 15

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

**6.30pm Choral Evensong at the Chapel
Ashridge College**

11th September

Trinity 16

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am All Age Service

6.00pm Compline

18th September

Trinity 17

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)

6.00pm Evening Prayer

25th September

Trinity 18



8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Taize Worship

Taize Worship is a quiet meditation service with chants and silence to celebrate Pentecost. Tea, coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome.

Parish Registers:

June, July and August 2016

Baptisms

July 3rd Adam Mark James
Olivia Rose Boot

August 7th May Charlotte Wheeler

August 14th Emilia Bedford,
Eliza Romilly McCready
Freya Tala McCready

Funerals

June 17th Betty Sells

July 1st Bertram Leslie Edmonds
Peter Howard Wilkinson

July 5th Mark Ronald Saunders

July 12th Barbara Reynolds

July 15th Harold Staunton

July 27th Percy Badrick

Burial of Ashes

August 14th May Gilby

Weddings

June 25th Alan Anderson and Susan Reynolds

July 16th Richard Airey and Emily Hill

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day you add an item to the box and on Christmas Eve you donate the contents to a foodbank



Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor
Mrs Jill Hipson cjhipson@btopenworld.com
Next issue: October 2016.

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St Mary's Church

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