

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367

October 2016

Church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547

A potent resource for making sense of our existence

We have been having a review of the different things that happen at the church under the heading of the Mission Action Plan. This is all connected to the Living God's Love initiative in the Diocese of St Albans. This has three areas of "Going Deeper into God," "Transforming Communities," and "Making New Disciples." The aim of a Mission Action Plan is to explore the priorities for the church community in the years ahead with the three headings being useful as parameters.

At the heart of the Mission Action Plan is an invitation to go on a journey. It is possible that some folk can find faith through intellectual argument and discussion. This is important and whenever I preach a sermon it is never intended as the last word on a subject but more an ongoing conversation in which everyone should feel they can contribute or disagree. Courses that explore the Christian faith or Housegroups are a great way of looking in more detail at different parts of the Bible or a current issue and seeing how they might connect. There are many books and articles at the present time that are highly critical of religion and I enjoy a good debate on

showing that faith can have an intellectual integrity and resilience that can respond to some of the pressing issues that we face today in the world. Yet, there is, I think, a limit to what can be achieved by argument and discussion.

I read a really good book recently by Rupert Shortt called "God is No Thing: Coherent Christianity." He makes a good observation that "being a Christian should not entail assenting to six impossible propositions before breakfast, but doing things that change you." He elaborates by saying that "you don't think your way into a new way of living, but live your way into a new way of thinking." It is a different way of seeing things, but, represents an invitation to allow your heart and mind to be captured by a vision of love of God and neighbour. Shortt argues, Christianity "at its centre, the story of love's mending of wounded hearts, forms a potent resource for making sense of our existence." Whilst of course that is open to debate, the book offers a vision of life, in which I have found that the familiar can always seem new and what is tired has the capacity to become refreshed.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Harvest Festival Sunday 2nd October

We will be supporting

People not Borders: Berko for Refugees.

30th October at 6.00pm

Service of Remembrance

Candles will be lit in memory of those who have died.

Please contact Rev Jonathan for more details.

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Do you ever read the Bible?

Do you?

I fear only a small minority of British people do. The Bible seems irrelevant to their daily needs. Why read it then?

Because, though written down by humans, it conveys a meaning to our lives and portrays a God who will bring good out of the evil which seems to reign over our world.

The Bible records the good which is done by many humans, and the evil which is done by even more. If we read it, we shall get, often indirectly, the divine comment on life which will give us, among other things, a sense of the difference between right and wrong.

Jesus was the very image of God. If we want to understand God's character we must look at Jesus. While totally human, he represents God and can influence us to become more like God.

But perhaps you find this difficult to believe, and can be satisfied to move along through life 'making the best of a bad job'. Real life, according to the overall teaching of the Bible, resides in Jesus, and is bestowed on those who place themselves absolutely at his disposal. He gives light in place of darkness. The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans that sin pays a wage and the wage is death, but God gives us freely, if we have faith, eternal life in union with Christ Jesus (Romans 6, verse 23).

God is said to be love, and if we accept this 'nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 8, verse 30). He later adds that if the confession 'Jesus is Lord' is on your lips and the faith that God raised him from the dead is in your heart, you will find salvation (Romans 10, verse 9). 'The same Lord is Lord of all and has riches enough for all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Romans 11).

Edgar Wille

Raising the Roof



Thanks to your generosity the model of the church has reached a point where it is recognizable with over £10,000 already sponsored which is worth over £12,000 with Gift Aid.

With the help of one of my daughters I have managed to scale down photos of the 21 stained glass windows to print on transparent plastic and these will be mounted in the next two months. A couple of windows are still awaiting sponsors at £50 and £100.

A brass bell has been acquired to hang inside the bell tower and the flag pole is in position waiting for a keen seamstress to sew a St George's flag. The church has 19 buttresses which I will be reproducing for the model. If you want to avoid the model collapsing please sponsor a buttress for £50!

To sponsor bricks at £3 each, or a stained glass window or a buttress, please complete a yellow envelope at the back of the church and put it into the money box in church. I am usually taking the model to church on the first Sunday of each month, so come and see me if you wish to discuss sponsorship or contact Andrew Dobbie, 1 Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP, tel: 07775 560363, andrew@gameplaneurope.com

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I can also prepare Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney at very competitive rates and home visits can be arranged.

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Private 19159

Walter PURTON7th Battalion,
Bedfordshire Regiment24th October 1916

Walter Purton was born towards the end of 1890 and grew up with two brothers and six sisters in a house in Northchurch High Street. His father, George Purton, came from Little Gaddesden whilst his mother, Elizabeth, was from Berkhamsted. The family later moved to Orchard End by which time Walter was working as a Chemical Worker at Cooper's factory in Berkhamsted.

In September 1914, Walter enlisted at Bedford with the 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, otherwise known as the 'Shiny Seventh'. After completing his training, he was sent to France in July 1915. On 1st July 1916 Walter was part of the attacking force on the first day of the Battle of the Somme capturing a heavily fortified German strongpoint. After their success Walter's Battalion moved north to a quieter sector of the Front for a period of rest and front-line duties.

Walter returned to the Somme sector in September and helped capture another strongpoint at the end of the month, despite strong opposition. The following month Walter and the 'Shiny Seventh' took over a series of trenches that had previously been captured by two other British Battalions. Despite them being knee-deep in mud the Germans were determined to recapture their lost



trenches and launched a counterattack on 24th October. Walter Purton was killed during the German counterattack defending his trench. His body now rests in the Regina Trench Cemetery, near Courcelette village, his headstone simply reading, 'Rest in Peace'.

Richard North

THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918**It won't be long before Christmas is here!**

We will be holding a Christingle Market in St Mary's on Saturday 3rd December with the proceeds going towards the Roof Fund.

Put the date in your diary now and look for full details in the November edition of the Parish Magazine.

A Christmas Gift That Lasts Forever

It's true to say that most of us have lots of old photos, slides and negatives representing our past. With Christmas looming and the worry of finding suitable gifts for the family, this new Berkhamsted business will collect your photos for free, and create a super Christmas or special occasion gift. Whatever you have stored in your attics, bottom draws and photo albums, we all keep them for the exact same reason. We treasure them. We couldn't bear to lose them. But wouldn't it be wonderful this Christmas, to be able to browse through and enjoy them with the family.

For mum's 80th birthday, I scanned her old dancing photos, award certificates and dance school reports and I made her a personal and unique gift. She was overwhelmed but equally amazed at how many memories she thought she'd literally forgotten about. Mum is 82 now and a brain disorder has set in; life has changed but I began to notice how much pleasure mum and Derek got when viewing the photos together with family and friends. Her face was alight. So, I scanned her entire collection onto a CD / USB stick to watch on TV. Over 2,000 images all titled, over a span of 82 years and all of her favourite memorabilia, in ONE place. She says she has unexpectedly found peace of mind knowing that they will now never be lost or damaged. Her past has become her present day. We have copied them to the extended family and stories and buried memories will now be carried forward and shared in their homes, on TVs, laptops, phones, iPads and via the cloud.

Mum's story made me realise that my scanning expertise can be applied to anyone with old photos who wants to preserve them, share them and enjoy them today. Our new family business is focussed on trust and 'talking to a real person' about your precious memories. There's lot of helpful information on our website www.scanmysnaps.co.uk. We are proud to offer a friendly and professional service and some of **mum's collection can be seen on our FREE Demo CD or email link**. Do drop me a line or call and tell me 'your story' on viv@scanmysnaps.co.uk.

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Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Handsome German Shepherd Reno finds himself in care because his owner sadly passed away. He has a sweet temperament and has clearly been much-loved, he now needs a new owner to bond with. Reno was born in 2011, he is good with people and dogs but would prefer an adults-only home.

If you can offer Reno 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. or phone us for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website, or please contact the kennels.

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The Monday Club

October 3rd. Harvest Lunch at 12.30
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October 31st. Speaker to be
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What's in a name?

Many of you will have noticed the building site near the bottom of New Road, where Wrights used to be, and may have wondered at the proposed name, **Chandler Mews**.

As well as being a local family (Jim Chandler is remembered on the War Memorial), a family called Chandler also lived at Drayton Parslow, in Buckinghamshire. This family have a strong musical connection to Northchurch! In 1651, Anthony Chandler cast four of the bells which still ring today in St Mary's church. (Actually, he cast five at that time, but the heaviest was recast by the Whitechapel foundry in 1834.)

Richard Chandler moved from Soulbury to become the village blacksmith and founded the bellfoundry in Drayton Parslow in 1635. Richard may have died fairly young, as his son Anthony was still a teenager when he inherited the business. The Northchurch bells are probably among the first cast by young Anthony. Find Drayton Parslow on the map (SP843286) and you will see it is about 14 miles (23km) away from Northchurch as the crow flies, with no direct roads. And in the mid-1600s what roads there were would not have been smooth tarmac! How did Anthony get 2 tons of bells from his foundry to St Mary's?

There might be a clue in the name of his village. Drayton derives from the old English meaning a 'farm where sledges are used', a sledge being easier than a cart for horses to manage on a hillside. I favour a second theory: Bell Lane is not far from the church. In the 17th century, many founders were itinerant, transporting their equipment and then casting 'on site'. Anthony was recasting the old bells out of the church, and wouldn't have wanted to cart (or sledge) 2 tons weight both to and from his foundry. There was plenty of wood surrounding old Northchurch – and today's gardeners will agree there is plenty of clay!

I ask you to reflect on Anthony Chandler's strength and skill. There was none of today's machinery for pouring molten metal, nor current technology to enable him to tune his bells. Generations of Northchurch residents have heard Chandler's bells over the last 365 years, and those same bells will continue to sound for generations to come.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

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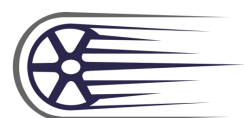
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Sunday Services at St Mary's



2nd October

Harvest Festival

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Bart's

9th October

Trinity 20

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

16th October

Trinity 21

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

23rd October

Last Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Healing Service

30th October

4th Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Service of Remembrance

Parish Registers: August & September 2016

Baptisms

21st August	Jack Robert Cook
4th September	George Samuel Waite
11th September	Ruby Frances Tunmer
	Timothy Raymond Penn Williams
17th September	William James Stiles

Funerals

5th September	Chloe Ann Marie Phillips Connelley
6th September	Robert Smith

Burial of Ashes

21st August	Barbara Reynolds
26th August	Pamela Margaret Mewse
	Reginald James Mewse

Weddings

24th September	Elizabeth Dobson & Richard Hornby
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Turn Sarah's Miles into Smiles

Sarah Marshall has been blind for 9 years. She plays at Berkhamsted Bowls Club. She has won blind bowls competitions in New Zealand and Paris, plus national blind championships all over the UK.

Sarah has been selected to represent England at the World Blind Bowls Championships in Cape Town in March 2017. She has to raise all her own funding, plus the amount needed for a sighted helper to accompany her. Can you help her achieve her goal of raising £3600? Contact Brian Ralph on 01442 872378 or at brian.ralph@gmail.com.

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Contacts for the Newsletter

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Advertising & editorial by email
to the Editor
Mrs Jill Hipson
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Next issue: November 2016.

All advertisements must be paid
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published.

Copy date is 15th of each month.

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Revd Jonathan Gordon
St Mary's Church

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Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar 07929 934367

Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk