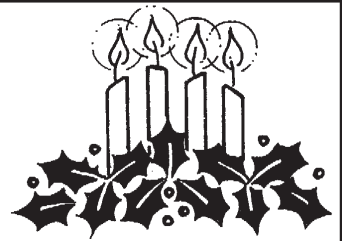


St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Sabina Harvey
Mobile: 079799 14449
harvey.sabina48@googlemail.com

December

A Saviour is born

Church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547
revjagordon@googlemail.com

Inspirational local pre-school gets highest OFSTED award.

It is with great pleasure that St Mary's Pre-school can announce that they have been graded as OUTSTANDING in their recent Ofsted inspection. This is the highest grading awarded by Ofsted. The report detailed that..

*'The quality of teaching is outstanding'
'Children make exceptional progress'
'Leadership and management is inspirational'
'Partnerships with parents.. are exceptional and promote all aspects of children's wellbeing'*

Business Manager Heidi Baker & Setting Leader Lisa Burkett are delighted that the Pre-school team have received this recognition from Ofsted and will continue to ensure children's needs are met to an exceptionally high level.

For more information on the Pre-school, please call 07535 184017 or email stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com.





St Mary's
Pre-School

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in October 2014

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For more information, please contact the
Pre-school Leader, Mrs Lisa Burkett
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St Mary's C of E First School, New Road, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, HP4 3QZ
Ofsted Reg No. 129391 Charity No. 1069686



Christmas Services at St Mary's

There are going to be a number of services through Advent and Christmas through which we will be following the theme of hope. The first will be an **Advent Carol Service on November 30th at 6.00pm**. This will be a candlelit service and with the lead provided by the choir we will explore the great Biblical themes of waiting and promise. A few weeks later on **December 14th at 10.00am** the children of St Mary's with some help from the Lighthouse Young People's Group will be leading the **Christmas Nativity**. The following week on **December 21st at 6.00pm** there will be the **Carol Service** and this will be followed by mince pies in the Parish Room. On **Christmas Eve the Crib Service will be at 5.00pm** and the **Midnight Mass at 11.30pm**. On **Christmas Day there will be Communion services at 8.00am and 10.00am**. We will also

be hosting the local schools as children and parents come together to celebrate the Christmas message.

At St Mary's everyone is welcome to come and share in the celebrations. A church is a place where everyone can feel welcome and valued. One of the things that always attracted me about Jesus in the Gospels is that his whole life seems to be about welcome and inclusion. He meets people in a variety of places and through his conversations, shared meals and walks through the countryside brings children, men and women closer to God. Christmas is celebrating God incarnate: the God, who meets us in the ordinary and every day, possibly providing us with a glimpse of eternity.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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Northchurch Notebook

Of the *Bell Lane* shop - I wrote last time,
On the journey through our village by way of image and rhyme.
Occasionally I'm asked "that house, once a shop, corner of Bell Lane -
Was it ever a pub?" - I will try and explain.

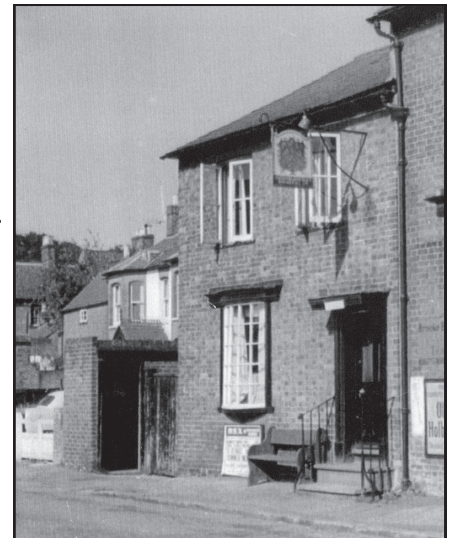
A local tale, the answer could yield -
A *bell* could have been cast, in a clay pit in a *Bell Lane* field!
I have mentioned 'a pub' a few words ago -
I will continue this theme and try and show . . .

How our village has changed as the years have rolled on.
Once, a choice of pubs but at the time of writing - not even one!
The George and Dragon, closed, "Never known this to happen in all the years I bin
'ere."
Nowhere in Northchurch can the landlord pull you a pint of beer.

Of course, in earlier years, pubs have closed, some you may not have heard of before.
'The Anchor', 'The Pheasant', 'The Compasses' and 'The Old Grey Mare', all have
closed the bar door.
Times are a'changing, guess I'll never know why . . .
For at this time of writing, Northchurch - 'high and dry'!



The Old Grey Mare, Northchurch

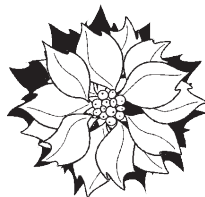


The Compasses, Northchurch



The Pheasant, Northchurch

HEDGEHOG



The George and Dragon, Northchurch

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Jesus in our lives

Edgar Wille

Before his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his disciples (John 14 to 17). He explained that he would be going away to dwell with God his Father - but his presence and that of God would be experienced as a reality. The Holy Spirit would be his other self.

In the Greek text describing the talk at his meal, the Holy Spirit is represented by two words "pneuma" and "paracletos". We get the word "pneuma" in the English phrase "pneumatic tyres". Pneuma means breath or wind, and Jesus mentioned it to Nicodemus, that the Spirit was like the wind; you couldn't see it, but its power was great. The power of the Spirit transformed people, gave them new life from the Father and the Son. It still gives new life to those who are open to it, changing their minds and attitudes.

The word "paracletos" is translated into English variously as comforter, strengthener, advocate (as in a law court). It conveys the idea of giving spiritual energy to those with receptive hearts.

Jesus tells his disciples (see John 16) at the last supper that the Spirit was going to be the means of his presence with them after he had gone to the Father. To put it metaphorically, the pages of his biography - his ministry, death, resurrection and ascension to God, could be seen as if bound into the autobiographies of the believers. He said "I will take what is mine and make it known to you" (John 16.13-17).

So there is a sense in which Christians can share in Christ's experiences. In their own lives they can "die" with him, that is, under his influence, they can give up the bad in them and open their doors to the good as they live with Christ. They are buried with Christ in baptism, they are raised spiritually from their death producing existence. They will in the end be "glorified with him" and will "reign with him".

Paul sums it up in Galatians 2.20

"I am crucified with Christ, the life I now live is not my life but the life which Christ lives in me, and my present mortal life is lived by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me."



THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

Captain Arthur Noel LOXLEY Royal Navy Died 1st January 1915

Captain Arthur Noel Loxley was born in 1874, the son of Revd Arthur Smart Loxley, a former curate of St Mary's Northchurch, and grandson of John Loxley, the joint founder of St Mary's School 150 years ago. Loxley left school at the age of 14 and joined the Royal Navy as a cadet, beginning his training at Dartmouth. In 1890, having completed his training, he left as a

Midshipman and soon after joined the crew of the cruiser *HMS Warspite*, the Flagship of the Royal Navy's Pacific Fleet based in British Columbia., Loxley became a Sub-Lieutenant in 1894 and exactly a year later, a Lieutenant.

Loxley married Gladys Maude Brooke-Hunt in November 1900. A few days before their wedding, he discovered that he had been posted back to his old ship, *HMS Warspite*, and consequently there was little time for a honeymoon. A few days after the wedding therefore, Loxley and his wife left Liverpool for Halifax, Nova Scotia and then travelled across Canada by train to British Columbia. During his second posting to Pacific Station Loxley served on both *HMS Warspite* and another cruiser, *HMS Grafton*. The Loxleys remained in British Columbia until 1903 before returning to Portsmouth.

1905 was an eventful year; in January, Loxley became a Commander, and two months later, a father, with Gladys Loxley giving birth to a son, Peter Noel Loxley. Later that year Loxley transferred to the newly commissioned armoured cruiser, *HMS Hampshire*. In June 1911, on the coronation of King George V, Loxley was promoted to Captain and moved to the Admiralty in London. He remained there until November 1912 when he took command of the battlecruiser *HMS Inflexible*, based in Malta. Loxley was still serving in Malta when Great

Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914.

Returning to Portsmouth, Loxley became Captain of the battleship *HMS Formidable*, which formed part of the Channel Fleet. On 31st December 1914, *Formidable* was sailing in the English Channel as part of the 5th Battle Squadron. Unbeknown to the Squadron a German submarine had been trailing them all day awaiting a suitable time to attack.

Early in the morning of 1st January 1915, the German submarine fired a torpedo at the *Formidable*. The torpedo hit the ship's boiler causing her to list and lose all steam pressure. The other ships believed that *Formidable* had hit a mine and consequently the German submarine remained undetected. Fifty minutes later, having secretly steered round to the other side of *Formidable*, the submarine fired a second torpedo hitting it close to the funnel.



Following the explosion Loxley, his second-in-command, and the signaller stayed at their posts sending flares and rockets off at regular intervals whilst the crew abandoned ship. Reports from the time stated that there was no panic. Some two hours after the firing of the first torpedo, *HMS Formidable* began to tilt and within minutes, she rolled over onto many of the men who were still in the water, and sank.

In true British tradition, Captain Loxley went down with his ship. Loxley's last words were reputedly '*Lads, this is the last, all hands for themselves, and may God bless you and guide you to safety*'. He then walked to the forebridge, lit a cigarette and, with his Airedale terrier Bruce at his side, waited for the end.

The final loss of life on board *HMS Formidable* was 35 officers and 512 men, out of an initial complement of 780.

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We have a fid in the belfry!

Look up the word 'fid' in your dictionary It will probably tell you it is a nautical term for something used when splicing ropes. The description in my dictionary describes one of the items we have, but not the new one. But I've only ever heard our new item called a fid so I'll stick with that until I know better.

You all know ringers pull a rope to ring their bell. Ropes wear with use, but their working life can be prolonged by cutting out the worn section and splicing the bits back together. Bill Preston was delighted when an ex-Girl Guide (me!) became a ringer because I could splice ropes. I've since learned to taper my short splices and how to do long splices – and had practice with both.

So how does a fid help? Not only is it better than a screwdriver to separate the strands of the rope, it makes it easier to push a strand through the hole. Imagine a very fat knitting needle, about ¾" (2cm) diameter. Imagine it having a long (4", 10cm) smoothly tapering cone-shaped end. Made of wood, it is nice to handle and makes a hole the size you want, quite big if you push it in a long way. That's fine – until you have to remove the 'fat knitting needle' in order to push your piece of rope through the hole when the hole is inclined to shrink! Instead of being a solid cone, our new fid has a hollow metal cone-shaped end, part

cut away. I use the fid to make the hole as large as I need, keep it in place and slide the strand of rope down its hollow and through the hole. All I need now is a worn rope to use it on!

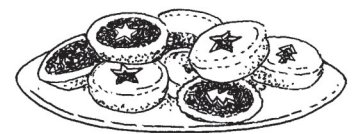
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Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

The Monday Club

Dec 15th Christmas Tea
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For more information please
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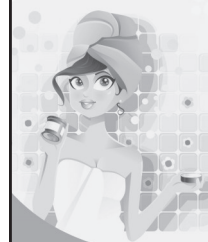
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Christmas Services at St Mary's



7th December *Second Sunday of Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St Bart's



14th December *Third Sunday of Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Christmas Nativity Service
*A service led by the children of the church
telling the Christmas story.*



6.00pm Taize Worship
*A quiet meditation service with chants and
silence to celebrate Advent. Refreshments to be
served afterwards. All welcome.*



21st December *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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



*The service will contain well known carols, items by the choir
and readings that explore the message of God's promises and
the good news of the birth of Jesus. The service will be followed
by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Parish Room*

24th December *Christmas Eve*

5.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass



25th December *Christmas Day*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)



28th December *Christmas 1*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
NO EVENING SERVICE



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