



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
 Mobile: 07929934367

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Dec & Jan



Church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547



Christmas at St Mary's



In the shops around December there are usually a number of music CD's that try and capture the best of a particular musician or band. I was looking at Amazon the other week and noted Kate Bush is bringing out a CD of her live show and there are also albums by a wide range of musicians including David Bowie, Leonard Cohen and "Now that what I call Music -95." However, the musical highlight that caught my eye was Bruce Springsteen's autobiography "Born to Run," that also includes the album "Chapter and Verse."

There was an interview with Springsteen recently in which he spoke about how music changed his life and how this shaped his live concerts. He can be on stage for over three hours. His hope is that not only that everyone will have a great night but it might also be a "certain transcendent evening...an evening that you will remember when you go home." The music will help you think differently about the way you see your life and what you want to do with it. This is what he and the band "try to deliver." There is a faith in the ability of a piece of music to change a person and provide a soundtrack for key moments in their life journey.

Services at St Mary's are not three hours long and the music differs slightly from the E Street Band. Despite that there is still the possibility of being changed and seeing where you are going in your life in a new way. I periodically have conversations with folk who say that that they used to go to church and for one reason or another stopped. I never underestimate that it can

take a fair bit of courage to walk into a church. Worship has changed over the years and the unfamiliarity can be a barrier. However, it does not matter when you stand or sit or even if the music is unfamiliar. The most important thing is that you come and share in the worship of God whose love for us all is celebrated at Christmas time. If you are thinking of coming back to church or considering it for the first time then you may find a Christmas service is the ideal way back in.



On **December 18th** there will be a **Nativity Service at 10.00am** and then the **Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm.**



On **Christmas Eve** there will be the **Crib Service at 5.00pm** and **Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.**



On **Christmas Day** there will be a **Communion Service with Carols at 10.00am.**

You will be made very welcome.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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Life after death

Many theologians do not believe that the Old Testament teaches a hope of eternal life for faithful believers. They believe that the Old Testament teaches that when you are dead, that is the end of any conscious existence.

However, a careful study of the Old Testament will reveal that there is a life after death for those whom God will raise from the dead. This teaching is clear in the book of Genesis in the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

I give below a sample of a few of the many references to the afterlife in the Old Testament:-

Isaiah 11v.9 *The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 26v.19 *Your dead ones will live, their bodies will rise again. Those who sleep in the earth will awake and shout for joy.*

Daniel 12v.2 *Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake.*

Isaiah 35v.10 *The Lord's people will be crowned with everlasting joy. Gladness and joy will come upon*

them, while suffering and weariness flee away.

Psalm 13v.3 *Give light to my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death.*

Psalm 25v.7 *Remember me in your unfailing love.*

Psalm 22v.29 *How can those who go down to the grave give God homage? But I shall live for his sake.*

Psalm 30v.9 *What profit is there in my death, in my going down to the pit? Can the dust praise you? Can it proclaim your truth?*

Psalm 29v.12 *Lord my God, I shall praise you forever!*

Psalm 32v.10/11 *Unfailing love enfolds those who trust in the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous ones!*

'Deliverance', 'salvation', and 'unfailing love' are words and phrases frequently used in the Old Testament to describe God's eternal love of those who, as he says, are 'honest of heart'.

Edgar Wille

Way Inn Advent Talks: The Perfect Gift

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1st December David Russell
8th December Jane Gonzalez

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I have 27 years' experience as a Probate & Trust Manager, mainly with central London solicitors, and can assist you with each and every aspect of applying for the Grant of Probate and administering the Estate, including completion of the compulsory Inheritance Tax forms - all for around a quarter of normal solicitors' fees.

Whatever stage the Estate has reached - even where there is no Will - if you need assistance at reasonable rates and are in Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Tring or surrounding villages, please call or e-mail me for further information.

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This month in ... December 1884

With Northchurch surrounded by countryside, much of it under private ownership, it should be of no surprise that poaching was a popular local 'pastime' during the winter months, particularly among the young men of the village. There was, of course, always the risk of being caught.

At the Petty Sessions on 17th December 1884, Northchurch men Samuel Delderfield, Frederick Dell, James Carter, Frederick Welling, Walter Bedford and James Lay appeared, charged with trespassing in search of rabbits on the land owned by the local lord of the manor, Earl Brownlow. All six defendants pleaded 'not guilty'.

The court was told that William Waterton, a keeper employed by Earl Brownlow, had spotted the defendants beating the undergrowth near the Common in an attempt to frighten rabbits to run into previously erected nets. He saw one rabbit being caught which was put into a bag held by Bedford. Waterton then informed the village policeman, PC Brace who spotted Delderfield going into his home in New Road with a bag under his arm. Soon afterwards Bedford was spotted coming out of the George pub, (now the George and Dragon), with an empty bag, which when examined was found to contain a quantity of rabbit fur. A subsequent search of Delderfield's home revealed the nets and other items used to catch rabbits.

All six defendants were found guilty. Delderfield, who it turned out had four previous convictions for poaching, was fined £2 (about £220 in today's terms) with 8 shillings 6 pence costs. Dell was fined 15 shillings plus costs and the others 10 shillings.

Richard North

Did you hear the bells last month?

They were rather special for Remembrance Sunday, all of them except the Tenor being half-muffled. You know the pads that gardeners and builders can wear for kneeling down? Bells have pads like that for special occasions. A gardener has no problem fitting their pads the right way round – but how does the Tower Captain know which is the right way round for the clapper of a bell? If I get it wrong (or, as happened this year, a muffle slipped), you hear a bright and cheerful bong when the bells should be sounding their 'echo'.

The following day, a quarter peal was rung to mark an 85th birthday. One of my friends achieved this score and we were fortunate that seven other ringers were happy to ring with me in celebration.

The 'local bell club' organises a weekend of ringing each year, involving 40+ ringers and 10 towers – and an impressive spreadsheet so everyone knows where to go and when and what to ring. Northchurch played its part, hosting a quarter peal on the evening of Friday 18th and then again on Saturday afternoon. If you heard each of these attempts last for about 45 minutes, then you know we were successful.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

Parish Registers: November 2016

Baptisms

November 6th	Charlie Smith & Albert Sayer
November 20th	Sian Evans

Funerals

November 25th	Pat Parrott
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RAF 1113 (Berkhamsted) Air Cadets Corps are looking for adult volunteers

The Air Cadets of Berkhamsted is one of only a few youth groups in the town catering for children in the older age range and therefore is an invaluable part of the community. As a parent of a Cadet, I think it's a brilliant youth organization. Boys and Girls aged between 12-19 years can get involved. My son enjoys going twice a week and so far it has improved his confidence, sociability and independence since joining in January 2016. Also, and more importantly, it gets him out of the house & off the streets to do something productive & beneficial that he really enjoys.

The RAF Cadets learn a huge array of new skills some of which include;

- First Aid Training, BTECs.
- Team games. Fitness training & Combat training.
- Drill instructions to Parade at Charity & local events, and remembrance services. They also learn how to help out as Marshalls and assist in crowd control with tact & decorum.
- They are offered a chance to get involved at Wing Sports activities and competitions with other local Squadrons
- Flight & Weapons training, RAF Communication.

Duke Of Edinburgh Awards 1113 Squadron also offers discounted Duke Of Edinburgh training for its members, this Squadron has supported & successfully completed more D of E awards than any other Squadron in the local area.

This Squadron also inspires the Cadets to flourish at the time when they can become very introverted, by means of encouraging independence, building confidence, becoming more conscientious and mature, respecting others, getting involved in local community. Also at a basic level Cadets are taught how to iron uniforms, clean their shoes & the Cadet HQ, present themselves and be well groomed, and to respect others in a position of authority.

The Squadron recruits twice a year, and through hard work leading up to the recruitment evening in Sept this year, the attachment has recently doubled in numbers. The Squadron now has 60 Cadets as members with an average attendance of 40 on Parade evenings on Mon & Wed 7pm to 9.30pm each week throughout the year. We are based at Ashlyns School.

Please see our website www.berkhamstedaircadets.org.uk for contact details & how to apply as an adult volunteer.



Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Smart little Kira is a Staffie cross who was born in February 2016. This young lady is cheeky and full of beans! She loves everything about life – people, dogs, walks and playing! A bright girl who would love agility or other training. She needs an active home where she will only be left for short periods. She could probably live with a male dog pending introductions.

If you can offer Kira 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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Christmas Services at St Mary's



4th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

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10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Taize Service
*A quiet meditation service with chants
and silence. Tea/coffee and cake to be
served afterwards. All welcome.*



11th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

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



18th December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Nativity Service
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight



24th December

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass



25th December

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Eucharist and Carols



Next issue is in February 2017. No January issue.

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor,
Jill Hipson cjhipson@btopenworld.com

Next issue: February 2017. All advertisements
must be paid for before they can be published.
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All church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
St Mary's Church

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Parish Room Bookings:
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