

Parish Room Bookings: Emily Millar

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St Mary's Northchurch

Newsletter

September 2017

"Humanity is waiting for

imitation of the past."

something other than blind

Martin Luther King, Jr.



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

Breaking with the Past

ometimes a film is not as good as a book, perspectives and bring healing and transformation disasters along the way. However, last night was a It was courageous and inspiring. success with the film 'The Light between the Oceans.' Without giving away any spoilers it is a very heart Martin Luther King, Jr once said that the world is

wrenching film about choices that the characters make and the consequences that follow. It is set in Australia at the end of the First World War and one of the characters is a German who is shunned by the local community. He is asked by his wife how he remained so happy when

also so badly treated. His reply is very simple: "You all day, everyday."

carry anger and resentments that can destroy their fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. A dark, own lives and damage those around them. Societies desolate, confused and sin-sick world waits for this and nations can carry hurts experienced over the years new kind of person and this new type of that can poison the present and the future. Maybe in power." (Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or some of these things there is a justification and there Community, p. 66) are numerous examples of injustice. Yet you can also long for a creative force that can break in and change

although you can watch a film and it makes rather than simply writing past wrongs. The story of you want to read the book. Living with girls the Truth and Reconciliation Council in South Africa has meant when selecting a film for a DVD was extraordinary in the way that it was able to bring night has over the years been a challenge with a few victims and perpetrators of a corrupt regime together.

longing for a new type of person. "Humanity is waiting something other than blind imitation of the past. If we want truly to advance a step further, if we want to turn over a new leaf and really set a new person afoot, we must begin to turn away from the long and dissolute night of violence...We must be hammers shaping a new society rather than anvils moulded by

only have to forgive once. To reset. You have to do it the old. This will not only make us new people, but will give us a new kind of power. It will be power infused with love and justice that will change dark Forgiveness is a multi faceted concept. Individuals can yesterdays into bright tomorrows, and lift us from a

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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Jesus: human voice of God

I've been reading a book 'Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes' by a Christian university professor, Kenneth Bailey.

He presents Jesus as a normal human who has to think and plan what he is going to see or do. But Bailey does not see Jesus as a mere man, nor a kind of magic man who knew everything (he didn't even know the date of his second coming). Bailey sees Jesus as having to think before he speaks or acts. Beyond this, he sees Jesus as in favour with God, taught by God in a deep spiritual union with God - one in heart and mind, as expressed in Ephesians 1.

This unity is expressed variously in John's Gospel as 'doing the work of God'. When Jesus spoke he was often speaking as God's mouthpiece, God's agent, speaking and acting in a way that marked him as, while still a man, one who spoke on God's behalf to be received in faith. Thus Jesus was not working magic tricks, nor was he a mere ordinary man - but God was speaking through him. If you want to hear the voice of God, listen to the voice of Jesus. Yet Jesus still operated as a human tempted in all ways like we who are mere humans, but without sinning. He always did his father's will.

His father was God Almighty, as Luke records in his Chapter 1, vs 30-38, with an impression of a normal 9 month gestation period, but a divine father.

So we have Jesus as a man using human thought and as the agent of God, bearing his divinity. This Jesus could change his mind - e.g. when he said to his brothers that he would not go to Jerusalem for a festival, but then did. Similarly, he had to think, plan and decide how to conduct his many conversations - e.g. with the woman at the well, the woman at the house of Simon the Pharisee, and when he met Zacchaeus hiding up in a tree.

Edgar Wille

Bike and Hike Saturday 9th September

If you love St Mary's and fancy an interesting day out looking at churches, now is your chance. Come along to the church and pick up a sponsor form on Saturday 9th September or telephone Evelyn on 01442 873458. Put up a just giving page, or ask all your friends and family to sponsor you, then off you go, walking or cycling to visit as many churches as you can. Half the money goes to St Mary's for urgent repairs, and the other half goes to the historic churches trust who give grants to the less well attended small village churches to help with maintenance. You don't have to be a church goer to appreciate the history and architecture or find out about the families in the graveyard, so please help us keep it going. Last year we fell just short of the £2,000 we needed to win a gold certificate so we had to settle for silver. If you help we could make the target this year. Thank you.

Summer wedding bells

The bells don't take a holiday over the summer, and when there are weddings they can be extra busy!

The wedding in the middle of July was extra special — it was a Ringer's Wedding. Although Geoffrey is not a Northchurch ringer, he has rung with us on Sundays fairly regularly while he was courting Connie. Early in June, Geoffrey brought his family to practice. Peter (Dad) sat in the corner with his newspaper! Louise (Mum), Laurence, Oliver and Edward all rang at Northchurch for the first time, which ringers refer to as 'grabbing the tower.' Not surprisingly on THE day, there were a number of ringers amongst the wedding guests. They — and the family, including Geoffrey — all wanted to ring before the service: there have never been so many smartly dressed ringers in the tower!

Amongst the eight 'regular' ringers, Bill and Rachael had never before rung for a wedding which made the occasion very special for them. (It is a mark of competence to be invited for wedding ringing, especially in another tower: Bill and Rachael ring at Flamstead.) It made their day that Geoffrey had asked to be introduced together with an invitation to the tea party after the service!

Midweek in August, you might one morning have heard a quarter peal. That was a visiting band ringing 'for fun' — and to a high standard. As we listened to the band, another ringer and I remembered that half the people present had rung in a peal (that's nearly 3 hours non-stop) to mark the Induction of Jonathan as our Rector in August 12 years ago. On that occasion, ringers expressed their appreciation to a church that welcomes them. For this visit, on a damp and dismal day, coffee and chocolate biscuits were enjoyed by the ringers in the shelter of the church.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

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Volunteer drivers needed

A community transport service in Berkhamsted, Tring and Hemel Hempstead is looking for more volunteer drivers to join their team.

Community Action Dacorum's drivers take passengers to hospital or social appointments using their own cars, or drive minibuses for local groups to visit theatres, stately homes or other attractions in the region. All drivers are reimbursed for mileage expenses and are automatically included in minibus excursions such as theatre visits. The scheme is in particular need of drivers in the Berkhamsted and Tring areas. Potential drivers should contact Deborah Fogden in the first instance on 01442 253935 or email Deborah@communityactiondacorum.org.uk.

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Lieutenant Frank D ALCOCK

3rd/2nd Battalion, 2nd King's African Rifles. Died 3rd September 1917

Frank Alcock was the eldest son of John Forster Alcock and his wife Augusta, who lived at 'Exhims' on the High Street. Like his father (who was a co-founder of the Football Association), Frank was a keen sportsman playing rugby and also target shooting. Soon after his father's death in 1910, Frank emigrated to Rhodesia to start a new life there as a farmer. Volunteering to fight in 1914, it was not until 1916 that Frank was called up. Frank spent the next year fighting the Germans in German West Africa where, like many of his comrades enduring the tsetse flyinfested tropical conditions, he fell ill with dysentery. He died on 3rd September and is buried in the Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery in Tanzania.

Private 202817 Alfred Henry DWIGHT

11th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Killed 4th September 1917

Alfred Dwight was born in Eddy Street, Gossoms End in 1895. Initially joining the Hertfordshire Regiment, Alfred was later transferred to the Essex Regiment to make up for men lost in earlier battles. At the end of August 1917, Alfred's battalion took over the trenches at Hill 70 near Lens which Canadian troops had captured a few days before. Sadly within a few days, Alfred was seriously injured during a heavy German artillery attack and was taken to the Red Cross Hospital at Étaples. He died there on 4th September and is buried at the nearby Military Cemetery.

Private 76469 George DAVIS

16th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). Killed 20th September 1917

George Davis would have grown up alongside Alfred Dwight in Eddy Street, Gossoms End. After leaving school, George started work as a storeman. On 18th December 1914, knocking a year off his age, George enlisted at Watford with the Army Ordinance Corps and started work as a storeman at their main depot in Woolwich. As the war progressed, fit men serving in support roles like the AOC were forced to join the fighting units to make up for earlier losses.

Consequently, on 1st January 1917, George joined 16th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

On 31st July 1917, George's battalion fought in the opening of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, now commonly known as Passchendaele. Seven weeks later, George took part in an attack on Bulgar Wood and several German strongpoints. The attack was successful but at a cost. George was one of the men initially listed as

'Missing in Action', and it was not until July 1918 that he was formally listed as 'Killed in Action'. George's body was never recovered and his name now appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Zonnebeke.



Richard North

THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

Northchurch and Berkhamsted U3A

We meet at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the first or second Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon. The meetings include a visiting speaker and refreshments. It is an ideal opportunity for retired or semi-retired people to join in various activities, learn new skills, outings and making new friends.

For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 871591 or go to our website:

www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk

School Governors urgently needed:

If you are interested in helping the school by becoming a critical friend, or as is more correctly named, a school governor, please get in touch with Alan Kemp via his email address:

chairofgovernors@stmarys016herts.sch.uk, or Jonathan Gordon via the St Marys website address. This is a challenging and rewarding role in which there will be opportunities for training and you will have a chance to make a real difference to the school.

If young people are at the centre of your life, join the governing team and help the school stay at the top of the Ofsted tree.

> Thank you. Evelyn Hodgson (Churchwarden)

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St Mary's Toddler Group starts up again on Tuesday 12th September, with the new hours 09.30 - 11.30 every Tuesday term-time, with a cost of £2 a family a week. For more information please contact Heidi Baker. heidi.n.baker@gmail.com



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Archie is a Patterdale cross who was born in 2014. He was handed in through no fault of his own. Archie has the usual terrier traits - smart, inquisitive and lots of energy. He has good manners on the lead and certainly loves a good walk! Archie needs to be an only pet in a home where he will be able to join in all aspects of family life, and be kept mentally and physically

adult dogs in homes with children under 7. If you can offer Archie 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. Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road,
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Sunday Services at St Mary's

3rd September

Trinity 12

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Ashridge Service

10th September

Trinity 13

8.00am Holy Communion10.00am All Age Service6.00pm Evening Prayer

17th September

Trinity 14

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist6.00pm Taize Service

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence. Tea / coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome.



24th September

Trinity 15

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist6.00pm Evening Prayer

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson jill.hipson@live.co.uk

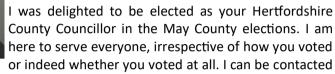
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Introducing your Hertfordshire CC Councillor **Terry Douris**



by phone on 01442 402273 or by email, which is preferred, at terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk I look forward to working with your Dacorum Borough Councillor Alan Fantham and with your Parish Council, and have attended the first meetings in this cycle. I was also pleased to attend the Social Centre's open day where was very successful.

Cllr Fantham has provided me with a list of highways issues which I am working my way through although these are not always quick or easy to resolve.

I was very pleased to attend the church and combined garden fete although I didn't win anything in the raffle. My congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to put the event on and to make it such a success.

As your County Councillor, Hertfordshire County Council looks after your highways, provision of school places and the achievement of those schools which are not academies or free school, libraries and adult and children services.

Through this column can I also remind everyone that I have a Member Locality Budget of £10,000 with which I can support local groups and associations with some small amounts to provide a facility for the benefit of the community with funds which may not otherwise be available. I would want to share it, if requested, equally across the division but I also hold firmly to the tenet that there must be a benefit to folks within the division. If you wish to bid for such funding the first step would be to drop me an email at the above address.

On a personal note, I now have a new role within the cabinet at HCC which is for Education, Libraries and Localism. The localism strand is interesting because it draws together the relationship between the County and the many voluntary groups which provide some invaluable services to our residents and Parish and Town Councils which deliver local services.

Terry Douris

All church enquiries to: Revd Jonathan Gordon St Mary's Church

E-mail: reviagordon@googlemail.com Phone 01442 871547 Mobile 0775 2261679 Parish Room Bookings: Emily Millar 07929 934367