



# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



**Parish Room Bookings:**  
**Emily Millar**  
Mobile: 07929934367

## November

**Church enquiries to:**  
**Revd Jonathan Gordon**  
**01442 871547**



## The Celtic Knot



There are times when you see certain familiar things around you in a new way. I have walked along the path through the churchyard at St Mary's for over 10 years and it was only recently that I noticed that there is a gravestone in the design of a Celtic cross. The shape once you do notice it is quite distinctive and it has a pattern around the edges of intertwining and interlacing ribbons that is known as the Celtic knot. The origins of the design may possibly go back hundreds of years.

I have been looking into the symbolism of the knot and there is not a definitive explanation of what it means. One suggestion is that the ribbon has no discernible beginning or ending and this may imply the endless cycle of existence that for the early Christians would have stood for eternity. Other explanations that I have read about say that it was a device to ward away evil powers. Another which I really liked was that it is a symbol of constant movement. The endlessly intertwining ribbons one writer suggests speak of a world and a faith which is never still but is in a state of perpetual motion. This movement is not depicted as frenetic but ordered and controlled within an intricate design. Nothing can stay the same and the knot is a reflection of the constant motion of the world around us. As the early Celtic missionaries in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries were constantly on the move and travelling great distances to spread the Christian message the images of movement within the scope of eternity maybe speak of their experiences and faith.

The month of November is a time of reflection on the past and the Service of Remembrance will take place in St Mary's at 10.00am on November 13<sup>th</sup>. This year has a particular poignancy given it is 100 years since the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. There are in the church and churchyard reminders of this time: a small sign in the porch from a division thanking the church for allowing them to use the church building for services and for the hospitality of the people. There is a memorial to Charles Ross who was killed on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916 and alongside other stone memorials the names of the men of the parish who were killed and will be read out at the service.

The number of changes in the last one hundred years has been dramatic, but despite the unimaginable scale of the conflict from 1914-18, the repercussions of warfare, especially in the huge movements of refugees across Europe, still shape political and economic debate. Unlike the Celtic knot this movement seems far more frenetic and uncontrolled. Yet, when walking through the churchyard I now look at the gravestone seeing it as a reminder that there is a different tempo and rhythm within the world that speaks of the value of peacemaking, empathy and compassion. The missionaries who took the Christian message across Scotland and the north of England over fifteen hundred years ago saw these values as timeless.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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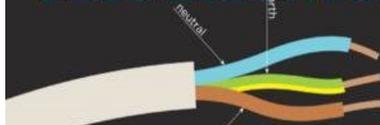
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## God's creative WORD

*In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. Everything created came into being by a WORD that God uttered.*

Yet in Genesis 1, we read that God created everything in seven days, each with mornings and evenings. But we know by geological research that this must be a figurative, poetic description. The process of creation, according to the rocks themselves, involved a process lasting millions of years.

The clue which makes a literal meaning unlikely is the word 'WORD'. God uttered the WORD by his spirit or power: *God said 'Let there be light, and there was light'*. At God's command, things happened in seven normal days; there sprang into being dry land, plants, birds, sea creatures, land animals, and finally man. This creation was to be maintained by man, assisted later by his wife (Eve). She listened to the WORD of the serpent and, with Adam, ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's WORD by their eating of this tree placed them under the penalty of death, inherited by all their descendants.

As a story with a meaning, we are introduced to the human search to being led by self expression and 'do it yourself', instead of showing dependence on God. A glance at the newspaper or television records the disasters that human disregard of God has brought about. The Bible is the story of how the evil was undone by the one and only perfect human being, Jesus. Thus we gain spiritual significance from physical strata such as those chipped out many years ago by my own father using a geological hammer in Lulworth Cove!

Edgar Wille

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	<p><b>UNIVERSAL CARE</b></p> <p>always there</p> <p><b>CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS TO HELP SOMEONE LIVING ON THEIR OWN THIS CHRISTMAS?</b></p> <p>We are looking for caring and compassionate people to join our team of carers, looking after our clients during the Christmas holidays. (Car drivers essential)</p> <p>Call Sarah or Lauren on 01494 678811 or email <a href="mailto:jobs@universal-care.co.uk">jobs@universal-care.co.uk</a></p>
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**Captain Vere Duncombe LOXLEY**  
**Royal Marine Light Infantry**  
**Died 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916**



Vere Loxley, the second son of Revd. Arthur Smart Loxley, former Curate at St Mary's and a member of the Loxley family from Norcott Court, was born in Fairford, Gloucestershire. Following his elder brother, Arthur Noel Loxley, into the armed forces, Vere Loxley chose to join the Royal Marines receiving his Commission in 1900. In September 1915, Loxley, now a Captain, transferred to the Royal Marine Light Infantry and was sent to Gallipoli. He later became one of the key people who organised the secret evacuation of the peninsula at the end of the year. Later transferred to the Somme sector in July 1916, Loxley was injured by shrapnel and invalided home. After making a full recovery, he returned to France two months later. In appalling weather conditions during the closing days of the Battle of the Somme, the RMLI took part in an attack on the German lines near Beaumont-Hamel. Leading his men 'over the top' on 13<sup>th</sup> November, Loxley was killed almost immediately by German machine-gun fire. His battalion was to suffer a 73% casualty rate that day. Loxley's body now lies in the Knightsbridge Cemetery, along with many of his men who died that day, just outside the small village of Mensil.

**Lance Corporal Albert Ernest PICKTHORN**  
**'B' Company, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry**  
**Died 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1916**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1915 Albert Pickthorn enlisted in the Australian Army in Western Australia. Albert was born nearly 27 years earlier at Cow Roast Lock, where his father was the lockkeeper. In 1911, Albert decided start a new life in Australia. After completed his army training there, Albert was sent first to Egypt and then to Gallipoli, as part of the ANZAC troops to fight the Turks. Here he experienced the full horrors of the warfare on the peninsula. After the Gallipoli evacuation at the end of 1915, Albert's battalion was transferred to the Western Front, fighting for the first time in July 1916 during the initial stages of the Battle of the Somme. After a short period resting near Ypres, Albert's battalion returned to the Somme in the early autumn and took part in a major attack on the German lines south of Ba-paume at the beginning of November. Initially posted as 'missing in action' following the attack, it was not until June 1917 that Albert was finally declared 'killed in action'. Albert's name now appears on the Australian Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.



**THE GREAT WAR**  
**1914 - 1918**

**Parish Registers:**  
**September & October 2016**

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- September 25th Noah Jacob Street
- October 2nd Paige Rose Megan Walker  
Max Douglas Ian Corr
- October 16th John Marian Relton Herron
- October 23rd Alexis Constance Mantell  
Zoe Jane Whitton  
Ivy Elizabeth May Whitton

**Funerals**

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- October 7th Margaret Ruth Bowley
- October 10th William John Roberts
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### The Monday Club

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## Sunday Services at St Mary's



**6th November** *3rd Sunday before Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Taize Centenary Memorial Service

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence to commemorate the lives lost in the battle of the First World War on 6 November 1916. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome.



**13th November** *Remembrance Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Service of Remembrance  
6.00pm Evening Prayer



**20th November** *Christ the King*

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

**27th November** *Advent Sunday*

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



### Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Mrs Jill Hipson  
[cjhipson@btopenworld.com](mailto:cjhipson@btopenworld.com) Next issue: December 2016.

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published.

Copy date is 15th of each month.



## German Style

## Christkindlmarket

at St Mary's Northchurch

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Noon to 4pm

Handmade Christmas Presents

Handmade Christmas Tree Decorations

Gingerbread House Competition for all ages

Lunches – Nuremberg sausages, sauerkraut,

red cabbage, potatoes, beer, wine

Traditional German homemade stollen

mulled wine, mince pies, tea & coffee

Raffle Christmas music

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St Mary's Church

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