

Parish Room Bookings:  
Emily Millar  
Mobile: 07929934367

# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter

## November 2017



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

## Hope and Remembrance

A few Sundays ago we started the service with prayers for the young girl who was involved in an accident on Northchurch High Street. We prayed for her parents, all those involved in her care and her school and friends. I think that in the community we are feeling a sense of shock and deep sadness.

As Hurricane Ophelia was battering Ireland in the middle of October there was an unusual sky over this part of the country. Someone remarked to me that it must be the "end of days" as the light was reflected by the phenomenon of a red sun. I'm not sure about that but in conversations with people and looking at news reports there is at the present time a huge sense of uncertainty about what the future holds. No one can really predict what will happen in the next two years with the European negotiations and there are serious doubts being raised whether the American administration is best placed to take a lead in complex international relations. When you start making a list of other things such as climate change and terrorism incidents it soon can become very disheartening.

*From a faith perspective  
there is always a focus on  
love and hope..... There  
has to be a resilient  
determination that these  
values will shine through  
the darkness.*

November is the month of remembrance and a time to reflect on what previous generations had to face and get through. Events have been held to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele where over a three month period there were nearly 585,000 Allied and German casualties. It was known as the Battle of Mud and encapsulated the brutality and horror of the war. On Remembrance Sunday after the service in St Mary's we will gather around the War Memorial for the Two Minute Silence.

Whatever the challenges of the present time we have to face them with courage and compassion. In the silence by the War Memorial, I generally focus on two things: the wonder, beauty and vibrancy of the world and also the recognition that it is sadly marred by violence, terror and the misuse of power. In each generation there have been those who have made a stand for justice, peace and reconciliation. We also have to respond to that challenge and take on its responsibilities. From a faith perspective there is always a focus on love and hope and in the context of today's world there has to be a resilient determination that these values will shine through the darkness.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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## Christmas is Coming

By the time you read this newsletter you will probably be thinking about Christmas. What will you actually be thinking about - presents, parties, fun, food and drink?

Or do you think about Jesus Christ, born as a human being in Bethlehem and sent by God to mankind to offer life and immortality?

Immortality is to be spent in the service of human beings, to deal with the suffering, the violence, the terrorism, the hunger, starvation, lack of water and energy. The people to whom God grants immortality will receive it on the basis of their faith - the belief that God is and that his son, Jesus, represents him so fully that when in his maturity Jesus spoke it was the word of God - the voice of God that was being made available for human ears. Do we see Jesus as the true agent of divine reality?

Those who have Jesus at the very centre of their lives can look forward to this immortality and the mission which it conveys. This is summarised in 1 Peter 1, verse 22-3:

*Now that you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth until you feel sincere affection towards your fellow Christians (and others), love one another wholeheartedly with all your strength. You have been born again, not of mortal but of immortal parentage through the living and enduring word of God.*

(Revised English Bible translation)

Edgar Wille

## The Monday Club

20<sup>th</sup> November Lunch at the Greyhound, Wigginton at 12.15pm

4<sup>th</sup> December Entertainment by the Ashley Green Ballet Group.

For more information please contact: Joan Downhill on 865821 or Barbara Lloyd on 865059.

## Northchurch and Berkhamsted U3A

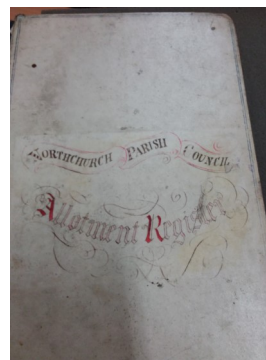
We meet at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the first or second Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon. The meetings include a visiting speaker and refreshments. It is an ideal opportunity for retired or semi-retired people to join in various activities, learn new skills, outings and making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

For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 871591 or go to our website:  
[www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk](http://www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk)

## Northchurch Allotments: A potted history

1830-1880: Sir John Hobart Culme-Seymour came from a distinguished family of naval commanders, admirals and vice-admirals and was appointed Rector of St Mary's Church Northchurch in 1830 by the Duchy of Cornwall who owned the land. He was also a Canon of both Lincoln and Gloucester Cathedrals. He built the rectory and St John's Church, Bourne End, where he was buried.

The rector rented out land to parishioners with numerous regulations for the allotment holders on church land including regular church attendance, not gardening on his masters time and keeping the ground in good condition by digging and applying manure.



Earl Brownlow purchased the manor of Ashridge from the Duchy of Cornwall in 1860.

Ordnance Survey of 1877 shows the boundaries of our current allotments

The Northchurch parish council was collecting rents for the allotments in 1901

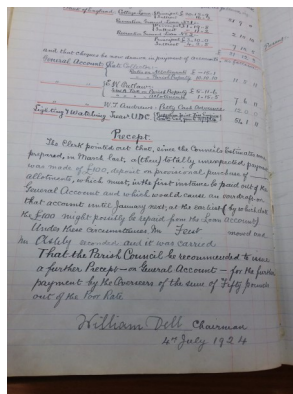
1	Dallam, Alfred	2	1
35	Genl. H.	2	1
36	Sells, Alfred	2	1
37	Nasen, John	2	1
38	Croughley, W.	2	1
39	Devan, Alfred	2	1
40	Dean, George	2	1
41	Duckworth, James	2	1
42	Hiddle, H.	2	1
43	Hicks, James	2	1
44	Leary, H.	2	1
45	Grace, H.	2	1
46	Vance, H.	2	1
47	Seaton, H.	2	1
48	Cliffe, F.	2	1
49	Hard, Thomas	2	1
50		2	1

The parish council leased land for allotments from Earl Brownlow 1915 to 1931

The parish council borrowed £1,000 to purchase the allotments and land for the recreation ground in 1924

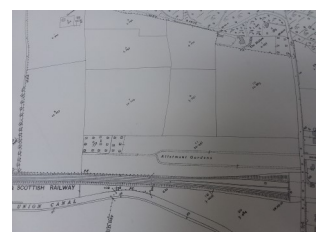
1924 (and thereafter) the allotment plots are marked allotment gardens

The allotments have a long history; they were busy during two World Wars; they are still going strong. It is great to garden on soil that has been tended over 140 years. Three or four plots are likely to fall vacant this autumn so if you are a keen gardener and would like to join us the way forward is to contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance and put your name on the waiting list.



John Houston 07498918726  
[johnhouston@gmail.com](mailto:johnhouston@gmail.com)

Parish Council :- Usha Kilich  
[northchurch.parishcouncil@zen.co.uk](mailto:northchurch.parishcouncil@zen.co.uk)



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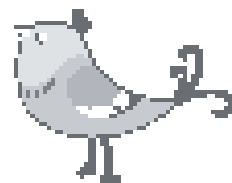
Please contact Glenn on 07951 126534

## ASHLYNS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# Craft Fair

**Sunday 19th November**  
**11am—4pm**  
**Ashlyns School**

- **Admission £2**
- **Free parking**
- **Refreshments available all day**



## St Mary's Gingerbread House Night



**Friday 1st December 2017 at 8pm**

**St Mary's Parish Rooms, Northchurch**

**Tickets cost £10, which includes:**

- \* All you need to make and decorate a fabulous Gingerbread House
- \* A short Christmas talk by Rebecca Fardell, Sunnyside Church
- \* Coffee, tea, wine, soft drinks, mince pies

**For tickets contact:**

- **Penny Coase 07957 163893**
- **[info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk)**
- **Heidi Baker in the playground at St Mary's School.**

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## Lieutenant John Augustus 'Jack' HARMAN

Royal Flying Corps

17<sup>th</sup> November 1917

Jack Harman, the grandson of Revd. Augustus Birch, a former Rector of St Mary's Northchurch, was born in London in 1893. A keen rugby player, in early 1914 Jack emigrated to Ceylon to begin a new life as a tea farmer. The war changed Jack's plans and he returned to England in 1915, gaining a Commission in the Army Service Corps.

Jack served with the ASC in Egypt and Salonika before requesting a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps to train as a pilot. In January 1917, his training started at the RFC's flying schools in Egypt and he graduated the following May. Jack applied for a home posting – he wanted to shoot down Zeppelins.



Photo supplied by Charles Harman

Zeppelin attacks on the British mainland had started in 1915 and had gradually increased in number. Initially impervious to attack by British fighters, it was not until 1916 that incendiary bullets were developed to tear open the Zeppelin's outer cover and penetrate their hydrogen gas cells.

With the RFC beginning to gain the upper hand, the Germans introduced larger Zeppelins that could reach 20,000ft, higher than the RFC fighters could fly, but at the cost of a smaller payload of bombs. In response, the British planes were altered, changing them from a two-man crew to one, and replacing heavier material with lighter items, thus enabling them to climb higher.

On the night of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917, Jack took off from his base in Lincolnshire ready for the predicted Zeppelin attack. Jack's plane crashed shortly afterwards, killing him instantly. The subsequent Court of Inquiry later heard that his aircraft was in a satisfactory state at the time of the crash and concluded that Jack's death was the result of a night flying accident caused by pilot error.



THE GREAT WAR  
1914 - 1918

Richard North

## Dragonfly

Did a phoenix gift you fire inside that primal,  
Strong watch-crystal that encases your thorax?  
Your ribboned belly is segmented into sparkling  
sapphire jewels

The hidden fire your own!

Not a phoenix to rise from the ashes  
But rather part of a cycle.  
You have no sense of time, living in the moment.  
Only an awareness of the place in the world  
which you inhabit.

Huge iridescent eyes stare  
Holding my gaze of wonderment.  
Self colouring camouflage.  
Two pairs of wings akin to gossamer and voile,  
Transparent doilies at nature's banquet.

A marvel of aerodynamic engineering,  
Up, down, right, left, forwards and reverse.  
Hovering, hair pins, looming and accelerating.  
All with poise and agility - Happy!  
On water, land and sky  
How magnificent you are!

You hover now beside me in my garden,  
I run to get my camera and zoom in.  
Your exquisite, diaphanous wings are worn and  
tattered,  
They exhibit bravery.

A cry springs from my throat,  
And I realise you are ebbing away... ebbing....

I think back a month to your sapphire blue  
now changed to topaz.  
Is it me you remembered?  
Have you come home?  
Oh! my beautiful Jurassic gem,  
The Lalique of insects!

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<p><b>Town Farm</b></p> <p><b>ART SHOW</b></p>	<p>Perfectly timed for that special Christmas gift!</p> <p>Paintings, Illustration Ceramics, Woodcraft, Woodcarving Jewellery, Egyptian quilts Willow weaving, Sculpture</p> <p><a href="http://www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com">www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com</a></p> <p>Mulled wine &amp; homebaked festive treats in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care</p> <p><b>ONE WEEKEND ONLY</b> Friday 24 - Sunday 26 November 10am - 4pm</p> <p>6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Nr Tring, LU7 0TT PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET - NOT IN TOWN FARM</p> <p>Free entry</p>
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## Bainbridge Trophy

Northchurch Parish Council held a Presentation Evening in Northchurch Cricket Club on Friday 6 October. The Councillors and the Clerk, Usha Kilich, decided that the trophy would be awarded this year to the undersigned. It was a complete surprise to me and I am very grateful to the Councillors and to the Clerk as well as to Northchurch Cricket Club and its staff for a very excellent evening which I and (I hope) members of the general public and various Officers from nearby Councils enjoyed.

The trophy was presented to me by the Police Commissioner for Hertfordshire, David Lloyd.

Alan Fantham

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Beautiful Maxi is a large Pomeranian who was born in August 2016. This friendly boy is full of fun, energy and is quite vocal! He will need a very active home with experienced owners who can work with him to channel all that exuberance and help to socialise him with other dogs. His lovely coat will need proper care and maintenance. Maxi needs a home where he will have company for most of the day.

If you can offer Maxi 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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**Berkhamsted Combined Charity  
Christmas Card Sales 2017**

Charity Christmas Cards, Gifts and Stocking fillers will be on sale on the following three Saturday mornings in the Court House, Berkhamsted.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 9.00am - 1.00pm

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## Sunday Services at St Mary's

**5th November** *4th before Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Taize Worship



**Centenary Memorial Service.** A quiet meditation service with chants and silence in memory of those that served, wounded or lost their lives, 100 years ago, in the battle of the Great War on 5 November 1917. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome.

**12th November**  
*Remembrance Sunday*

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



**19th November** *2nd before Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**26th November** *Christ the King*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm 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](mailto:jill.hipson@live.co.uk)

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

Copy date is 15th of each



## News from Herts CC Councillor: Terry Douris

I was privileged to be invited to the presentation of the Bainbridge Trophy to Alan Fantham in recognition of his tireless work for Northchurch. He cares passionately for the village holding me to account but he is rightfully known as 'Mr Northchurch'. He was genuinely surprised on the evening and well done to everyone for keeping it a secret.

As I write this it is the end of the Libraries Week initiative and I set out to visit during the week all 46 libraries that Hertfordshire has and I succeeded by 1.30pm on Saturday 14th. Like all areas of the County Council libraries have had to make savings to contribute to the overall savings required across the county. We have done this by opening at the most popular hours in each library and whilst we have sadly terminated the mobile library service we have replaced this with the home library service providing a delivery service direct to the door for those who cannot get to the library.

One of the key features that I am aware of is the wide variety of types of library ranging from the busiest in St Albans, the innovative like the new library in The Forum in Hemel Hempstead to the very small library like Stevenage Old Town. If you have not visited a library in the recent past you may be surprised at what you find. Many libraries feature special 'Rhyme Time' reading sessions for young children, there is a wide range of other facilities. You can out more at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk) and click on the libraries box.

This is all part of our Inspiring Libraries programme and a new innovation that we have been trialling is Open+ which allows Library users with a special access card to access their library when it would otherwise be closed. At the moment it is only available at Croxley Green Library and only certain libraries will be suitable.

I am delighted that our Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies which is situated at County Hall and open to the public very recently obtained its formal re-accreditation. It contains a fascinating range of historical documents with one dating from 1060 nearly a thousand years old!

Finally, the sad and untimely death of the Leader of Hertfordshire Council Cllr Robert Gordon was a great shock to all of us. Robert was widely respected by everyone who knew him irrespective of political views and he will be greatly missed.

Don't forget you can always contact me on 01442 402273 or by email at [terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

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

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Please visit our website [www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk)