

Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
 Mobile: 07929934367

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter

Dec & Jan Issue



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

Switching on the Radio

In my last job as Chaplain to Southampton Solent University I used to arrange an annual chaplaincy lecture. One year we had Richard Harries, who was Bishop of Oxford at the time and the lecture theatre was full. A number of the people there were not Christian but they had heard him on the radio and in particular BBC 4's Thought for the Day that is broadcast at 7.45am. Someone said to me that although he wasn't religious he enjoyed listening to Richard Harries and he was one of the few religious broadcasters that didn't make him want to pick up his radio and throw it out of the window.

Thought for the Day certainly has its critics. John Humphrys, one of the presenters on the Today Programme describes it as often "deeply boring," and he added: "When you're presenting [Today], how many times have you said to yourself, 'Dear God, we've got to cut a really fascinating programme short because we're now going to hear somebody tell us that Jesus was really nice, and the world could be a better place if we all ...' You know ... Oh God." Defenders of the short slot in the morning make the case that it covers all traditions and faiths. There is a great diversity in its message and by and large it is greatly appreciated. According to the BBC there are no plans to have it removed from the schedule and the point was made that "religion is robust enough to withstand challenges." I imagine that the objection is that why shouldn't an atheist or humanist viewpoint be treated the same as a religious opinion. We live in a society where according to recent surveys over half the population is not religious. Maybe also there is a sense that religion is bound up with telling people what they should be doing and how they should be living.

From a personal perspective I don't see faith as about commandments and rules, but more about invitation and

promises. The Church of England is celebrating Christmas this year under the logo "*God with us: The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings, is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself this Christmas, God is with you - you need only turn to him and ask to know his presence.*" There will be a number of different services taking place at St Mary's and these are advertised in the newsletter. Please do come along and I hope that you will not find them to quote John Humphrys "deeply boring," but rather an invitation to see things from a different perspective. Rather than telling people how to live, it can be in my experience, finding something that at one level you already know. Please do come along and you will be made very welcome.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Christmas Services at St Mary's

December 17th - Advent 3

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

December 24th - Christmas Eve

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Eucharist
 5.00pm Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass

December 25th - Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Eucharist

GEMINI ADVERT

PHYSIOTHERAPY

*Joint aches and pains?
Visit an experienced practitioner
in central Berkhamsted*

To book an assessment call
07834 599 225
or email info@banksphysio.com


**EMILY BANKS
PHYSIOTHERAPY**
Emily Banks MSc MMACP MCSP HPC
Member of the Health Professions Council


**Carmenta
Life**
Banks Physio is based at
Carmenta Life, Berkhamsted
www.banksphysio.com

DE LISLE limited **MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**

.....for **ALL** your vehicle needs

- SERVICING
- MOT REPAIRS • TYRES
- EXHAUSTS
- DIAGNOSTICS
- LOCAL COLLECTION

& DELIVERY SERVICE

01442 872711

**Site 2, Unit 2, Northbridge Road
Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 1EH**

Gentle & Therapeutic **Yoga** Beginners Welcome

Relax Mind & Body

Relaxation, de-stressing and gentle stretching. It's not a strong physical workout and is very suitable for beginners or those who do not want a strenuous class

St John Ambulance Hall, Northchurch
Wed 7.00pm to 8.15pm

The Vyne—Berkhamsted Arts Centre
**Mon 6.45pm to 8.00pm &
8.15pm to 9.30pm**

BAYoga Studio, Berkhamsted High St.
Thurs 11am to 12.30pm

I am a qualified Yoga teacher with the Yoga for Health & Education Trust
Tel: 07775 531502

Email: john@johngrimesyoga.co.uk

www.johngrimesyoga.co.uk

Getting your computer up & running again



ANDY ROBINSON
COMPUTER CONSULTANCY & REPAIRS

T 07885 966570

E andy@arcomputerrepairs.com

W www.arcomputerrepairs.com

36 Trevelyan Way Berkhamsted HP4 1JH

hate cleaning? we love it!

Let us take care of your cleaning chores

- same reliable cleaner each week
- From £14 per hr inc. weekly domestic cleaning
- police checked
- matched to your requirements
- professional local service
- insured
- no hidden costs
- all cleaners fully vetted

MAID OF HERTS
DOMESTIC CLEANING

Typically
From
£14.00
Per hr

**Call Amanda on 01442 540085
today to make an appointment
www.maidofherts.com**

• Carpet • Vinyl • Laminate • Antico • Wood



We can supply and fit new flooring or adapt your existing carpets or tiles.

Call now for a **FREE** quote:

07912 104 815

01442 863 488 / floor2flooruk.co.uk



We are your local Childcare provider meeting all your Children's needs here at Northchurch Cricket Pavilion Since 1995

We are open from
7:30am to 6:00pm
Offering flexible childcare
for babies to 4 years
Funding for 2, 3 & 4 years



Care available before or after your child's School nursery class
Flexible sessions available
Including lunch club

Before and after School club for St Marys & Westfield Children based at Westfield Primary School
Holiday club open to children from all Schools in the local area for children from reception to year 6

Home from Home Kindergarten
01442 862638 / 07786366100
info@homefromhomekinder.co.uk
www.homefromhomekinder.co.uk

HANDYMAN WITH VAN

**LOCAL SEMI-RETIRED
BUILDER**

40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**DECORATING AND
GENERAL REPAIRS**

LAWNS AND HEDGES CUT

GARDENS TIDIED

LIGHT REMOVALS

REFERENCES AVAILABLE

**PLEASE CALL MICK
0775 393 8180**



THE TYRE CHANGERS
07746 903095

**HAVE YOUR NEW TYRES
FITTED AT HOME OR
YOUR PLACE OF WORK.**

Local and convenient low cost tyres fitted at a time and place that suits you.

Budget, mid-range and premium tyres supplied at the best prices.

info@thetyrechangers.co.uk
thetyrechangers.co.uk

God's Family

1) We must read the Bible knowing that we can never, in this life, completely understand God. We may make wrong interpretations, but this will not stop us putting our trust in God that right will prevail.

2) At creation God started a family of people for their good and His companionship. But, the Garden of Eden story tells us that God's plan was subverted - the first humans disobeyed him in their search for independence.

3) Later, God set up his family through Abraham and his descendants, Isaac and Jacob. They were far from perfect, but they did put God first in all their thinking. In due course, God begat his own son, Jesus, who would represent him perfectly, and when fully developed what he said was to be taken as the very voice of God.

4) After experiencing human temptation and sharing human suffering in its extremity, Jesus became God's Word incorporated in a man and leading ultimately to what is called the Kingdom of God.

5) Christian believers are invited to make this Kingdom their firm hope, when God's will is done and all violence, hatred and war is abolished on the basis of Christ's obedience to his father.

6) We still await the Kingdom to come, when Jesus returns to take over the government of mankind. God indicates that it would be a long while before the kingdom would come, but then we were told that a thousand years is but a day to God, so Christian believers carry on waiting for the gift of God - eternal life in that Kingdom, however long it may seem delayed.

Edgar Wille



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

How do you 'grab a tower'?

After all, you can't even get your arms round it!

If you collect stamps, you stick them in an album. Ringers 'grab a tower' by ringing there, in company with other ringers, not just doing a solo! Then they record their visit in a book known as 'Dove'. And that's what about 3 dozen ringers did at the end of October. Each paid for the privilege, and over £600 was raised towards the restoration of bells in Hertfordshire.

23 churches at our end of the county were scheduled to be open for ringing for up to an hour, in sequence, throughout the day. Northchurch was the 4th tower on the list, and our first visitors came from Northamptonshire, particularly wanting to ring at St Mary's. Other ringers came from Yorkshire (in a minibus), Lancashire, Worcester, Canterbury – and Hemel Hempstead! - to ring at as many towers as they could. Such visitors are amongst the most addicted ringers and invariably pretty expert. If you heard them that morning, you would have heard some good ringing. There are around 6,000 towers in the British Isles and two of my ringing friends have rung at nearly all of them – fewer than 10 still to go!

Another kind of addition for ringers is the scoring of quarter peals (50 minutes of ringing non-stop). At Northchurch, there is an average of 13 successful QPs each year. (Just a few 'fall apart' before they reach the end and they don't count.) In the middle of November, you may have heard local ringers making attempts at any of the local towers during our annual Quarter Peal Weekend. Some of the participants attempted their first ever quarter; others added a few to the hundreds they have already rung! I'm a little nearer my first hundred

For the 70th Wedding Anniversary of H.M. the Queen and Prince Philip, the bells were 'fired' during our usual practice on 20th November. At the end of November, St Mary's bells celebrated a 90th birthday. Bill Frew was born before the two 'youngest' bells were installed in the tower; and he still lends his rich bass voice to harmonies in the choir Sunday by Sunday.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

The Monday Club

4th December Entertainment by the Ashley Green Ballet Group.

11th December Christmas Tea in the Parish Rooms

Both events start at 2.00pm.

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



LOGS FOR SALE

astropelogs.co.uk



Seasoned, dry and split logs. Free local delivery.

Bulk Bag £80.00 (approx. 0.6m³)

Truck load £110.00 (approx. 1.1m³)

Sack of logs £9 (approx. 20kg. Min delivery 10 sacks)

Barrowing & stacking service available, please ask for details.

We also provide tree & hedge cutting services, fencing, pressure washing and grass cutting.

Please contact Glenn on 07951 126534

MASTER of ARTS

Friendly and experienced decorator,
both internal and external.

Call Mark Boothroyd on 07825 334114

Or email mark.boothroyd@sky.com to
discuss quotation and availability.

DOUBLE GLAZING DOCTOR

Window and door repairs

GLASS REPLACEMENT

Handles * Hinges * Letterboxes
Locks * Cat flaps * Door adjustment

25 years experience

Contact Rob

07909 443010

Northchurch Servicemen & Servicewomen During the First World War



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

Last month we remembered those who died during two World Wars. However, do we really remember the ones who served and came back? Following the success of their recent book "For Them's Sake – Northchurch Folk Through Two World Wars", which told the

stories of the Northchurch men that died, local historians Richard North and Ray Smith are now looking to produce a follow-up book which will tell the stories of the men and women who served during the First World War and survived. Many of them never spoke in detail of their experiences, and the proposed book will be an attempt to recognise their contribution.

If you have a Northchurch ancestor who served during the First World War, and have any information on them e.g. letters, photographs etc. Richard and Ray would be very interested in hearing from you. They can be contacted at NorthchurchWW1@virginmedia.com.

Do you need help

with all your odd jobs around your home?
I can offer a reliable service

Call Phil Your 50+ Handiman

07802 906 870

Many years experience
Also decorating and phone points etc
at a reasonable rate.

COMPLETE TAXATION

Tax Return Completion Specialists

Need help with your Tax Return,
Small business accounts, rental accounts?

Complete Taxation can help

Fast, efficient service with over 35 years experience

01442 463746 www.completetaxation.co.uk

Can offer fixed fees with no VAT on top

Gunner 294266 Alfred CURL
Royal Garrison Artillery
Died 29th December 1917

Alfred Curl was born in Northchurch in 1892. After leaving school Alfred started work as a carter at East's Timber Yard in Gossoms End but then moved to York where he worked at one of the city's chocolate manufacturers. Alfred married Beatrice Rogers there just before he enlisted with 144th (York) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

The 144th had two sections equipped with a pair of five-ton 60-pdr guns, requiring a team of eight horses or a caterpillar tractor to move each one. It arrived in France in June 1916 in time for the Somme Offensive. The following year 144th supported the troops during the Third Battle of Ypres, frequently coming under artillery and gas shells fired by the Germans.

In October 1917, the battery took part in the Battle of Cambria, the first massed attack on the German lines using tanks with artillery and Royal Flying Corps aircraft in support. The initial attack was a complete success, but it was not followed up, and the momentum was lost. The Germans slowly recaptured much of the ground it has previously lost. With winter closing in, in mid-December the British forces went onto the defensive and faced the constant danger of artillery fire. Around 27th December, Alfred Curl was seriously wounded by shellfire and transferred to 55 Casualty Clearing Station at Tincourt, five miles east of Peronne. He died there of his injuries on 29th December, aged 25. Alfred's body now lies at the Tincourt New British Cemetery.

Private 48065 Frank Francis (ALLAWAY)
5th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment
Killed 31st December 1917

Frank Francis Allaway, was born near Oxford in early 1878. When Frank was very small, the family moved to Hemel Hempstead and later Abbots Langley. In 1900 Frank left home and moved to Maidenhead where he married Annie Shail, and two years later they had a daughter. The 1911 Census records Frank and his family living in Paddington, but the events of the next few years are unclear as Frank subsequently moved to Northchurch living on his own and using the name Frank Francis. Frank found employment as a timber sawyer and gas engine attendant with Henry & James Matthews, a Berkhamsted builder and undertaker in Castle Street. He also became an active member of the Berkhamsted and Northchurch Fire Brigade.

In 1917 Frank was conscripted and posted to 1/5th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. In little more than a

month after his enlistment, Frank crossed to France with a draft of conscripts for 1/5th Battalion. They traversed France by rail to Marseilles, where at the beginning of December 1917, some 2,200 soldiers, including Frank, 150 officers and 160 nursing sisters boarded the *Aragon* en route to various units in Egypt.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

At that time crossing the Mediterranean to Egypt was becoming increasingly dangerous as Austrian and German submarines were inflicting substantial losses, and a convoy system had to be introduced. On 30th December, the *Aragon*, supported by the destroyer HMS *Attack* was approaching the Egyptian coast when a lurking Austrian submarine launched its attack. *Aragon* was hit and began evacuating the troops on board, many being transferred successfully to HMS *Attack*. Suddenly *Attack* exploded, it had been hit by another torpedo from the Austrian submarine.

Frank Francis Allaway, 590 other soldiers, and most of *Aragon's* crew, died. Were it not for the many trawlers that rushed to the scene, this death toll would have been far higher. Of the twenty-five 1/5th Bedfordshire Regiment men who died, only the body of their Quarter Master Sergeant Major was ever recovered for burial.

Private 235328 Harold Alfred SHRIMPTON
20th Battalion, Kings (Liverpool Regiment)
Died 13th January 1918

Harold Shrimpton was born in 1884 at Great Hasely in Oxfordshire. Harold eventually moved to Berkhamsted and started work at the local Co-operative Society as a grocer. Soon afterwards he married Selina Holloway and they settled at 57 Gossoms End. Harold eventually became Manager of the Co-op's Provident Place branch.

In 1916 Harold received his conscription papers and having had his appeal refused he reported to the Army Recruiting Centre at Watford. Following his training he was picked for specialist work as a Lewis machine-gunner.

Harold took part in the Third Battle of Ypres in the wet autumn of 1917, and was still in the area in January 1918 when he was part of a patrol sent out to spy on new German trenches. Harold was subsequently wounded and rushed to a Casualty Clearing Station where he died on 13th January aged 31. Harold's body now lies in the Outtersteene Cemetery, near Bailleul.

DAVID PRICE & CO.

Professional, friendly, local help
at reasonable prices with

Wills Lasting Powers of Attorney Probate & Estates

I have over 28 years' experience, mainly with Central London solicitors, and can assist you with all of the above at a fraction of solicitors' usual fees.

Simple Will £90 - two for £120
Lasting Power of Attorney £90 - two for £150
Probate & Estate work £60 per hour

Home visits at no extra charge
(and everything explained in plain English!)

Please call for a free no-obligation discussion and quote

www.probateandestates.co.uk
david@probateandestates.co.uk

01296 612955



Cats At Christmas

My tortoiseshell Matilda is so perceptive,
Walking softly with a muffled tread
Around the tree she pads.

Slowly on investigation she detects
The fragrance of Norwegian pine,
Brushing herself against its lowest branches.

Then gently lifting her head, enthralled,
She gingerly paws a shiny bauble
And when it drops...
She flicks it!

Who knows where?
Underneath the table or underneath a chair.

Copyright © Kate Gibson 2017



L.L.Heating

Family business over 30 years serving Tring, Berkhamsted, Villages
Gas Central Heating, Boilers, Fires & AGAs,
Servicing, Repairs & Upgrades,
Power Flushing, Landlords Certificates,
Plumbing & Energy Saving Controls

Tel: 01442 890750

service@llheating.co.uk

Rocamora House, Woodrow,
Wigginton, Tring HP23 6HT.
www.llheating.co.uk



Computer Help and Tuition that comes to YOU!



Friendly help to build
your confidence with your
PC, iPhone or iPad, and
support on technical issues

Call Karen on 01442 388537

Email: karen@reeboot.co.uk

Web: www.reeboot.co.uk

REEBOOT



silverleaf
Landscaping

For a friendly, personal
and professional service



Landscaping

Planting
Decking
Driveways
Turfing
Fencing
Paths & Patios
Brick Work
Ground Clearance

Tree Care

Fully Qualified & Insured
Tree Removal/Felling
Tree Shaping
Deadwood Removal
Reduction/Lifting/Thinning
Stump Grinding
Tree House Construction
Fire Wood for Sale



Contact: Rian Murphy

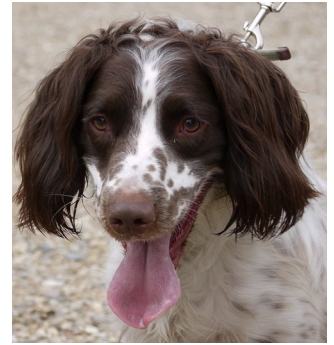
For a free consultation and
quote for your next project

Tel/Fax: 01442 825176
Mobile: 07900 006246

www.silverleaf-landscaping.co.uk



**Appledown Rescue
and Rehoming
Kennels**



Gerry is a Springer Spaniel who was born in 2014. A playful boy who is full of energy and curiosity. Gerry is great with people and other dogs but has a tendency to 'resource guard'. We have been working on this and his new owners will need to carry on with his training. He is not used to being left alone so will need someone around to start with to help him build up time alone. He could live with a female dog pending introductions. Any children in the family would need to be 16 plus.

If you can offer Gerry 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,
Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY. 01525 220383
(Registered Charity Number 1116848)

www.appledownrescue.co.uk

MOTECHE TUNING

**ENHANCE THAT DRIVING EXPERIENCE WITH OUR
LATEST ADVANCED VEHICLE REMAPPING TO BRING
YOU ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE AND MONEY SAVING
FUEL ECONOMY... COUPLED WITH OUR TERRACLEAN
INTERNAL ENGINE CLEANSING SYSTEM FOR EVEN
MORE FUEL ECONOMY!!!**

PLUS!

- LATEST DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT •
- SERVICING OF ALL MAKES •
- RECOVERY • CAR & TRUCK MoT's •
- WELDING AND FABRICATION •
- TYRES • EXHAUSTS •
- PROFESSIONAL WINDOW TINTING •
- AIR CONDITIONING SERVICING •

TERRACLEAN

**MoT's
£35
SPECIAL
OFFER**

MOTECHE

**WOODVIEW FARM
INDUSTRIAL EST
HOG LANE
HP5 3NX**

f follow us MOTECHE

01442 870 500

www.motechcars.co.uk

DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE, FENCING
AND LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR

Greenscapes

Regular Maintenance Garden Tidy-Up & Clearances Hedge & Grass Cutting Turfing
All types of Fencing Sheds Gates Tree Work Pressure Washing

A friendly and reliable local business that will deliver exactly what you want.
We have many happy customers in the local area.

To make an enquiry please call **Darren Porter-Hough** on **07986 708673**

www.greenscapes.org.uk



GREEN GARDENING

PLEASE CALL NICK

M: 077 08 04 02 85

H: 01442 872 577

LAWN MAINTENANCE

ONE OFF OR REGULAR VISITS

GARDEN TIDY UPS (JUNGLES A SPECIALITY)

HEDGE CUTTING

FENCING AND PATIOS

POWER WASHING

NO JOB TOO SMALL

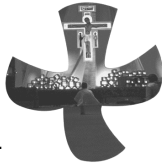
Christmas Services at St Mary's

3rd December *Advent 1*

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

10th December *Advent 2*

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Advent Taize Service
A quiet meditation service with
chants and silence to celebrate Advent.
Tea/coffee and cake to be served
afterwards. All welcome.



17th December *Advent 3*

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

24th December *Christmas Eve*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
5.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th December *Christmas Day*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist

31st December *Christmas 1*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist



St Mary's C of E Christmas Fayre

SAT 9TH DECEMBER 11AM - 2PM

ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL,
NEW ROAD, NORTHCHURCH
ADULT ENTRY £3 (INCLUDES A HOT DRINK OR MINCE PIE)
CHILDREN FREE ENTRY

**Santa's Grotto*, Plant Stall, Toy Tombola,
Snowman Noses, Second-hand Books, Christmas
Stalls, Food, Drinks & Mulled Wine, Guess the
Teddy's Name, Bottle Tombola, Glitter Tattoos,
Yucky Dip, Wheel of Fortune, Jam-Jar Tombola,
Play Your Cards Right, Snowman Lolly Game.**

*prebookings only through St Mary's School Association

The Children's Society Boxes

The Children's Society box count time has come around again. Please could we have your box back asap to get the money in before Christmas. Thank you for your support for this very good cause.

Gareth and Charlotte Pritchard 866141.

Terry Douris's County Councillor article will return in February.

No Newsletter in January—see you in February!

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613. Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson jill.hipson@live.co.uk All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published. Copy date is 15th of each month.

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

E-mail: revjagordon@googlemail.com
Phone 01442 871547 Mobile 0775 2261679

Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar 07929 934367

Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk