



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



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April 2016

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A demanding God?

I once met someone who said that he liked the God of the Church of England as he was fairly undemanding and was there when needed. It got me thinking of the differences between an undemanding and a demanding deity. A God that does not make too many demands on your time is quite useful in that faith can be fitted in around other areas of life and does not make that many inroads into a busy schedule. The problem might be that it seems to put faith into the category of a consumer choice and church life as something that has to fit in around other needs and choices. However, if the question is reversed and the emphasis is on faith in a demanding God then that can have serious problems. We may have demanding bosses and in that type of culture always more is expected, it is difficult to find any peace or harmony and the pace becomes eventually unsustainable. Maybe the truth of the matter is somewhere in the middle.

A few years ago instead of the normal Easter sermon different people from the congregation came up to the front and spoke a little bit about what Easter meant to them. It was very moving as stories were shared of how God had helped them through bereavements or sickness. Others spoke of the sense of peace and new direction that had been found in faith and how it had changed how they live. None of these stories described a God who made impossible demands on them leaving them feeling that they fell short or were a disappointment. Yet, there was also a sense that having faith was the most important thing and made sense of other parts of life. Faith and a

sense of God's place in the everyday opened up a perspective in which personal needs and choices became less important.

The different Gospel stories do share a few commonalities. It is clear that no-one was expecting the events of the first Easter morning to happen. The disciples were in hiding and the women who came to the tomb were expecting to anoint a body. Into the uncertainties and sadness, the finding of an empty tomb and the meeting with the risen Jesus takes everyone by surprise. The most important consequence is the extraordinary sense of wonder and joy that eventually follows from that first Easter morning. Faith is not begrudged or demanded. It is willingly given as the men and women of the early church start to realise that it is not so much what God expects us to do for him, but rather to freely respond with love and thanks in recognition of what God has done for us.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Listen to the bells for:
HM the Queen - 21st April
St George - 23rd April

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Raising the Roof

The construction of the model church is progressing, although with a few hiccups. Now I know why buildings sometimes fall down! Keeping the walls straight and vertical has been a struggle, particularly as the structure warps after the wooden bricks have been stuck in place.

As the model begins to take shape, the interest in sponsoring bricks is increasing, as people see how each brick progresses the building. The openings for the 21 stained glass windows are taking shape, and the carving of the mullion windows will be the most delicate part of the whole construction. The stained glass windows will be photographic transparencies of the real windows, and will be sponsored for £50, £100, and £150 for the different sizes. By mid March the sponsored bricks had raised over £3,000.

The model will be displayed each first Sunday of the month in the church and special yellow envelopes will be available for sponsors' donations. You can also email andrew@gameplaneurope.com if you wish to sponsor bricks, or speak with Andrew Dobbie or Richard North on most Sunday 10am services.

Here is the second photograph of the progress of the construction.

Andrew Dobbie



Raise the Roof Fund – 2017 Calendar

As part of our fundraising towards a new roof for the church we are starting a photograph competition of Northchurch views and events. All submissions in .jpg format should be made to

roof@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk giving your name, address and description of the photograph.

Submissions will cost £1 per photograph and will be collected after receipt of the photograph. Closing date for submissions end September.

Richard North

The Berkhamsted Bluebell Walk 2016

Join the 48th Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 8th May 2016 to raise money for The Children's Society and help change children's stories. In Britain today there are still many children and young people suffering hardship, abuse and neglect. Too often their problems are ignored and their voices unheard. Help us to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people by taking part in the Berkhamsted Walk and raising sponsorship to support the work of The Children's Society.

Now is the time to dig out your walking boots and ask your family, friends and work colleagues for sponsorship, or even to join you on the walk. Come along and walk with us on well marked paths through Ashridge and enjoy the bluebells and beech trees this Spring.

Choose between the following walks

✦ **The Fun Walk** – a 6 mile gentle stroll suitable for all ages, particularly families with younger children, (note the route is not buggy-friendly)

The Bluebell Walk – 12 miles

The Challenge – 18 miles. This route is for fit and

frequent walkers

The 12 and 18 mile walks start from the Court House next to St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted High Street HP4 2AX between 10 and 11.30 am and the 6 mile walk starts at Ashridge College HP4 1NS (free parking) between 11am and 2pm.

Two prizes will again be awarded for the highest amount raised; in the first category by one individual and in the second by a family group or small group of walkers.

To find out more visit www.berkhamstedwalk.com and download sponsor forms or collect one from St Peter's Church, The Complete Outdoors, Berkhamsted Library or phone 01442 864968 to speak to Ann Browning.



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Captain Nigel Hadden, 14th Battery Royal Field Artillery Died 9th April 1916

THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

1912. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he was serving in Ireland and on mobilization transferred to 14th Battery Royal Field Artillery under the command of an Indian Army Division. Immediately sent to France, Hadden's battery saw service during the early battles of the war which prevented the German army reaching the Channel Ports. In 1915 he took part in the bloody battles in northern France during which both sides used poison gas for the first time by.

In October 1915, Hadden's battery together with the Indian forces were transferred to Mesopotamia as part of a relief

Nigel Hadden was born in Kensington in 1893 the son of Charles Frederick Hadden, a senior staff officer in the Royal Artillery. Hadden grew up at the family home of Rossway and later followed his father into the Royal Artillery, receiving a commission in

force to rescue thousands of British troops who were under siege by the Turkish army in the town of Kut al Amara. On 9th April, Hadden was in a dugout looking for potential targets for his battery when the Turkish guns opened fire. He was hit by an explosion whilst rushing back to his guns and although he initially appeared to have suffered minor wounds a piece of shrapnel had passed through his abdomen. He died two hours later. Hadden's body was buried in a marked grave close to where he fell, but it was subsequently lost.



Major Hubert Thelwall, 1st Battalion West India Regiment, attached 15th Battalion Nottingham & Derbyshire Regiment Died 23rd April 1916

Lieutenant Colonel Eubule Daysh Thelwall and his family moved to Berkhamsted in 1883 and started to worship at St Mary's. His younger son, Hubert, a keen tennis player, later joined the Army. Within 18 months however, he had been bought out and emigrated to India to take over the running of his sick elder brother's tea plantation. The outbreak of the Boer War in South Africa in 1899 saw Thelwall joining a volunteer cavalry regiment of tea planters from India called "Lumsden's Horse". Taken ill during the fighting Thelwall returned to the UK and later decided to rejoin the army, gaining a commission with the West India Regiment based in Jamaica.

Thelwall spent the following years in Jamaica and also in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, during a secondment to the West African Frontier Force. He was married in Jamaica in 1910 and had one son. Returning to England in September 1914 Thelwall was promoted to Major and attached to the Nottingham & Derbyshire Regiment becoming second in command of a Bantam Battalion.

the front line near Béthune in northern France. On 23rd April, during a 'very quiet' day, Thelwall was shot and killed by a German sniper. He was buried in the Le Touret Military Cemetery just outside Béthune.



Both officers are commemorated on plaques, yards apart from each other, on the south wall of St Mary's.

Embarking for France in January 1916 the Bantams entered

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The Holy Spirit

Edgar Wille

John's Gospel, chapters 12-17, gives us the conversation that Jesus had with his disciples at what we call 'the last supper'. He said that he and his Father would come to them through the Holy Spirit after he had departed and give them the support that he had previously given them by his own presence.

This holy power from God and Jesus would replace the visible presence of Jesus, and enable them to understand how Jesus was the one who presented God's character in human form and was - in a sense - God's other self. The Holy Spirit would give them the strength which God alone could give to enable them to live a life which reflected God in all they said and did.

This all sounds to our 21st century ears rather remote, yet Jesus is here offering a power which would give real meaning to their (and our) present lives. And there would be a life after this one which would know no ending and be perfect.

The Holy Spirit knocks at the doors of our minds and invites us to this new life, with higher values and aspirations to be part of the regime that Jesus will usher in throughout the earth. Read the New Testament and see how Jesus calls across the centuries to you and me to be his brothers and sisters, to follow his pattern of life. True joy would come, both now and when he comes again to right the wrongs that human beings have created. You may think it is rather 'out of this world' - almost unbelievable - but such a new life can be ours when the 'new creation' dawns.

The theme of the Christian religion is of a fuller, richer life, which surpasses the best of our present experiences. Even now, the Holy Spirit brings the power of God into these best experiences; and what we receive now will be multiplied a hundredfold when the earth shall be full of the glory of God and no longer the scene of the daily grind and endless worries. The human race will be transformed.

The Monday Club

April 4th: Discussion of the new programme.

April 18th: A display of Scottish Country Dancing.

2pm Parish Rooms.

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

Northchurch WI

We meet, at 7.30pm on the
second Monday of every month,
except August, at Northchurch
Social Centre in Bell Lane.

The next meeting is on Monday
April 11th 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Robert
Breakwell from the Chiltern M.S.
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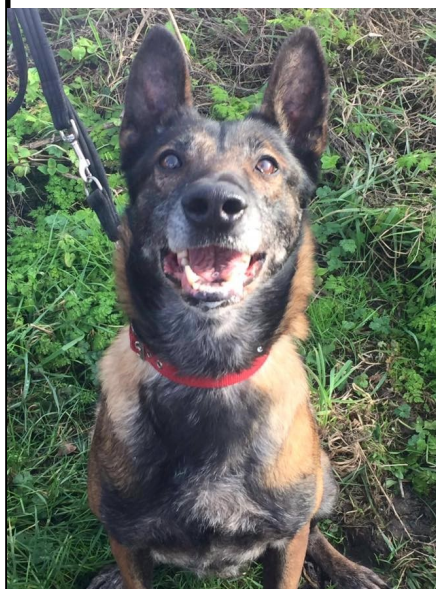
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Sunday 8th May

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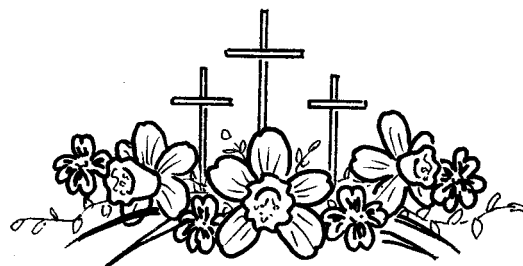


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Sunday Services at St Mary's



3rd April

Second Sunday after Easter

There will not be a 8.00am service.

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evening Prayer

10th April

Third Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Compline

17th April

Fourth Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)

6.00pm Evening Meditation

24th April

Fifth Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Healing Service

St Mary's Church Summer Fete 2016

Our church fete will be held on Saturday 2nd July this year and will run from 12.30pm until 4.00pm.

This is a wonderful event for all the family and has been held at St Mary's Church for over 100 years.

What makes this event so special is the community spirit experienced on the day itself and the way people pull together to create a fabulous afternoon out.

The success of the fete also relies heavily on the generosity of local people and businesses.

The fete committee are already in the throes of planning the fete and would be very grateful for donations of the following:

Bottles, Books, Puzzles

Good quality children's toys
Items for the White Elephant stall.

Many thanks for all your support.
Kind regards,

The Church Fete Committee

Dacorum foodbank

Priority needs for April

**Tinned meat * tinned puddings * instant mash
long life fruit juice (UHT)**

Please—no more tins of baked beans. The foodbank is really grateful for the support, but they have too many tins of beans!

Collection points: Waitrose, Way Inn & St Mary's Church

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor Mrs Jill Hipson
cjhipson@btopenworld.com **Next issue: May 2016.**

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published. Copy date is 15th of each month

Parish Registers: March 2016

Funerals:

1st March	Brian Payne
8th March	Maisie Hawkins
10th March	Raymond Stead
14th March	Gwyneth Else
22nd March	Sylvia Angell

**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**

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