



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



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June 2021

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Relationships are so important to us all. We were never meant to be isolated. It's in our nature to be together as a community and take care of each other.

Over the past year or so we have missed our families who live out of reach to just pop in, say hello, have a coffee and a chat together. I don't know about your experience, but I have found technology a God send over this time.

Just after WW2, my Aunt married an American soldier who was stationed at Long Marston airfield. She sailed out to America on a Filipino boat with many other women and children of American soldiers. She was very fortunate that Uncle Jim's family welcomed her with open arms and their marriage lasted a lifetime. Many others were not so fortunate, they had no one to meet them, they had nowhere to go and were left homeless and abandoned.



My Grandma and Grandad never saw her again before they died. The only contact they had was frequently written airmail letters and the odd photo of the new grandchildren as they arrived. It wasn't immediate obvious to me that whilst my aunt and uncle were having their babies, my Mum and Dad were having all of us. Each had a family of four children. I think that

we were doubly fortunate to have our grandparents living in the village with us because we saw them every day.

Looking back and remembering those stories and memories, I think they were worse off than we are today. Many times, I thought about how my grandparents must have felt about their daughter going off in that boat and wondering if she would ever get there! Today, we can be thankful for video calling and email and instant communication.

Forty-seven years later, my Mum and Dad went out to America for the first time and the tears were overwhelming. My Dad was hugging his little sister who he said goodbye to when she was just twenty-six, now an elderly lady. They were so happy to see each other and catch up, they had such a great celebration.

Today, I'm sure, we will have an equally great celebration when we are able to catch up with our families all over the world, as well as this country. What a great celebration that will be.

Communication between each other is a very important thing we can keep doing. That relationship with husband and wife, brother and sister, friends and young people is the one thing that gives us a sense of being together.

Prayer is also a communication with God, it's the only way we can speak to Him and He can speak to us. It's true that He will speak in visions and through others, but most importantly, He will speak through His word, the Bible. It's a wonderful book full of love, history, poetry and events of Jesus' life. It's our guidebook though life and will deal with many situations that we will encounter in our lives. A relationship with God is the best relationship you will ever have.

Peggy Sear

Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk

Who Would Live in a House Like This?

The Limes – Part 1

Hidden behind trees on the right hand side of the A4251, as you travel from Gossoms End towards Northchurch, stands the building now known as Edgeworth House. Dating from the 16th Century, the building still retains an original timber framework but was remodelled in the 18th Century when new brickwork was added, including a chimney stack dated 1767. Further work was done on the house in the 19th Century with the addition of a new east wing.

Originally called The Limes, house's name was changed to Edgeworth House in 1911 after the early female Anglo-Irish novelist, Maria Edgeworth. Born in Oxfordshire in 1768, Maria Edgeworth was the second daughter of Richard Lovell Edgeworth, a local landowner, and his first wife, Anna. Following the death of his wife in 1772, Richard Edgeworth moved his family to Ireland, where he also owned an estate in County Longford, which later became known as

Edgeworthstown. He remarried the following year and in 1775, 7-year-old Maria was sent to back to England to study at a school, initially in Derby and later in London. Her school holidays were spent in Northchurch staying with her maternal aunts who lived at The Limes. Meanwhile, in 1780 back in Ireland, her father's second wife died and he subsequently married his sister-in-law.

Maria returned to Ireland in 1782, aged 14, having completed her schooling, to help bring up her increasing number of step-siblings. Later she started writing, her first non-fiction book, *Letters for Literary Ladies*, being published in 1795. In 1798, Richard Edgeworth married for a third time, his new wife, Frances, being a year younger than Maria. In the early 1800s the family travelled widely in England and Europe during the quiet periods between the Napoleonic Wars, and met many of the notable families of the time. Later in her literary career Maria turned to writing novels and became friends with a number of fellow authors including Jane Austen, Sir Walter Scott and Mrs Gaskell.

After her father's death in 1817, by which time he had been married four times and fathered a total of 22 children, Maria edited his memoirs. She took over the running of the Edgeworthstown estate and became a major benefactor to the local people and encouraged social reform. During the time of the Irish Potato Famine (1845 – 1849) she raised funds by writing a novel and encouraged significant donations of money from abroad. She died in 1849, aged 81, following a heart attack. After her death Maria's novels fell out of favour and today her novels are hardly remembered, except in academic circles.

To be continued ...

Richard North



Alexander Del

Link of Penetration

MARIA EDGEWORTH

Walks in the Woods and Prayer

For the past 24 years, I've been walking my dogs in the woods and open lands of Northchurch Common. Sometimes we go to Ashridge too, or Wendover Woods. I wasn't allowed to have a dog when I was a child because my parents thought it would be too much bother, and "you have to take them for walks", as if it was a dreaded chore to be avoided at all costs. All these years on, I can say with confidence that walking the dog is one of the best things about having a dog. You have to be out in all weathers, all the year round, at different times of the day. I wouldn't say I'm much of an early morning dog walker, except in very hot weather, but I do enjoy the starry night time walks in winter, and seeing the sun set at midsummer.



Being outside every day throughout the year means that I see the seasons unfolding and how the weather affects everything in different years. This year, many flowers are a whole month later than last year. The good thing is that spring has been more drawn-out. Tulips have lasted several weeks rather than being over by the end of April, as they were last year with the warm dry spring.

I have always found it easier to pray in the woods

when I am walking with my dog. Prayer isn't something that necessarily happens when one is in church or even on one's knees. Over the centuries, people have found nature soothing and felt a closer connection with God out of doors. In the last, very strange, year, many people have discovered their local countryside and open spaces. Hopefully this will stay with them as one of the positive experiences to come out of the pandemic.

A few weeks ago I was delighted and inspired to find that a deaf performer called Vilma Jackson had produced a short interpretation in BSL of the 18th century composer Beethoven's feelings about his deafness and the comfort he took from walking in woodlands. She worked with a string orchestra called the United Strings of Europe and the video is a visual feast. I can't comment on the aural side but if you want to watch, this is the link, and the whole piece has subtitles:

[send back the echo - I CARE IF YOU LISTEN.TV](#)

Beethoven felt that there was something holy about untamed nature as he walked over rocks and under trees, and through woodland. He had felt compelled to live in isolation as his deafness got worse. But out in the countryside, it didn't matter. He didn't have to worry about missing what people said to him or about concealing his deafness. As he said, 'Nature is a glorious school for the heart'.

Jill Hipson



PARISH PANTRY @ St Mary's



Food needs for June

**The following items are in short supply as we meet the needs of our community through June.
Can you help, please?**

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Bleach
Surface Cleaner
Antibacterial cleaner/wipes
Washing up liquid
Disinfectant
Toilet Rolls—4-packs
Soap powder/pods
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

FOOD

Baby food/nappies
UHT Milk
Cereals
Tinned meats/pies
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Tinned/packet soup
Stock pots/cubes
Tinned Rice Pudding
Coffee/Tea
Pasta sauces

The donation box can be found on the table just inside the side door of the church.

The Coronavirus has changed our country and our church in ways we could have never anticipated.

**The Church of England, being present in every community, is well placed to lead and co-ordinate efforts to help those who find themselves in need.
2021 will be a time of adaptation and innovation for the church and we all need to be part of it.**

**“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat”
Matthew 25:35 NIV**



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Appledown Rescue Kennels – A little love story



Sometimes we hear of a case so compelling that we have no choice but to step in. Florence Nightingale, a poodle cross pup, was found as a frightened stray with a severe leg injury. She was taken to her local dog pound, who were sadly unable to afford the amputation and aftercare necessary to save her life. Hearing of Florence's plight we knew we had to help. Thanks to our wonderful supporters, we were able to pay for her surgery and are delighted to report that she is recovering well – just a little camera shy! We will continue to give Florence all the love and care she needs until she is completely healed and ready for adoption when she will be matched with someone on our list.

We can only help dogs like Florence due to the generosity of our friends and supporters. It's easy to make a one-off donation of £3 simply by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option and search for Appledown Rescue. Donations by cheque are very welcome too!

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01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

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Hello from **everyone at St Mary's Northchurch** and **we do hope that everyone is safe and well.** Please do remember that we are here to help and support our community. If you or anyone you know is experiencing difficulties during this time, please do get in touch. St Mary's Church runs one of the Northchurch Community Pantry venues and is open daily for donations or if you need help.

- ✂ Our Sunday morning service is at 10am every Sunday morning.
- ✂ Every evening at 10pm, we have a short Night Prayer (Compline) service on Facebook.

Look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarynorthchurch> for these services and for more information.

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Contacts for the Newsletter: Currently we are only able to publish online.

Editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson Jill.hipson@live.co.uk.
Copy date is 25th of each month.



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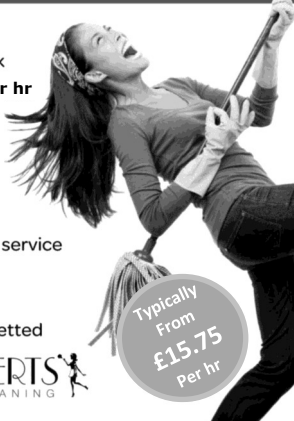
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No words to pray



A candle prayer

God,
Wherever you are,
I have no words to pray.
I am in the darkness,
Aching,
Lost,
In pain.

As I light my candle,
I reach out to you,
For my family and friends,
For the world around me,
For myself.
Give me strength
To face another day.
Shine your light into my
dark places
And help me to know
I am not alone.

Amen

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