

# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:  
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## April 2019



Church enquiries to:  
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01442 871547  
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## *Foolishness and Faith*

There has always been in the Christian message a recognition of a little absurdity. When St Paul took the Christian message into the wider world, he wrote to the small church at Corinth that for many the message of "Christ crucified," will be seen as either a stumbling block to faith or simply just foolishness. This level of scepticism has also evident in the accounts of the story of the first Easter. We are told that some of the disciples had doubts, others dismissed the reports of the women who had been to the tomb, as simply idle tales. The reports of the empty tomb have been explained as the body of Jesus having already been removed, possibly by his disciples, and his appearances have been written off by sceptics as hallucinations. Yet, in the Gospels there is the underlying conviction that the appearances of Jesus were genuine and it was the resurrection that created the Church and its faith, not the Church that created the resurrection.

My favourite Easter story is the story of the road to Emmaus. On Easter Monday there is a pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral and people walk from all over the diocese to have a picnic outside the Cathedral, before going in for a service. It always feels like the right way to celebrate Easter as in walking you can have time to talk with your companions and also enjoy the hospitality of a few churches along the way. In the Emmaus story there are two disciples who are walking from Jerusalem trying to make sense of reports that the body of Jesus was not in his tomb. As they talk, they are joined by a stranger who interprets the Scriptures for them. As he is about to leave, they ask him in for a meal and then at the breaking of bread they recognise that it is Jesus. In their astonishment they remark "did not our hearts burn within us," while he was talking to them along the road.

I think that the story is seeking to show that once faith had been awakened in the followers of Jesus, they saw the world from a different perspective. The New Testament is shaped by the conviction that with God nothing is impossible. There is a description of Christianity that I have always liked that at its centre, it is "the story of love's mending of wounded hearts." The Easter story is in many ways a clash of opposites: violence is met with nonviolence, hatred is met with forgiveness, death is met with life and grief is met with healing and hope. There is an absurdity in this as it is not the way, we are told that the world works. Yet the mystery of the Easter story cuts through what we take for granted and offers something new.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

### **Easter Egg Hunt on Northchurch Common**

Easter Saturday (April 20th)

We will meet at the Parish Room at 10.00am

#### **Easter Services:**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| April 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>10.00am All Age Worship                          |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>7.30pm Holy Communion                        |
| April 19 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Good Friday</b><br>2.00pm Service of Reflection                     |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Easter Day</b><br>10.00am Parish Eucharist<br>6.00pm Evening Prayer |

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## This month in April 1890

Anyone following the *Everything Berko2* Facebook page on a regular basis will often see posts regarding badly parked vehicles in the area, often blocking roads, pavements, or bays in Waitrose carpark. This is not a new phenomenon. On one evening in April 1890, pedestrians were forced to walk into the road at the Old Grey Mare public house in Northchurch to get past a badly 'parked' horse and cart, which was there for some two hours. It was so badly parked that the horse was able to turn the cart around and put its head through the front door of the pub, blocking most of the narrow road with the cart.

Needless to say, the unattended cart was reported to the local policeman, there being no equivalent of Facebook at the time. When the driver of the cart eventually came out of the Old Grey Mare, the police constable, who had been waiting outside, asked him who he was. The driver, no doubt the worse for wear, having been drinking for several hours in the pub, did not take kindly to being asked his name and verbally abused the policeman, which not surprisingly resulted in him being charged to appear before the local magistrate.

On the day of the hearing, the driver, who came from Wigginton, did not turn up and sent his brother in his place, pleading poverty in case a heavy fine was imposed. The magistrate was informed that the driver had several previous convictions for similar offences and as a result he was fined £1 including costs in his absence, about three-days' pay and equivalent to some £82 today. In case you were wondering what the name of the absent driver from Wigginton was, it was a William Eggleton.

Richard North

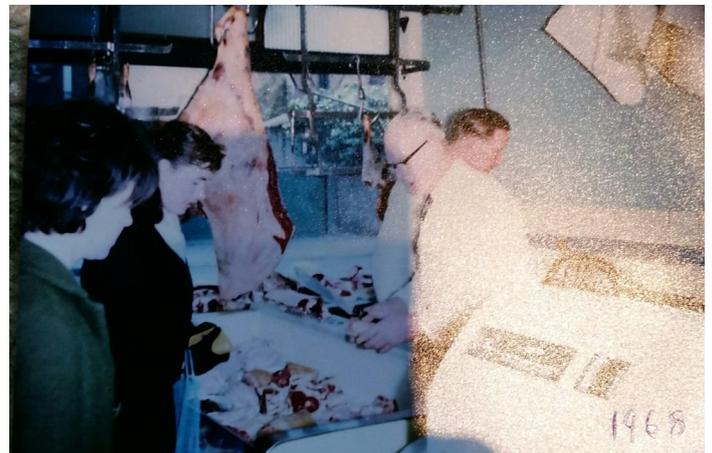


The Old Grey Mare, Northchurch, 1905

## Thoughts and Words after a Coffee at "The Butcher's"!!

When our village had a Butcher's, I remember it so well,  
 Now, of shopping there for my Grandmother (c 1939) I will tell.  
 "Six pennorth of pieces" to ask for I was told  
 'Scarce knew what it meant, but I did so, in those days of old!  
 A bit of beef, Pork, Mutton, odd ends of fat.  
 Granny cooked it all up, a good meal was that.  
 I am reasonably sure Len Cook priced his Butchery wares  
 So that a-penny-or-two off this, was added  
 (to those who could comfortably pay),  
 "Who cares?"

Hedgehog



### The Butcher's is now Café Bon Soiree after a recent refit

The café has a friendly feel to it, now seating 26 people.  
 We offer a wide range of food from our breakfast and lunch menus. Still offering great cakes and pastries.  
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[ie.bradley@talktalk.net](mailto:ie.bradley@talktalk.net) for details.

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## Old Ladies Club

### Patchwork of Life.....

Nothing makes me happier than sitting at my sewing machine working out the best way to make a new project. There are always challenging moments when 'things' don't always go to plan and unpicking is very necessary! But when the plan works, and it's finished – Oh what joy!

Recently I finished a project that took three years. It didn't take me three years to make it, it only took a couple of weeks altogether, but it took all that time to stop worrying about how to start and get it right. This chair I recovered, belonged to my Aunt, I wanted to keep it in the family even though it was in a bad state of repair. It isn't that it's worth a lot of money, it's a Parker Knoll made in the 1950's – a wooden chair with cushions. My Aunt never had any children, so this chair had been looked after very well, but the cushions were disintegrating to the point that powder and dust came out every time it was moved or anyone tried to sit in it. The back of the chair has a beautiful curve and obviously in its day the cushion was a very plump, buttoned chair back with straps that kept the cushion in its place by wrapping around the top bar of the chair back. The seat was very different, that was easy to replace, as it was a foam pad.

I asked a lot of questions with folk who have worked on such projects, but I was nervous to start something I didn't think I could finish. I wanted to make something that was

perfect and represented the old original one. An elderly cousin showed me the way to start. She showed me how to build up the cushion I needed to make, she showed me how to develop the pattern and I managed to venture on.

At this point I wasn't only learning a new skill, but I found out something I never known before. This cousin of mine was an upholsterer in her early years of work. We spent time talking about her life as well as working out this chair pattern and cushion.

Trying something different can be rewarding, inspiring and great are the possibilities to open a new door, who knows what will be on the other side. You'll never know unless you open the door! Try something new this Lenten time...

Peggy Sear

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This handsome guy is Buddy! He is a confident, affectionate Staffy who was born in 2013. This bright boy can be quite strong on the lead, so he would benefit from and enjoy some training. Buddy could probably live with a female dog pending introductions, other pets unknown. He cannot live in Luton.

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## Easter Services at St Mary's



**7<sup>th</sup> April** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

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

**14<sup>th</sup> April** *Palm Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am All-Age Worship

**18<sup>th</sup> April** *Maundy Thursday*

7.30pm Holy Communion

**19<sup>th</sup> April** *Good Friday*

2.00pm Service of Reflection

**21<sup>st</sup> April** *Easter Day*

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

**28<sup>th</sup> April** *Easter 2*

10.00am Parish Eucharist

### Northchurch Women's Institute

Come to our new afternoon meetings held on the second Monday of each month (except August) at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch at 2:30PM (Ample Parking Available).

Northchurch WI will be 100 years old next year. We have a variety of speakers lined up with great subjects to suit all tastes.

We aim to have extra activities during the year including visits to places of interest, walks. An annual trip is organised in August. We aim to visit a music hall in London in December this year, and aim to achieve as many activities as we can according to members' interests. For more details please contact Marilyn Hill on 07843 125592.

# SAVE THE DATE

### St Mary's Church Fete: Saturday 6th July

Arrangements for our summer fete are well underway. All the old favourites will be there including the BBQ, Pimms and beer stalls, various raffles and tombolas (for adults and children), plants, bottles, books, gifts and toiletries, cakes and teas, Nearly New and lots, lots more! We are hoping there will be enough water in the river to run the duck race, and on the school field we will have games, Soak the Rector, a golf game, the coconut shy and welly throwing.

Children will be catered for in the rectory garden with face painting, a craft tent, bouncy castle, toy tombola, pets' corner and ice creams.

There will be lots of entertainment from the Hemel Hempstead Band, St Mary's School and others. Back by popular request will be the Tug of War competition on the school field, so start organising your team of 6-8 members now and get training!

The fair will run from 12.30pm to 4pm and this year will raise money for **GO MAD (make a difference)**, **Claire Hodgson's new charity for the Dominican Republic**, **the Refugee Charity** and **our own St Mary's Roof Fund**. Please make a note of the date in your diaries now and encourage your family and friends to come along for a great family day out.

If you can spare some time on the day or the day before, please consider helping either in the setting up of the fete or manning a stall. We look forward to hearing from you via [revjagordon@gmail.com](mailto:revjagordon@gmail.com)

or [margit@gameplaneurope.com](mailto:margit@gameplaneurope.com).

### Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613.

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