



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367

December 2020

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



St Mary's Church Charity Christmas Cards

There are a few St Mary's church charity Christmas cards left which are being sold off at £5 for a pack of ten cards and envelopes.

Please contact Andrew Dobbie
andrew@gameplaneurope.com

or 0777 556 0363

and he will deliver in Berkhamsted / Northchurch.

The entire proceeds will go to the organ maintenance fund .

Christmas Greetings from St Mary's Church Northchurch

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, and on Facebook afterwards.
- ✂ Every evening at 10pm, we have a short Night Prayer (Compline) service on Facebook.
- ✂ Both services are subtitled. Both will be available to watch afterwards.

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

CAP Money Course

Local residents are being given yet another chance to get control of their finances with CAP Money offering to run another popular free course in the first half of 2020 if there is sufficient demand for it.

The courses are run to empower people to fight poverty *before* it hits. Locally all of the churches in Berkhamsted support the work that we do in running the courses and we also work very closely with the CAP Debt Centre based at Liberty Tea Rooms in Hemel Hempstead.

The CAP Money course is run over three sessions and is aimed at helping the local community to best handle their finances. Its aim is to debt-proof people's finances, giving people tools to

ensure that they get their bills paid as a priority, save for the future and know what their disposable income actually is.

Courses are useful for newly retired people, soon-to-be students, mums dealing with mounting bills, families saving for a wedding and everyone in between. The CAP Money course isn't just for people with debts. It's for everyone. Learning how to set a budget and stick to it helps to debt-proof people in the long term.

If you are interested in attending the course or would like to know more then telephone Mike Wallis on 07891 760244 or email him on michaelawallis@yahoo.co.uk.

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.



Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk

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A Ministry of Pinetown Methodist Church

"PHAKAMISA" is pronounced "PA-GA-MEE-SA" and means "TO LIFT UP, TO MAKE GROW"

NEWS FROM THE PHAKAMISA UK TRUST

Dear Friends,

The UK Trust held a meeting last week via Zoom and we were able to invite Zethu, the Phakamisa administrator, to join in and tell us about the current situation in Pinetown.

If we had been a little subdued, the mood of the meeting was suddenly lifted by the enthusiasm and energy of Zethu as she spoke of the arrangements they had in place to keep all safe and yet be able to restart the work.

The students have been allocated certain days when they can collect work and then return it, having studied at home. It is important that they are able to do this, as they should be graduating at the end of the year.

She then told us of the remarkable day when the Gogos tried to storm the building. They needed to see that Thokozani was not in her office, clinging to the hope that somebody had got the story wrong. Eventually they were encouraged to go home, and stay there, as it was not safe for them to be travelling in overcrowded mini buses into Pinetown. The Monitors are trying to visit the care giver groups to support them in their vital work with the young.

The Wandering Schools are not yet open, but the teachers have collected materials and used them with a few of the children to make the Christmas Cards for us. Watch out for yours later on in December!

Covid 19 has left its mark on Phakamisa, and round the world, but it has strengthened the will and determination of the staff to continue, whatever the difficulties, with the work.

Bob Mawer (Chair of Trust) thanked Zethu for all she is doing and spoke a blessing over her as she left the meeting.

We thank you for your continued support. In due course we will let you know when Thokozani's successor is appointed. Meanwhile, please continue to pray for all involved in Phakamisa, both here and in South Africa.

Together we are making a difference.

[Christine Foulds on behalf of the Phakamisa UK Trust.](#)

Two new memorial benches in Northchurch



Two new benches are now to be seen in Northchurch. One is alongside the main entrance to St Mary's Church and the other is located in New Road cemetery.

The benches are a memorial to local residents Maureen Batchelor who died earlier this year at the age of 93 years and her husband Lionel who passed away in 1992.

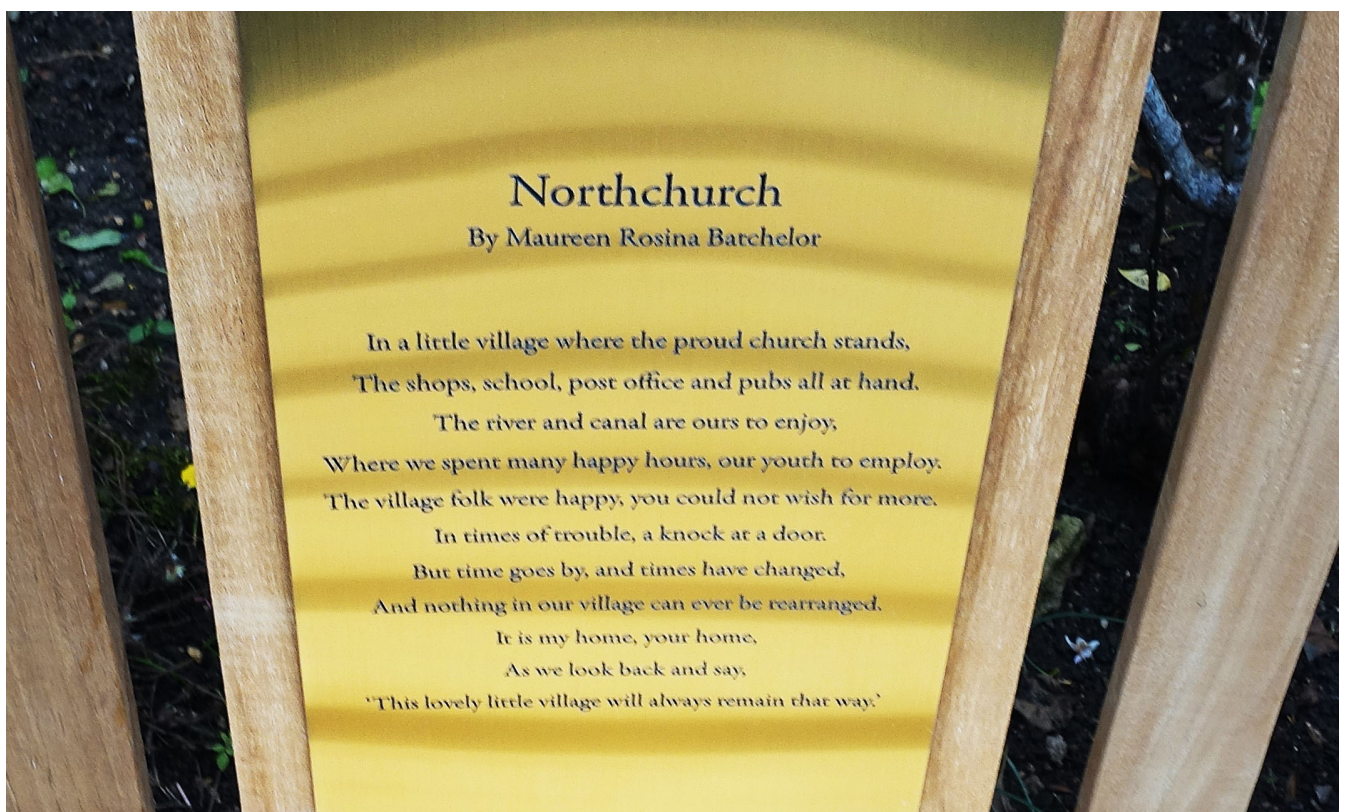
Maureen's family commissioned the new seats and her five children are pictured next to the churchyard bench from left: Kim Maydom, Peter Batchelor, Barry Batchelor, Rosina Sear and Paul Batchelor. Her family feel that she would wish to urge visitors to the church and cemetery to "rest a while". This thought is echoed by her family.

Maureen lived all of her life locally in Northchurch and Berkhamsted and she loved the area. Born in River Terrace, New Road, Northchurch she moved to Granville Road and then to Berkhamsted living in Ridgeway and finally for the last three years at Kilfillan House Care Home in Graemes Dyke Road.

She was baptised and married at St Mary's Church in Northchurch, three of her children and two of her grandchildren also had their weddings in the parish church.

Maureen was known by many, loved by all, and an active member of Berkhamsted Happy Wanderers Club. She would often visited Berkhamsted Bowls Club to watch family members play and also to participate in various functions held at the club. In her earlier life she enjoyed membership of a local flower arranging group, distributing the parish magazine and loved running a tombola stall at the August Bank Holiday Fete held in Berkhamsted Castle Grounds raising funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

During her life Maureen wrote poetry, some of her work was published and one of her poems titled "Northchurch" is engraved on a brass plaque on each of the two benches.





The Parish Pantry

St Mary's Church runs one of the Northchurch Community Pantry venues
and is open daily for donations
or if you need help.

Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month

This stunning girl is Jessika, a crossbreed aged about 3 years. She is a strong, big but very lovely lass who needs a household used to larger dogs. She would probably live with a male dog, pending introductions, but not cats. Jessika needs plenty of exercise but special care must be taken around livestock as she has chased sheep. She can be left for a few hours once settled. A super girl with lots of potential in the right hands. She cannot live in Leighton Buzzard.

If you are interested in offering a rescue dog a loving home, please download an application form from our website where you will find information on the rehoming process. Our experienced staff make every effort to match the right dog with the right owner. **Viewings are now by appointment only.**

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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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