



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367

March 2016

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

Waiting Times

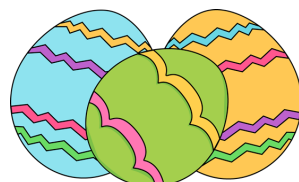
If you are an impatient person then waiting can be very hard. Connie (Youth and Families Worker) gave a talk in church recently describing the Marshmallow Challenge. A child, on the film we watched, was given a marshmallow but told if he could not eat it but wait for a few minutes in the room on his own he would be given a second one. We watched as he was left on his own and then struggled with the temptation to take a bite. However, he stayed strong and was duly rewarded with the second marshmallow. The theme explored how we can want things immediately, although waiting can bring its rewards.

My old boss in the first church I was based once said that God can punish people by giving them what they want. He was a good person to work with and always challenged me with his observations. I think that he meant that we have a tendency to see things in the short term, but God can see the bigger picture. The challenge is to live with the uncertainty as you wait. I read an article recently that said that from the time that the Hebrews went into slavery in the Old Testament, to the day that God delivered them was four hundred years. The book of Exodus begins with the arrival of Moses who is called by God to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh. There is no explanation of why it has taken so long for this moment to arrive. Rather, there is a sense that the right time had come. An Old Testament scholar, Stanley Hauerwas, says that Israel's faith was a long training in learning to live not being in control. They may have wanted things to happen and rushed things or moved too quickly, but they had to learn the

patience of learning to wait for God's sense of timing. At the beginning of the year I made a resolution to focus more on prayer in the life of the church. Part of that discipline is to focus on one of the easily neglected gifts of the Holy Spirit called patience. The Bible has many stories that show that you can't push God as though God is predictable or on demand. Sometimes you have to wait and seek to sense the long term perspective. The article that I was reading summed it up by saying that in the waiting we can recognise that "God sometimes takes God's own good time to show up, to reach out, to move and to save."

Rev Jonathan Gordon

On Easter Saturday, March 26th, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Northchurch Common. Please meet at the Parish Room at 10.00am. We will walk to the Common (parking at top of New Road by S bend if easier) and then hunt for the eggs in the copse. Please contact Rev Jonathan on 07752 261679 for more details .



Taizé Service

Sunday 20th March at 6.00 pm

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence to celebrate Palm Sunday. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome

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Raising the Roof

To contribute towards raising £60,000 to replace the lead roof at St Mary's, a scale model of the church

is being built out of approximately 3,500 little wooden bricks. Each brick costs £3 to sponsor and every one will be numbered, and the sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship. Later on there will also be special opportunities to sponsor stained glass windows, clocks and the weather vane, so keep watching this space if you are looking for a special

present for a birthday or anniversary.

The model in construction 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.

During the construction, monthly progress photographs will be published. This is the first photograph of the foundations.

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



This Month in

John Hobart Seymour was appointed by the King to be the Rector of Northchurch; he was to remain as the Rector for the following 50 years! Born in 1800, the son of Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, John Seymour entered the ministry in 1823 and later became Chaplain to King George IV and Queen Victoria. In 1833 he married Elizabeth Culme, later changing the family name to Culme-Seymour. Sadly, his wife died in 1841 leaving three children. He remarried in 1844, his new wife, Maria Louisa, producing a further four children.

During his time as Rector, John Culme-Seymour served under six bishops and saw St Mary's transferred between three dioceses – Lincoln, Rochester, and finally St Albans. One of John Culme-Seymour's lasting memorials in the area is the former Chapel of Ease at Broadway, better known today as St John's, Bourne End, the Parish



St John's Broadway—now Bourne End.

1830

of Northchurch at this time being split into two sections either side of Berkhamsted. To meet the need of the people living in Bourne End, John Culme-Seymour organised, and largely paid for, the building of the new chapel. Designed by the famous architect Sir Gilbert Scott, who later designed the Albert Memorial and St Pancras Station Hotel in London, the chapel opened in 1855.

As well as holding the post of Rector of Northchurch, John Culme-Seymour was also a Canon of Gloucester Cathedral and it was in Gloucester that he was spend his final years. He died there in September 1880 and his body was brought back to Hertfordshire for burial in the small churchyard adjacent to his chapel at Broadway.

Richard North

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The Book of Life

Edgar Wille

There are a number of places in the Bible which speak of God keeping in heaven a book, or record, of the names of the people who, based on their faith in God and Jesus, will be part of God's kingdom. God doesn't really need a book to remember the people who will be 'saved'. It is a pictorial, metaphorical, or poetic way of describing the destiny of those who trust in God and Jesus. They will receive everlasting life and joy in continuous fellowship with God.

Some of these references are:-

Revelation chapter 3, verse 5 speaks of God writing such people in the roll of the living;

Revelation chapter 17 speaks of certain people who will not be written in the book of life;

Hebrews chapter 12, verse 23 speaks of the faithful people being enrolled in heaven.

Back in the Old Testament, in Ezekial chapter 36, and in Jeremiah chapter 31, the prophets speak of God writing his law on people's hearts.

These people who are 'written in the book of life' are those who have given their life to the service of God

and of their fellows, or 'neighbours'. These are those whose direction of life concentrates on taking the will of Jesus and of God to be the guiding light of their lives.

This figure of God keeping a record does not mean that people earn eternal life: it is the gift of God, and is often called 'grace'. Grace is associated with the forgiveness of sins that we still commit in spite of the new direction of our lives.

My favourite verse on this book of life idea is right at the end of the Old Testament: 'Those who feared the Lord talked together and the Lord paid heed and listened. A record was written before him of those who feared him and had respect for his name. They will be mine, says the Lord of Hosts, and I shall spare them as a man spares the son who serves him.' (Malachi chapter 3, verse 16-17) This hope of final acceptance of believers by God is the message of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

(The Bible references in this article use various translations of the Bible into English, especially the Revised English Bible.)

Fire! But no need to call the Fire Brigade!

The bellringers were taking a short break during their practice night. An innocent question was asked: "Do the bells ever sound all together?" The short answer is: "Yes." And it's called 'firing'. When you hear it, you'll understand why: it sounds rather like the cannon which fire royal salutes in Hyde Park.

Firing used to be the custom in many places at weddings, and in some towers at New Year. I rang in my first firing at Tring, probably in (just!) 2003, and I've been told Hemel Hempstead 'fire' the bells at New Year. I rang at Easthampstead for a ringer's wedding – and we 'fired' on that occasion. I am not aware of firing being a custom at Northchurch – though we are starting a new one!

It's a tricky exercise for the ringers to get right. Getting it wrong sounds positively awful. Done well, it sounds really impressive. I've added it to our Monday practice nights because ringing a 'whole pull and stand' is very good practice for any ringer, whatever their level of experience. Starting from rest, a 'whole pull' translates into two bongs – and the 'stand' is

simply going back to rest. What you should hear is two cannon shots without a single bell standing out from all the others. There will be a maximum of three pairs of 'shots', and we shall 'fire' before 8.30 pm.

We're practising to 'fire' in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday – in April for her 'real' birthday and in June for her 'official' one.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

Parish Registers: February 2016





Funerals:

February 1st - Freda Bowman

February 2nd - Francis Barrett

February 3rd - Joanna Clark

February 16th - Kathleen Mitchell and Alan Cook

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Get on top of your household finances with free course on managing your money

Mike Wallis, CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Lead Coach, Berkhamsted, recently reported that The Money Advice Service in January had said that a staggering 28% of people would be struggling with money. That's one in four of the people, he says, that you know and love who could be worrying about paying their bills, skipping a meal or two or not putting on their heating despite the threat of snow. He said that that need not be so as his organization is here to help.

Having run several very successful courses at Make Believe Café, Berkhamsted, local people are being given another opportunity to get on top of their household finances by joining a further free three session course that is to start on 3 May at 7:30pm at Make Believe Café, with additional free one-to-one support given when needed. Mike stressed that 'you do not need to be in debt to benefit from this course and it is really aimed at helping people to not get into severe debt'.

CAP is a home-grown debt counselling charity which is determined to reduce poverty in the UK caused by debt. It partners its financial expertise with the care of the local church to offer free debt help and a solution to people.

Mike said that 30% of its Debt Centre clients waited over three years before contacting CAP because they thought no one could help or because they couldn't bring


themselves to admit it. Most clients hear about CAP through word of mouth. You could be the vital link that gets someone you know the help they so desperately need through CAP. But, Mike says, you can take control of your finances before getting into that sort of position. He says that **if you know someone who is experiencing financial challenges then bring this course to their attention.**

Money coach Nick Davis, who will be leading the sessions, said: "budgeting effectively and then controlling the finances through a simple system can have a hugely positive impact on the whole family. Pressures on household bills continues and will do for a while yet, so we need to make the most of what money we have in order to get through these times. This course helps set firm foundations for people to control their finances, in many cases for the first time."

Nick added: "We hope that we can help people, quietly and confidentially, and take the guess work out of their situation so that they can plan for the future, sort out any problems early and come through unscathed."

To find out more about CAP Money or to book your place visit www.capmoney.org or telephone Mike Wallis, CAP Money Berkhamsted Lead Coach on 07891 760244 or 01442 865521

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The Monday Club

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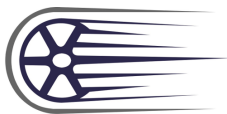


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Sunday Services at St Mary's



6th March

Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am All Age Worship
6.00pm Benefice Evening Prayer at St Barts

13th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

20th March

Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
6.00pm Taize Worship



27th March

Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist:
6.00pm Compline



St Mary's Church Summer Fete 2016

If you are doing any sorting out at home this month, please keep our summer fete in mind. We are particularly looking for donations of PUZZLES this year – any size but must have all their pieces and be in good condition. We are also happy to accept donations of books, white elephant items, children's toys & games and bottles for the bottle stall.

Thank you for your support.

Dacorum foodbank

Priority needs for March

sugar

tinned puddings

vinegar

long life fruit juice (UHT)

Please—no more beans. The foodbank is really grateful for the support, but we have too many 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: April 2016.

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published.

Copy date is 15th of each month



Get more active at Sportspace!

Sportspace in partnership with Dacorum Borough Council (with funding from Sport England) are

running 2 new projects which we want to offer to the residents of Northchurch. The first project is aimed at ladies in Northchurch who would like to get more active through swimming. We have a limited number of 3 month swimming memberships (free unlimited swimming) to give away to help motivate you to achieve your fitness goal. For more information about this project please email

gemma.roake@sportspace.co.uk.

The second project we are running is called Get Set Go Swimfit. This swim session with a Swim Coach aims to provide everything you need to motivate, challenge and support you so you can reach your fitness goal. Whether that is to lose weight, to tone, to improve technique or just to become fitter and stronger. For a special price of £3 per session you can attend on a weekly basis at Sportspace Tring every Wednesday night 9-10pm. For more information please visit www.sportspace.co.uk/swim/get-set-go-swimfit.

All church enquiries to:
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St Mary's Church

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Parish Room Bookings:
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