

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367

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Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547

February 2017

Fund Raising and Church Life

Over the last year at St Mary's a number of events have taken place as part of the "Raise the Roof" fund raising appeal. If the wind is in a certain direction and it is raining heavily there can be leaks in the roof and one or two buckets are required to collect the raindrops. There have been a number of events that have included musical concerts, social evenings and in early December the Christmas Market. The organising committee are working very hard and events are already in place for 2017. Fund raising and stewardship is a challenge for churches. The money that is raised for the running costs and expenses of the church are the responsibility of the congregation as there is no council or government help. There are organisations that can provide grants for building work but the pot of funds is small. There is also the awareness that there are many demands on individual's and families' finances.

In the Gospels it is interesting that Jesus does speak about money. As an example he tells parables about rich farmers, he notices a poor widow who gives everything she has to the temple, and he even suggests that you cannot serve God and money. If that is the case then there is a danger money might get in the way of being a disciple. There is a story of rich man who wants to follow Jesus and he is told to sell all he has and give to the poor. He can't do it and that is very understandable. When this passage comes up in sermons it is often watered down to suggest that

Jesus was speaking to the individual rather than making a universal point. Yet, it does seem clear that following Jesus is tough and it can ask of us demanding choices.

Martin Luther, the Sixteenth Century German reformer, remarked that conversion consists of three parts: conversion of your heart, conversion of your mind and conversion of your purse. In all three cases, the conversion consists from turning away from a focus on oneself towards a focus on God and neighbour. Maybe Jesus knew that there are few more important things than what we do with money as it is generosity that can make such a difference to other people. I don't think Jesus asked the rich man to sell all he owned and give to the poor just to ruin his day. It was a loving response to a question that he had been asked. What choices we make with money can define who we are and what we can become. He asks him to give away what he has to the poor and he can choose how that should be done.

Church fund raising is not just about maintaining a building. It is much more about the life of the church and supporting what it does, its giving to local and international charities. In giving to a church it is more than supporting an institution but a way of participating in what God is doing with a community of people that is not closed but welcomes all.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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you are definitely **not** on the M6, nine miles south of Derby!!

Life after death—in the New Testament

In my last contribution to this column, I showed how there was little direct teaching about the gift of immortality to faithful believers in the Old Testament. There are, however, many clues and links with resurrection as the gateway to immortality as the heritage of believers.

In the New Testament, things are clearer because Jesus Christ, himself a man (though son of God), has overturned death and been raised to immortality by God. He now proposes to share his immortality with those who follow him.

The testimony of the Apostle Paul is powerful: 2Timothy1,vs.4-7 *I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..... I now await the garland of righteousness (a metaphor) which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give*

me on the great day, and not to me alone but to all who have set their hearts on his coming appearance.

Such passages abound in the New Testament, and you can find them by reading the whole New Testament making a note of references to *the great day* (and many similar phrases).

If you are a follower of Jesus, however weak your efforts may appear, by his gracious forgiveness you can hope to be among those who are waiting for the great day of fulfilment.

Peter (1Peter1,vs 7) speaks of the great faith *by which we should live lives worthy of praise, glory and honour, when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

Edgar Wille

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as 'Yolanda' – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the

stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focusses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes.

Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. To find out further information, resources and services near to you, please visit the WWDP website www.wwdp.org.uk

Live music event – Saturday 11th February, Northchurch Social Centre

On **Saturday 11th February**, there will be a live music event at the **Northchurch Social Centre** to raise money for Saint Francis Hospice (Essex), from 7.45PM to 11.45PM.

We have 2 great bands playing, The Memphis Rattlesnakes; rock 'n' roll to the max, who had a great summer festival season supporting the likes of Billy Bragg, Kate Rusby and Not The Rolling Stones. Distant Echoes are also on the bill performing mod classics and beyond! It will be Northchurch's answer to Live Aid and I'm Bob Gedolf!

There will be cheap drink, dancing, loads of fun. Tickets will be £12 each and all profit will be going to the Saint Francis Hospice. If you would like to join in the fun please email claredaniel77@hotmail.com to buy a ticket. Friends, friends of friends etc are all welcome so feel free to invite people.

This is part of a wider fundraising project I am undertaking over the next 6 months. I'm also running the London Marathon in April. Here's a link to my fundraising page if you would like to know more.

Thanks,
Clare Sidebottom (St Marys School parent)

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=claresidebottom1>

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2nd Lieutenant Royden Spencer Bayspool PORTER**2nd Battalion, Infantry (Territorial Force)****Honourable Artillery Company****Killed 6th February 1917**

Royden Spencer Bayspool Porter came from Sydenham and was the son of George Bayspool Porter, a partner in a firm of solicitors in London. Not surprisingly, on completing his education, Royden became an articled clerk and later a solicitor with his father's firm.

THE GREAT WAR**1914 - 1918**

In October 1914, Royden enlisted with the Honourable Artillery. Royden moved quickly up the ranks, appointed Lance Corporal on Boxing Day 1914, Acting Corporal a few days later and promoted to Acting Sergeant the following March. Royden was commissioned into 2nd Battalion, Infantry, HAC the following October.

Royden and his Battalion left England in October 1916 and were soon in the trenches in the area fought over during the recently-ended Battle of the Somme. Over the coming months rain, snow and harassing fire from German artillery made life in the trenches unbearable. Soldiers were constantly wet with the trenches often half-full of mud and water. Personal hygiene was practically impossible and many went down with a new condition called 'trench foot'.

January 1917 saw a German shell bursting in the battalion's cookhouse killing or wounding several men and destroying all the battalion's stores, rations and utensils. Soon afterwards the battalion withdrew from the front line but by then, Royden was displaying symptoms of typhoid. He was transferred to a military hospital, but died on 6th February, aged 26. His headstone bears the text, 'For ever with the Lord'. It was chosen by his parents who had by then moved to Fendley House in Cow Roast, requesting that their son's name be included on the Northchurch War Memorial.

Richard North

Northchurch and Berkhamsted U3A

We meet at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the first or second Tuesday of the month between 10 am and 12 noon. The meetings include a visiting speaker and refreshments. It is an ideal opportunity for retired or semi retired people to join in various activities, learn new skills, outings and making new friends.

For more information, please contact Chris - 01442 871591 or go to our website:

www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk

Northchurch Parish Council News

Northchurch Parish Council in 1990 installed a trophy presented in the early 1990's in memory of Roy Bainbridge, a resident of Emerton Garth who died while serving on the Parish Council. The trophy has been awarded to many well-known Northchurch people who perform their duties above and beyond the call. By kind permission of Jonathan Gordon and Vanessa Hunt, the School Headmistress, we were able to take advantage of a packed St Mary's Church and present the trophy on 19 December when the pupils met for their annual carol concert.

The recipient of the trophy this year was the School Secretary who is celebrating 27 years in office and has indicated that she may(?) resign after the Easter term. We thank Jonathan and Vanessa for allowing us to intrude into their annual carol celebration and wish Jeanette Young a very happy and restful retirement. She has earned it!

Alan Fantham

OWL Neighbourhood watch

We are still recruiting and would invite any resident of the parish to sign up and receive messages from police about what is going on the area. All we need to sign you up is an email address and/or telephone number and you can start to receive information. To sign up to OWL or for more information please email

SNTBerkhamstedandTring@herts.pnn.police.uk

Please make sure that sheds and outbuildings are securely locked, valuable items hidden or covered from view and locked or immobilised within the building. Please consider marking items such they can be identified and make a note of make model and any serial numbers. Every year police recover large amounts of lost or stolen items that cannot be returned to their owners because there is no way of identifying them.

Please consider registering valuables for free at www.immobilise.com This is an easy way of recording items, from jewellery to bikes, so that if lost or stolen and recovered they can be identified and returned.

Offence	No. in parish	No. in Dacorum
Dwelling Burglary	0	37
Burglary Other	2	27
Criminal Damage	1	107
Vehicle Crime	1	93
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	278



Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Sadly, Betty has come to us after the death of her owner. She is a medium sized crossbreed who was born in 2009. Betty is a very affectionate girl who walks well on the lead, knows her basic commands and loves a game of ball! Betty would prefer to be an only pet. We would love to see this sweet dog happily settled in a home once again.

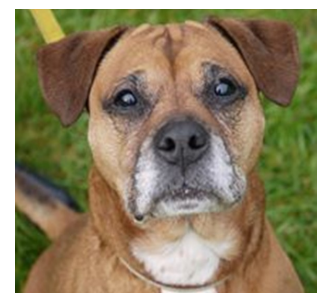
If you can offer Betty or any of our other dogs a loving and secure home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or phone us for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website, or please contact the kennels.

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Struggling with finances?

Local residents are again being given the chance to get their finances in order by joining the next course that starts 7:30pm on 31st January 2017 in the Make Believe Café (behind Tesco, Berkhamsted) with two further sessions on 7th February and 21st February.

CAP has run several very successful courses at Make Believe Café, Berkhamsted with additional one-to-one support given when needed. Everyone who has attended has found the course really useful in getting control of their finances'. Courses have been found to be particularly useful for newly retired people, soon-to-be students, mums dealing with mounting bills, families saving for a wedding and everyone in between'.

With the financial pressures from Christmas and increasing household bills, people are feeling the squeeze on their disposable incomes, so we all need to make the most of what money we have in order to get through these tough times."

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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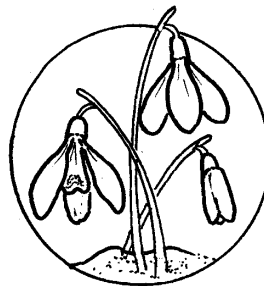
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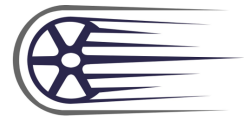
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Services at St Mary's



5th February

Candlemas



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

The Taize Service is a quiet meditation service with chants and silence to celebrate Candlemas. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome.

12th February *3rd Sunday before Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am All Age Worship
6.00pm Evening Prayer

19th February *2nd Sunday before Lent*

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

26th February *Sunday Next Before Lent*

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



1st March *Ash Wednesday*

7.30pm Holy Communion

Parish Registers:

November, December and January 2016

Baptisms

November 26th	Lucas Stanley James
December 18th	Finn Bertie Hamer
	Grace Elizabeth Nolan
	Ella Joni May Nolan

Weddings

November 26th	James Thomas Beacham & Lauren Jordan Prescott
December 9th	Jack Daniel Webb and Katie Langdon

Funerals

16th November	Doris Richings
8th December	Steven Dennis Mason
15th December	Walter Hicks
21st December	Dorothy Hufford
6th January	Elizabeth Mary Rear
17th January	Nigel Carter

Burial of Ashes

26th November	Anita Wright
29th November	Hope Emmott
30th November	Joan Mary Moxey

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson jill.hipson@live.co.uk
Next issue: March 2017.

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published.
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Emily Millar 07929 934367

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