



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
 Mobile: 07929934367

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter

March 2020



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

Anxious Times

It is a great privilege to be able to go into the local schools and be part of the team that leads assemblies and collective worship. I have great admiration for the teachers and support staff and the children are great. They are usually full of enthusiasm and creative ideas. What is very evident is that schools place a big emphasis on wellbeing or mindfulness. This ranges from the importance of kindness and empathy alongside working through difficult emotions. One of the things that has struck me is how worry and anxiety can take hold and the schools provide a supportive and caring environment.

The issue of anxiety has always been present and each generation has dealt with major issues of the time. I took a funeral recently and the gentleman who had died had been part of the D Day landings in June 1944. Although we don't have to face the scale of crisis that he and his generation faced, there are still many issues that can cause acute anxiety. Sometimes even if you try and identify the issue you can still be left with a feeling of unease. When faced with difficult choices or situations anxiety is a natural response, but it can cross a line that can leave us feeling overwhelmed.

A few Sundays ago, there was a reading in church from the Sermon on the Mount that said "do not worry" or "why be anxious." On first reading it seems very odd as it seems to suggest that the best way to deal with anxiety is to ignore it or overcome it by willpower. Both those approaches are not going to work. Yet, from another perspective, maybe it is a recognition that one of the things that anxiety does is

make us feel that we are alone and thinking that nothing we do makes any difference. The reading encourages us to observe the natural world, to see the flowers of the field and the birds of the air and how they grow and thrive. It then says that we also have a value and a dignity, and that this is God given. Although things may be tough, we can have faith and trust in that. How we live does matter and the choices we make are significant.

Whether it is with children and young people or those who are older the most important thing is that there is support and friendship. We will be praying for the local schools at St Mary's over the coming month and welcoming children to the church for end of term celebrations. You are very welcome to join us and be part of the church community.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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## Seeing injustice

I was at the theatre recently. *The Whip* is about a government whip, a parliamentary organiser, helping see the 1833 Abolition of Slavery Act into law, ending slavery in most British colonies.

The whip is a man of acute vision, a social reformer already involved in the passage of factories legislation. As a politician, he understands that to progress he must make compromises, because many apparently decent people do not grasp the evil of slavery.

To achieve passage of the 1833 Act, slave owners were compensated, to the tune of about £20 billion in today's terms, making many of them extremely wealthy. The ex-slaves were forced into 6-year unpaid "apprenticeships", because many slave owners argued that they were unqualified to earn a livelihood. To us, this is shocking. But if freedom was delayed, the Act marked a step towards justice.

After slavery, the whip moves on to reform the Poor Law. But when we hear of the plans for new "work-

houses", we shudder. Even the whip can only see so far. Even the best people are, to some extent, conflicted.

The play reminded me that there is no end of injustice around us. Some of it may be at the grand level. But much of it is closer to home. Our own prejudices blind us and much of the time we simply do not perceive the injustice around us. When we do see it, we may find that change is ferociously resisted. Yet we should speak up, for in doing so we may awaken others. Compromise, even if imperfect, may get the process moving. Once achieved, change may become uncontroversial.

None of us sees things perfectly. We are all prejudiced and conflicted and will all, at one time or another, connive in injustice. The rule of love must be at work if we are to progress, despite our imperfections. We are human.

David White

## 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](mailto:michaelawallis@yahoo.co.uk).



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## This Month in 1920 ...

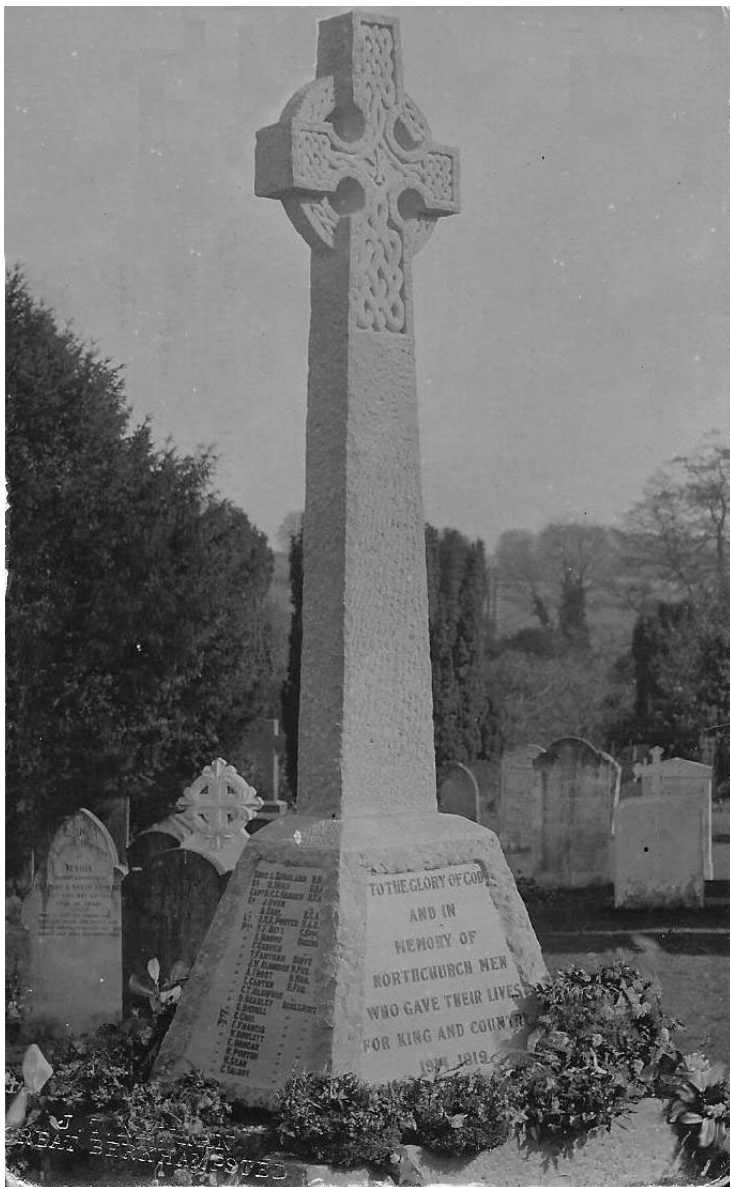
The Northchurch War Memorial was unveiled. Built by Berkhamsted stonemason, Arthur Martin, it listed the names and regiments of forty-six men from Northchurch who had died during the Great War. Prior to the memorial's unveiling, a Service of Dedication was held at St Mary's, the front pews in the central aisle being reserved for the relatives of the men named on the memorial. Behind them sat many of the men who had served in the war, all of them remembering friends and family who had not returned from the fighting. The remaining pews were filled by parishioners.


The Service of Dedication was led by the Rector of St Mary's, Revd. RH Pope, with a former Rector, Revd.

GH Siddons giving the address. After the service had ended, the congregation made their way to the newly constructed War Memorial which was covered by the White Ensign, given to the church by King George V when he was Prince of Wales and St Mary's patron. Here, they were joined by many more people from the local community who watched from the High Street as Rear Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, the Comptroller and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales, unveiled the memorial. Revd. Pope read a prayer of dedication and the *Last Post* was sounded followed by a hymn, *Reveille* and the National Anthem. As a final gesture to those who had died, a new White Ensign flew from the flagpole on the church tower.

The War Memorial, with its dedication, 'To the Glory of God and in memory of Northchurch men who gave their lives for King and Country 1914 – 1919', would stand for nearly fifty years before cracks started to appear in the base. It was subsequently deemed to be unsafe and was dismantled, with the cross later being placed on a new base. The original memorial's base still stands close to the restored memorial in the churchyard.


Richard North





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## 2020 Choral workshop: A Festival of Psalms. Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Church, Northchurch.

Since 2012 St Mary's choir has welcomed visiting singers from the surrounding area to an annual choral event, to study and explore a range of repertoire. Music has included Handel's Messiah, a Vierne Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria, Faure's requiem, Gospel songs, a Mussorgsky mass, a 12 hour Hymnathon and more.

We were directed by Richard King (Chalfont St Peter) in 2018 and by Geraldine Latty (Birmingham) in 2015 but most sessions have been run by Tring musician, Richard Grylls. Richard's wealth of experience, artistry and enthusiasm are outstanding and that is why singers return each year to sing under his leadership,

This year, Richard Grylls will direct 'A Festival of Psalms' and we will be joined by Colin Stevens as accompanist. Colin, also from Tring, is a brilliant pianist and organist; he also directs The Icknield Sixteen and Tring Choral Society. Colin recalls singing in the St Mary's choir as a very young boy, so we are delighted to welcome him back.

Contact Jenny Hoare for booking and for more information: [music@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:music@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk)

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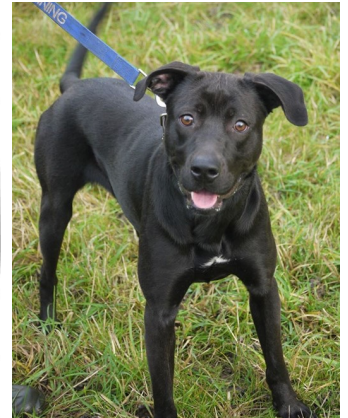
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## Sunday Services at St Mary's



### 1st March

*Lent 1*

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

### 8th March

*Lent 2*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am All-Age Worship

### 15th March

*Lent 3*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Morning Prayer  
& Pulpit Swap with NBC  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 22nd March

*Mothering Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist

### 29th March

*Lent 5*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist

## Church Fete 2020

### Appeal for Toys for the Toy Tombola

Are you sorting out your cupboards this Spring?  
Do you have any toys, games and children's  
books you don't want?

All items donated must be in good condition.  
We would be happy to receive toys, games, and  
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St Mary's Film Club  
8pm Thursday 26th March

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daughter are living an ideal existence  
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