

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



revjagordon@googlemail.com

Church enquiries to: Revd Jonathan Gordon

01442 871547

Parish Room Bookings: Emily Millar Mobile: 07929934367

February 2016

Healthy Competition?

In conversations with people about the working world it is clear that in a number of areas it is highly competitive. Many people are working long hours, often on contracts and the working environment is made more uncertain by the prospects of management changes or takeovers. In the University, I used to work in, it was not uncommon for a reorganisation and the removal of posts that resulted in two or three colleagues being asked to apply for one job. The pressure on people to show that they are indispensible and to work ever longer hours is great and as a consequence it is not uncommon to leave early in the morning and get home late. This in a way is perhaps simply the way of the world. Young people are encouraged to gain skills and experiences that will enable them to be competitive in the workplace, the importance on league tables has resulted in comparisons between local schools or hospitals as to which is performing at the highest level.

What got me thinking about this is the contrast between the messages that you are more likely to hear in a church on Sunday. Here it is more likely to be a focus on loving your neighbour and bearing each other's burdens. Rather than competing with each other the emphasis is on mutual support and encouragement. However, this might seem a complete discontinuity between what in practice is the reality of life in the working world. If the life of faith is take hold of our hearts and imaginations then it has to correspond to what we might hear and experience on a Sunday to what we are likely to face from Monday to Friday and for some even the weekends. Otherwise, faith is going to appear as naive or unrealistic.

As a first point, faith is not something that is there for one day of the week, but rather should shape everything that we do. The culture of the working world that has developed over the last few decades is not going to change overnight and people have to live with integrity in whatever working environment they are in. Perhaps there are a few ways of approaching this issue. The Christian faith makes the claim that men and woman have a value not on the basis of their economic worth, but rather as something that is simply given. We are valuable as God loves us. People are not means to an end; they are not deposable and in the workplace should not be treated as such. There is nothing radical in this and business strategies have recognised that people work better if their contribution is valued and they do not feel anonymous. How we treat people matters.

We are very close to Lent and the time to give something up or do something positive. There might not be much we can do about working hours and demands but we can shape how we respond to the people we meet and work with. As everyone will most likely be carrying their own stresses and burdens, a good Lent discipline is to consider how in the daily routine we can support and encourage. The Lent challenge is to do this not only with those we get on with but also with those who might be annoying.

Lent is only for six weeks and maybe it will make a difference.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

GEMINI ADVERT



£5 DISCOUNT ON YOUR FIRST CLEAN

bhpropertyservices.co.uk

07731 047439 | 01442 380287

I am a qualified Yoga Teacher with the Yoga for Health Foundation Tel: 07775 531502 Email: john@johngrimesyoga.co.uk www.johngrimesyoga.co.uk



I AM YOUR LOCAL DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

Your friendly flooring fit

We can supply and fit new flooring or

adapt your existing carpets or tiles.

Call now for a **FREE** quote:

07912 104 815

01442 863 488 / floor2flooruk.co.uk



STEVEN ROBERTS 07828 628 152

Learners, Pass Plus, Motorway Refresher Lessons and Eco Driving.

DSA AND PASS PLUS REGISTERED BLOCK BOOKING DISCOUNTS

FIRST LESSON FREE

Find me on FACEBOOK

Email: stevenroberts1983@hotmail.co.uk

This Month in

On the night of 18th February 1854 two men broke into St Mary's church via the vestry window. Once inside they broke open the safe and removed the silver communion plate and various other articles, including the altar cloth. One of the burglars, 23-yearold James Mallard, lived in the High Street. The other was a boatman and hardened criminal called John Smith, better known as "Navvy Jack". The two men bundled up their loot in a bag and made their escape down the towpath of the Grand Junction Canal in the direction of London. Early the following morning, near Croxley Green they, gained a lift in a passing barge.

The robbery was discovered the following morning by the Verger, James Randall, and the police were informed. Meanwhile the boatman who had given the robbers a lift had spotted the stolen items in their bag and once they had left his barge he reported them to

February 1854

Page 3

the police.

Mallard and Smith were arrested the following Monday and were sent before the Magistrates in Berkhamsted. Their case was referred to Hertford Assizes, where both defendants were convicted of "breaking and entering a church and sacrilegiously stealing therein" and sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment. Mallard was transported to Bermuda to serve his sentence, whilst Smith was sent to a London gaol. Five years later Mallard returned to Northchurch and worked as a general dealer and later got married in the village. "Navvy Jack" returned to the Midlands were he continued his life of crime, serving several more prison sentences before he disappeared in the 1870s.

Richard North

Roll up, Roll up for the Spring Plant Fair Extravaganza!

Come along and support the Ashridge Estate! How?... By buying top quality plants at the Ashridge Spring Plant Fair on 15th May 2016. The volunteers at the Friends of Ashridge run a Plant Fair on behalf of the National Trust at Ashridge taking place on the Green at the foot of the Bridgewater monument. This will be our 20th consecutive Spring Plant Fair - the idea for the first plant fair was formed in 1997 by the then Chairman, Trevor Marwood. The Fair has since grown from strength to strength, in reach and revenue, and we now regularly raise circa £7000 each year to help the National Trust maintain the Ashridge Estate. This is a very important event for the Friends of Ashridge and forms the basis of our financial support to the National Trust at the Estate, so please be generous! There is free parking and no entry fee. There is also a tea room available and the National Trust shop to visit. Please come and browse amongst the thousands of plants that will be on display and the plant stock available from small visiting nurseries on a commercial basis. These nurseries kindly donate a percentage of their earnings to the National Trust Plant Fair.

The majority of our plants are from volunteer growers and private gardens. If you have any plants to donate to the Fair then we would love to hear from you. We are especially interested in vegetable plants, border plants and perennials, roses, climbers and herbs. The estate perimeter straddles three counties so plant enthusiasts come from far and wide to purchase the high quality plants on offer. To donate any plants, please contact the organiser, John Cartwright on 01442 864 984. The Plant Fair is on Sunday 15 May 2016, 11am till 4pm at the National Trust Ashridge Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall HP4 1LX. We look forward to seeing you.



Do you need help

with all your odd jobs around your home? I can offer a reliable service with many years experience Also decorating and phone points etc at a reasonable rate.

Call Phil Your 50+ Handiman 07802 906 870



Computer Consultancy and Repairs

Getting your PC up and running again

Software installation & configuration

Basic and intermediate level training Specialising in anti-virus, security & hardware upgrades

Andy Robinson

36 Trevelyan Way Berkhamsted HP4 1JH Mobile: 07885 966570 AndyRobins<u>on2010@qmail.com</u>



Contact: Fred Harrison on 01442-874720 E-mail: sales@fhltd.co.uk

Computer Help and Tuition that comes to YOU!



Friendly help to build your confidence with your PC, iPhone or iPad, and support on technical issues

Call Karen on 01442 388537 Email: karen@reeboot.co.uk Web: www.reeboot.co.uk



.L.Heatind

Family business over 30 years serving Tring, Berkhamsted, Villages Gas Central Heating, Boilers, Fires & AGAs, Servicing, Repairs & Upgrades, Power Flushing, Landlords Certificates, Plumbing & Energy Saving Controls

Tel:01442 890750

service@llheating.co.uk Rocamora House, Woodrow, Wigginton, Tring HP23 6HT. www.llheating.co.uk



ASTROPE GARDEN SERVICES LOGS FOR SALE



Seasoned, dry and split logs. Free local delivery. **Bulk Bag £75.00** (approx. 0.6m³)

Truck load £100.00 (approx. 1.1m³)

Sack of logs £9 (approximately 20kg. Minimum delivery 10 sacks)

Barrowing & stacking service available, please ask for details.

We also provide tree &, hedge cutting services, fencing, driveways, paving, pressure washing and general garden maintenance. Please contact Glenn on 07951 126534 or glennansell@gmail.com



February 2016

The Temple

MARYS

The temple was the focus of Jewish faith and worship. Priests offered sacrifices in the temple area and once a year the high priest entered the most sacred area of what originally was an elaborate tent. People went to the temple because it was 'the done thing', for social rather than spiritual purposes. Jeremiah the prophet criticised people who considered the temple as 'the be all and end all' of their worship of God, showing much outward respect but little inner love.

Jesus and apostles like Peter and Paul viewed the temple as the place where one could be aware of the presence of God. Jesus also called himself a temple for God to live in, and that if he were destroyed he would be rebuilt in three days (a reference to the resurrection of Jesus). Jesus chased out of the temple religious people who were there for commercial profit. Jesus and the apostles used the phrase 'temple' as a metaphor for himself and his followers as 'dwelling places for God'. Paul told the Christians that they were the temple of God's spirit which dwelt in them. He frequently spoke of the purity of heart necessary for God to dwell in them, not merely rules and regulations about dress and rituals.

Christians had direct access in prayer to God, without having to go to a special building. Paul called on them to present their very selves as a sacrifice to God. The individual believer, indwelt by God's spirit is the temple. That is where God is to be encountered. And that is how it is today! May we allow Jesus Christ to provide our dwelling place in God.

St Mary's Primary School News January 2016

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and peaceful New Year. It was lovely to see all the children back after the festive break.

Before the holidays the children brought an orange into school and they made Christingles for our Christingle Service which Jonathan very kindly conducted. It was a lovely service and the school hall looked beautiful with all the Christingles alight. Thank you Jonathan.

We have some exciting trips coming up – Year 3 are going to Amersham Field Centre as part of their Science topic on Rocks. This visit will enhance and consolidate the children's learning, focusing on comparing and grouping rocks according to their properties and how fossils are formed as well as developing the children's scientific enquiry skills. The field centre's 30 hectare site provides a mosaic of woodland, grassland and pond habitats for all ages to study.

Our Year 2s are off to Tring Tesco as part of their Science topic where the children will take part in Tesco's 'Farm to Fork' trail which teaches children about food groups, a balanced diet and how their food gets from where it is produced to their plate. The Cross Country season is well under way and we have two cross country events this month. Let's hope the ground is not too boggy after all the rain!

Our Prospective Parent Tour dates are: <u>Nursery Prospective Parent Tours</u> Tuesday 2nd February at 9.30 a.m. Thursday 3rd March at 9.30 a.m.

SITUATION VACANT-URGENT.

We are still urgently seeking someone to take on the paid position of school crossing patrol. The hours are 8.30–9.00 am and 3.05–3.40 pm term time only. The uniform and training is provided by Herts County Council. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Young in the School Office on 01442 389040.

Thank you.



MARYS

Page 6



Servicing & mechanical repairs on vehicle makes and models Tyres, exhausts & brakes at trade prices Recovery service Experienced & friendly service



MOT SPECIAL OFFER £35.00

Free collection & Delivery Service

New Alpha Course at St Mary's: It's not too late to join in!

Do you fancy exploring in more detail the basic of the Christian faith? If so, why not come along to our current Alpha course which has only just started. The 10 week course allows for a friendly, non-pressured setting which focuses on exploring more about the Christian faith. Please email info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk to find out the

details of where and what time we are meeting.

Parish Registers: January 2016

Baptisms:

24th January – Callum James Benoit Anderson 31st January – Martha Bissenden

Funerals:

12th January – Ernie Barrett 14th January – Audrey Putman 21st January David Mathias 27th January – Kathleen Korybut

The Children's Society

Thank you so much to all our faithful box holders. Gareth and I completed the count this week and are thrilled to tell you we have banked 2830.36p. for the Children's Society.

3 more families have agreed to have a box this year, so next December we will have 41 boxes to open and count! I still have 3 boxes awaiting a new home, so please let us know if you could have one for your loose change. It all adds up for a very good cause and keeps us out of mischief for several weeks at the turn of the year! Thank you.

Charlotte and Gareth Pritchard.





Tree Care

Planting Decking Driveways Turfing Fencing Paths & Patios Brick Work Ground Clearance

Fully Qualified & Insured Tree Removal/Felling Tree Shaping Deadwood Removal Reduction/Lifting/Thinning Stump Grinding Tree House Construction Fire Wood for Sale

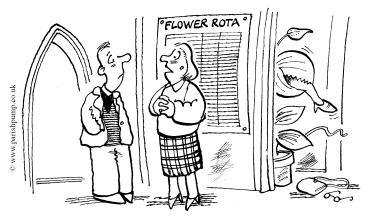


Contact: Rian Murphy

For a free consultation and quote for your next project

Tel/Fax: 01442 825176 Mobile: 07900 006246

www.silverleaf-landscaping.co.uk



...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...



Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

This is **Frenzy**! She is a playful little staffie aged about two. Frenzy is energetic and thoroughly enjoys agility training. She would prefer to be an only dog but could possibly live with a quiet male. She would love an active family life where she has plenty of company.

> If you feel you could offer Frenzy 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. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. We have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age, so please ask for details.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY Call: 01525 220383 Visit our Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk E-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com Follow us on Facebook! (Reg. Charity No. 1116848)



heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

Herts Police Crime Statistics for December 2016

Offence	No. in parish	No. in Dacorum
Dwelling Burglary	2	45
Burglary Other	1	46
Criminal Damage	0	124
Vehicle Crime	0	41
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	246

Think shed!! Dark nights will entice offenders to try and gain entry to sheds and garages looking for garden machinery, tools and bikes. The above items can all be sold on very easily to fund the offender's criminal activity. Visit <u>www.herts.police.uk</u> for crime prevention advice or call your local PCSO Lee Clements via the 101 number mobile 07740745169.

THE TYRE CHANGERS 07746 903095 HAVE YOUR NEW TYRES FITTED AT HOME OR YOUR PLACE OF WORK. Local and convenient low cost tyres fitted at a time and place that suits you. Budget, mid-range and premium tyres supplied at the best prices. info@thetyrechangers.co.uk thetyrechangers.co.uk

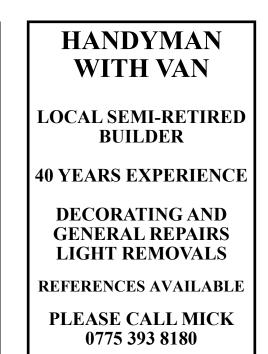
Stress and Tension?

Mobile massage therapy or come to my treatment room in Berkhamsted

Sports Massage Indian Head Massage Hot Stone Massage Facials

www.rjfitnessmassage.co.uk





GREEN GARDENING

PLEASE CALL NICK

M: 077 08 04 02 85

H: 01442 872 577

LAWN MAINTENANCE

ONE OFF OR REGULAR VISITS

GARDEN TIDY UPS (JUNGLES A SPECIALITY)

HEDGE CUTTING

FENCING AND PATIOS

POWER WASHING

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Sunday Services at St Mary's



7th February

Sunday Next Before Lent

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



10th February

Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion

14th February

First Sunday of Lent

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

21st February

Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
6.00pm Lighthouse Evening Prayer, Led by Young People Group

28th February

Third Sunday of Lent

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



Taizé Service Sunday 7 February 2016 at 6.00 pm

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome Women's World Day of Prayer Friday, 4th March

Service at 1.00 pm St John's Church, Bourne End "Receive children. Receive me" Men welcome too!



Dacorum foodbank

Priority needs for February

squash sponge puddings coffee Tinned peas long life fruit juice (UHT) Full list in church and at Tesco's

Collection points: Waitrose, Way Inn & St Mary's Church

The Monday Club

February 1st Bring and Buy 2pm Parish Rooms February 15th Lunch at The Greyhound, Aldbury. Minibus and cars will depart from Mandelyns at 12.00 noon. February 29th The Secret Life of Peter Loxley. A talk by Richard North. 2pm Parish Rooms For more information please contact: Joan Downhill on 865821 or Barbara Lloyd on 865059.

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor Mrs Jill Hipson cjhipson@btopenworld.com Next issue: March 2016.

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published. Copy date is 15th of each month 21 St Katherine's Way, Berkhamsted HP4 1DA

All church enquiries to: Revd Jonathan Gordon St Mary's Church

E-mail: revjagordon@googlemail.com Phone 01442 871547 Mobile 0775 2261679 Parish Room Bookings: Sabina Harvey 079799 14449

Please visit our website <u>www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk</u>