

# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



**Parish Room Bookings:**  
**Emily Millar**  
Mobile: 07929934367

## *May 2017*

**Church enquiries to:**  
**Revd Jonathan Gordon**  
**01442 871547**

## The treasure that lies within

On the radio a few weeks ago there was an interview with a South Korean Buddhist monk called Haemin Sunin who was talking about his book: "The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down – How to be Calm in a Busy World." He came across as a really engaging and inspired person and after getting the book it has been interesting reading a few extracts each day. It is the sort of book that you can leave on a coffee table and dip in and out. Most of the book contains short meditations and he hopes that the reader will take their time reading it and find within a resource that will enable them to connect with the "kinder and wiser side of yourself."

In complete contrast I quite enjoy reading the thoughts of a secular philosopher called John Gray. There are two of his ideas that I constantly find challenging. The first is the argument that any religious or political idea that believes it is possible to change human nature is mistaken. Although it may be motivated by the best intentions to improve human beings or society, it always ends up making things worse. The second is his view of human nature which on the whole is pessimistic. In one of his books there is a quote: 'There are not two kinds of human being, savage and civilised. There is only the human animal, forever at war with itself.' I think one thing that Gray's thought has taught me is that telling people to do something might with some coercion or penalty change how we act, it will not change a person's thoughts and emotions. Sunin's book is more concerned with mindfulness and spirituality that changes how we see the world and live within it.

In St Luke's Gospel there is a story after Easter describing the walk of two disciples to a place called Emmaus. They have heard reports that Jesus is alive and they are confused and uncertain. A stranger meets them and walks with them, engaging them in a conversation about the events that have taken place in Jerusalem, and explores with them parts of the Bible that might cast some light on recent events. When they reach the end of the journey they invite the stranger to stay with them. As they sit down to eat and in the breaking of bread they suddenly recognise that it is Jesus. He vanishes as mysteriously as he arrived, but as they reflect on what has happened they say "did not our hearts burn within us" as he explained the Scriptures and walked with them.

Maybe there is a truth in this story. One thing that Jesus did not do on the road was tell the disciples what they should believe and what they should think. It seems to be more of a dawning sense or change of perception that something remarkable and unexpected had taken place. This insight awakens faith and changes the person from within. Nothing is forced and faith is more a gift received than an order from above.

Hopefully the summer weather is coming and a good thing to do is to slow down, enjoy the people and beauty of nature around us, and see what difference it makes to how we see the world.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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## The Risen Jesus

Easter is a time when the church thinks especially of Jesus being raised to life after having been brutally executed. This resurrection enabled the cruel death to be a victory. Death had seized him and for three days he lay in a cave-like tomb. Then suddenly he was back - fully alive and was seen by Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and soon after by all the disciples as they hid in a secret room. Death had been defeated.

The first making alive on a permanent basis had occurred in Jesus, he has never died again and never will.

Death has been defeated, and in Jesus, once dead, now alive, it is clear that the future is good, and we, as John puts it, 'shall be like him for we shall see him as he is' - that is, if we have had faith to believe the evidence given so clearly in the New Testament.

Thomas was not present the first time the risen Jesus met the other disciples, but at the second time he was utterly convinced and he called out: 'My Lord and My God!'

Read the records in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, for yourself, and you will surely feel that you are reading true records, strengthened by understandable variations. Go with it and, even if sometimes doubt creeps into your mind, believe that Jesus is alive and can care for you. This will give real meaning to your life. Read the resurrection story as part of the whole New Testament in its full context. The story of the resurrection of Jesus has the ring of truth and can communicate with you.

Edgar Wille

## IMPORTANT NOTICE—PLEASE READ

### NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

**Usha Kilich Clerk to the Council**

**Northchurch Parish Council**

**116D High Street,**

**Northchurch**

**HP4 3QN**

**Tel. 01442 876911**

**Email: [Northchurch.parishcouncil@tesco.net](mailto:Northchurch.parishcouncil@tesco.net)**

### Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting will be held in the Social Centre Bell Lane Northchurch on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 6.45 pm.

At 8 pm after formal business the meeting will hear from Mr Paul McCann from Cala Homes, who have an option over the Field in New Road (opposite the cemetery) which is the green belt. Cala will be promoting the site as a possible housing allocation via the forthcoming Dacorum Council local plan review process with a potential capacity of in the region of 60 houses.

Every Northchurch resident is welcome.

Usha Kilich  
Parish Clerk

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Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (NT live)  
on 18th May at 7pm

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Salome (NT live) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June @ 7pm

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## RAISING THE ROOF

The exterior of the model is now almost finished as you can see in the latest photograph. There is now a weather vane and a working bell in the bell tower. Sponsorship now exceeds £21,000 and there seems no end to the generosity of sponsors, both previous sponsors and new ones. For this reason model maker Andrew Dobbie has been persuaded to start building the interior of the model.

The roofs and the bell tower are removable so when it is finished you will be able to see the organ, pews, pillars, altar etc, and maybe a Playmobil figure of reverend Jonathan Gordon! If you wish to contribute to the roof repair fund by sponsoring the model (any amount from £1 is welcome!) please send your donation to Andrew Dobbie, 1 Shootersway Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 3NP, or contact him at [andrew@gameplaneurope.com](mailto:andrew@gameplaneurope.com) tel: 07775 560363.



## Northchurch and Berkhamsted U3A

We meet at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the first or second Tuesday of the month between 10am 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 on 01442 271591 or go to our website: [www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk](http://www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk)

## This month in ... May 1870

People breaking the speed limit, on what is now the A4251, is not a new phenomenon.



In May 1870, a William Makepiece, a labourer originally from Leighton Buzzard and then living in Two Waters, a small village near Hemel Hempstead, was charged with cruelly ill-treating and furiously driving his horse and cart at the Northchurch end of Berkhamsted. Prosecuting, a Captain Benjamin Hamilton, from Berkhamsted, said that he saw the defendant come galloping towards Berkhamsted, starting at the Crooked Billet (then part of Northchurch Parish). Makepiece was apparently standing up in the cart lashing at the horse. Asking some of the local people who the driver was, Hamilton was initially unable to identify the identity of the driver.

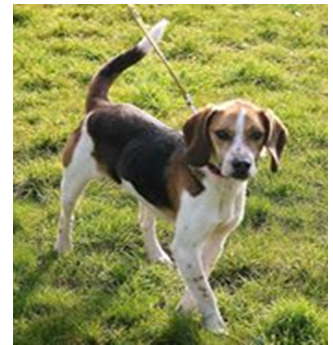
For some reason, Makepiece was not present at the court session, being represented by his wife, Mary. A William Gower, who lived next door to the Crooked Billet, was called as a witness for the defence. He stated that Makepiece had neither a whip or a stick with him, and that the horse started off at a canter, but seeing children in the road he called out to them which made the horse go faster. Prosecution witness PC Hunt however stated that other witnesses had seen Makepiece stand up and entice the horse to gallop down the road. Makepiece was duly found guilty and fined 10s with costs of 18d 5d.

Richard North





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June 5th: Outing to Ayletts Garden Centre  
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from Mandelyns and will return at 3 pm.  
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**7th May**

*Easter 4*

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



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

**14th May**

*Easter 5*

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am All Age Service  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**21st May**

*Easter 6*

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

**28th May**

*Easter 7*

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

### Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson  
[jill.hipson@live.co.uk](mailto:jill.hipson@live.co.uk)

Next issue: June 2017.

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

Copy date is 15th of each month.

## Parish Registers: April 2017

### Baptism

15th April Rosanna Louise Butler Jones

### Burial of Ashes

27th April Neil Haylock

### Funerals

13th April Norma Spearing

24th April Valerie Barrow

26th April Joyce Plowman

## Fete Donations

Donations of Children's Toys, Games and Books required for St Mary's Church fete on 1 July.

Please bring items to the Rectory/ Church.

Only items in good condition please.

Many thanks for  
your support!



**All church enquiries to:**  
**Rev'd Jonathan Gordon**  
**St Mary's Church**

E-mail: [revjagordon@googlemail.com](mailto:revjagordon@googlemail.com)  
Phone 01442 871547 Mobile 0775 2261679

Parish Room Bookings:  
Emily Millar 07929 934367

**Please visit our website [www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk)**