

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



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March 2019



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Inspiration for Lent

As Easter is late this year Ash Wednesday is on March 6th and this is the beginning of Lent. It is traditionally the time to give something up or focus on some of the variations that take place over the coming weeks such as the 40 Acts generosity challenge or the 40 acts of kindness. If you are looking for inspiration on how to mark the coming weeks, the 40 Acts challenge website puts the message of Lent across very powerfully:

“Institutions and injustices, poverty and powerlessness – these problems seem too big for simple, everyday generosity to fix and yet God calls us to live like Jesus did. Jesus didn’t change culture by means of assimilation, he lived a radically different life; characterised by love and expressed in generosity. He gave his resources, his time and ultimately his life. He always noticed people’s needs, stopping to help the physically and spiritually poor, and in doing so he changed the world. Following Jesus means being the church. And the church doesn’t just meet, it acts.” (www.40acts.org.uk)

I have been thinking about conversations with folk in the community and especially in regard to the things that we can carry around with us and which can easily weigh us down. This is something that impacts across the generations. We all have our own way of dealing with things but I was thinking whether there might be scope for setting up informal groups that might be able to provide support and friendship. Once the work on the roof has been completed St Mary’s will

be open once again on a Wednesday afternoon for puzzles and cake. On the radio I was listening to an idea that was something like “share the burden walks” that offered support to those who had been recently bereaved. Essentially a walk was organised and it provided a chance to talk and ended by a café or pub. It could be set up for anything but it did seem a very good idea and the people interviewed said they valued the support and friendship. Likewise, it does not have to be a walk as there are plenty of places to meet for cake and coffee/tea. Another thing that struck me was whether there was anyone who was bemused by technology or how to set it up as I’m sure there are good people who can help.

If you have any ideas then please do get in touch. I would really value your ideas and opinions.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Wednesday March 20th: St Mary's Film Club will be showing the film: "**I, Daniel Blake**" at 7.45pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Ash Wednesday is on March 6th and there will be a service of communion at 7.30pm in St Mary's.

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This month in 1909

Major Bevil Granville died, aged 75, at his Locknell Cottage home in Northchurch. Born in 1834 at Wellesbourne Hall, near Stratford-upon-Avon, Bevil was the first child of Bernard Granville, a wealthy local landowner, and his wife, Ann. In 1851, aged 17, after attending Sandhurst, Bevil purchased a Commission and travelled to Canada with 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were there on garrison duty. Three years later, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed part of the combined French and British army sent to the Crimean Peninsula in response to Russia's attempt to annex the states of Moldavia and Wallachia on the Black Sea coast. During the resulting war, Bevil fought at the Battles of Alma, Inkerman and the capture, after a long siege, of Sebastopol.

In 1857, Bevil and his regiment were sent to India where a mutiny against British rule had broken out. Taking part in the relief of Lucknow and other fighting against the insurgents, Bevil remained in India until the mutiny had been quashed. Returning to England, in 1859 Bevil, now a Captain, purchased Locknell Cottage in Northchurch. He later left 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers and became Adjutant to the Hertfordshire Rifle Volunteers. Marrying Alice

Wodehouse in 1865, Bevil would later become father to five daughters and one son. In 1885, Bevil resigned his Commission and became an honorary Major and he and his family were subsequently to play a full part in local village life. Becoming a JP, Bevil also represented Northchurch on Hertfordshire County Council. Alice Granville died in 1901.

After his funeral on 10th March 1909, Bevil's body was buried in St Mary's churchyard. The following year, a stained-glass window in his and wife's memory was unveiled in the aisle of the church. Designed and built by Kempe and W E Tower it bears the wheatsheaf and tower emblems, and depicts Mary and the baby Jesus with angels and shepherds.

Locknell 'Cottage', which actually had two dressing rooms, a dining and a drawing room, six bedrooms, stables and a coach house, a dedicated pew in St Mary's church, and whose land covered two acres between the High Street and the river, was later demolished and the land used for housing.

Richard North

Black, white or mixed?

At the end of a long interview, a journalist recently asked John McDonnell MP a simple question: Winston Churchill – hero or villain? “Tonypany - Villain”, he replied, referring to a controversial incident in Wales in 1910. The outcry was predictable.

It was a silly question. Churchill was in politics for 60 years. There were plenty of mistakes along the way to becoming a great war leader. “Everybody said that I was the worst Chancellor of the Exchequer that ever was. I'm inclined to agree with them” he said of himself.

It is not just the yes-no choice that I do not like. Does John McDonnell's view on Churchill matter?

Most of us form opinions without much information. Often enough we do not even understand the issue. That is not a reason to keep quiet – if we only spoke when we were experts, the world would be a quiet place.

But I do believe in experts. I listen to my dentist and even ask my son about the computer. That does not stop me having opinions. I just have to be modest, to recognise my limitations – and to be prepared to learn from others.

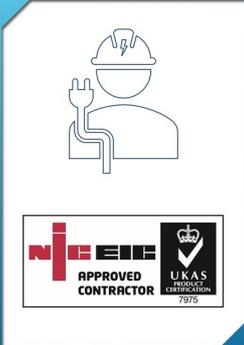
The Christian view is that we all have marvellous potential, but we are flawed. We make mistakes; and we do many things that we have no cause to be proud of.

Jesus taught us to ask God to “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” As St Augustine said, this is the only line in the Lord's Prayer where we risk praying damnation on ourselves. We need to be forgiving of others.

There is a story about a girl who was being confirmed. “Are you a good girl or a bad girl?” asked the bishop. “Streaky” she answered.

I do not like the bishop's either-or question, but the answer was spot on.

David White



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But the problem is still there; yet so are the Credit Unions. One of these, Dacorum First Credit Union (DFCU), is open to anyone who lives or works in Dacorum. Based in the Forum, Hemel Hempstead, it operates much like a bank, but not-for-profit. It is licensed by the authorities, run by volunteers, and you can join to invest or to borrow if you have the need. Borrowers pay interest on their loans at 1% per month, which amounts to a little over 12% per annum. You won't get a better rate anywhere else. Savers can expect to earn interest on the profits earned each year in

the form of a dividend. Last year this amounted to 0.5% - not quite top of the range, but a good deal more than you will get from an ordinary savings account with a High Street bank. And the more we deposit with them the more they can lend to our less fortunate neighbours.

They act with prudence. You have to show how you are going to repay your loan if you have one, and the amount you can borrow is related to how much you are saving each month. The more you save the more you may borrow, other things being equal. Saving is encouraged and they run Christmas Clubs and such-like. With capital of around £500,000 they have been running for some thirty years. They do not advertise so they're a well-kept secret. Their license ensures that your savings are protected up to the £85,000 limit that applies to all banks and building societies.

If you would like to know more, please look at our website www.dacorumfirst.co.uk

John Wyborn

The Children's Society and the Berkhamsted Walk

The Church of England's charity, The Children's Society, started in 1881 running small children's homes for the orphans on London's streets and has evolved to the national system of help for children suffering in this country today.

It works to reduce the risk of exploitation, neglect and abuse. It builds the resilience of young people who have experienced these evils and strengthens the resources available to meet these young people's needs by supporting children in the care system and those leaving care at 18, children who have caring responsibilities in the home, those facing poverty, destitution and crisis in their lives, refugees, migrant families and unaccompanied children arriving in this country.

The Berkhamsted Walk has been supporting this charity since 1968 and the amazing sum of £8,200 was raised from our 50th walk last year!

The Walk this year will take place on Sunday 12th May and we hope to build on last year's brilliant success.

18 mile and 12 mile routes start at the Court House next to St. Peter's Church, HP4 2AX in Berkhamsted and will explore the gorgeous bluebell woods and spring colours of Ashridge and beyond! The 6 mile Fun Walk for all ages starts at Ashridge College, HP4

1NS, between 11am and 2pm, where free parking is available. A quiz will keep young walkers running ahead!

Please download a sponsor form from www.berkhamstedwalk.com or pick one up from church, Berkhamsted Library, Cafe Epicure or at The Complete Outdoors shop, Bourne End.

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Sunday Services at St Mary's



3rd March *Sunday before Lent*

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

10th March *First Sunday of Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am All-Age Worship

17th March *Second Sunday of Lent*

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

24th March *Third Sunday of Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist

31st March *Mothering Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist

Northchurch Women's Institute

Come to our new afternoon meetings held on the second Monday of each month (except August) at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch at 2:30PM (Ample Parking Available).

Northchurch WI will be 100 years old next year.

We have a variety of speakers lined up with great subjects to suit all tastes.

We aim to have extra activities during the year including visits to places of interest, walks. An annual trip is organised in August. We aim to visit a music hall in London in December this year, and aim to achieve as many activities as we can according to members' interests.

For more details please contact Marilyn Hill on 07843 125592.

Newsletter Delivery People Wanted For the following roads:

Stanier Rise, Careys Croft and Crewe Curve,
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(55 houses)

Please contact Valerie Clark on 862613
or email jill.hipson@live.co.uk if you can help.

This year we have to create a new Electoral Roll for St Mary's. Consequently, all those currently on the Electoral Roll, together with those wishing to be added, must complete an Electoral Roll Form which is available at the back of the church or by contacting us at office@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk.

Rosemary North, Electoral Roll Officer

Lent Quiet Morning

At St Mary's Church on Saturday 9th March we will be having a Lent Quiet Morning from 10.00 - 12 noon.

It will be a bit different this year. We have the Sunday Club designing three of the stations and taking part on the day.

The morning is open to the whole family and anyone can come and take part by dipping in when it is convenient for you. It's open doors from 10.00am and you can stay as long as you want to. Come and join in!

Contacts for the Newsletter

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