



# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



**Parish Room Bookings:**  
**Sabina Harvey**  
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[harvey.sabina48@googlemail.com](mailto:harvey.sabina48@googlemail.com)

*July & August 2015*

**Church enquiries to:**  
**Revd Jonathan Gordon**  
01442 871547  
[revjagordon@googlemail.com](mailto:revjagordon@googlemail.com)

## Summer Parables

I often find myself saying to people how fortunate it is to live in this area with the wonderful countryside and variety of paths that allow you to enjoy it to the full. Every season brings its own colours and variation of scenes but there is something truly magnificent about the Chilterns in the summer. Walking up to the Bridgewater Monument and enjoying a coffee or even one of their extraordinary scones is a definite highlight over these next few months.

In the summer period up to harvest the parables of Jesus take on a new resonance. One of the main reasons is that Jesus was speaking to people in Galilee, a rural and agricultural setting and comparing the "kingdom of God" to a farmer sowing seeds or a vineyard will have made sense to those who were listening to him. It implied that God was not going to be found in abstractions or generalities but rather in the stuff of everyday life. The ordinary and everyday from the perspective of Jesus was able to give us a glimpse of heaven.

What is really interesting in some of these parables is that the meaning is not always self evident or

obvious. A good example is the parable of the mustard seed. Jesus suggests that this little seed will germinate, grow into a tree that will be so vast that the birds of the air will take shade in its branches. The implication is that the mustard seed will grow into a big and impressive tree. However, his hearers will have realised that this was exaggeration. The mustard seed would grow into a plant that was about three foot high and was essentially a weed. It was something that could grow in rocky and arid conditions, whilst showing perseverance it was not that impressive.

When it comes to making sense of the parable maybe there are a number of interpretations. Jesus might have been saying that what looks impressive in the world does not really impress him. Or maybe what looks unimpressive is in fact something that has a huge potential and can do remarkable things. It is not what we do, but what God can do through us that really counts.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

### **NORTHCHURCH SOCIAL CENTRE—AGM on Monday 20th July**

The Northchurch Social Centre has provided halls to hire in Northchurch for nearly 50 years. Originally set up by the Community and for the Community, it has been a well used facility for Northchurch and the surrounding area.

Unfortunately there is much wrong with the sixties

building, which was state of the art at the time, but now needs major refurbishment.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Monday 20th July at 8.00pm and we would like to invite all interested parties, particularly the community of Northchurch, to attend and help decide its future.

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# Northchurch Notebook 'Roast' or 'Rest'?

It was Dudswell I wrote of in the last Newsletter  
To enable you to know of our neighbourhood, somewhat better.  
I tell now of a café called 'Wayside', 'twas opposite the junction of  
Hamberlin's Lane.

In later years, nearby, Hamberlin's House became a hotel - so  
much to explain.

Moving on Westward, to the 'Cow Roast' I recall 'Brightman's Store'.  
'The Cow Roast'? "That is an odd name! Can you please  
tell me more?"

Well, not a name for a present day barbeque or social event!  
(Possible origin), 'Cow Rest' - a place where drovers and their  
charges, overnight hours could be spent.

This 'Cow Roast' area holds much of interest from the days of old -  
Roman occupation had long been confirmed and well documented,  
so I am told.

So, two names to consider - 'The Cow Roast', 'The Cow Rest'.  
I know which one I like the best!

## HEDGEHOG

P.S. A photo or two, a few more words in rhyme,  
I'll stay at 'The Cow Rest' for one more time.



Orchid Site, Cow Roast



Marina Site, Cow Roast



*Cow Roast Inn, New Ground, Tring.*

Cow Roast Inn, New Ground, Tring

## **The Monday Club**

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Tea in Barbara's garden.

For more information please contact Joan Downhill on  
865821 or Barbara Lloyd on 865059.



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## Treasure!

What do you most value in life? What is your 'treasure'? You may treasure a roomy house in a 'nice' area, an annual holiday overseas, attending concerts and shows, and, of course, the joy of family. Would you include anything to do with religion or God in your treasure?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers 'not to store up treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal'. Most valued things or experiences cost money and soon the pursuit of our treasure becomes a source of worry, because we haven't enough cash. So, continues Jesus: 'Don't be anxious about food and drink to keep you alive and about clothes to cover your body'. Very different from the many food magazines available today and the investment guides on what to do with your money. Jesus contrasts us with the carefree birds who are fed normally by God on a day by day basis. Do we eagerly devour the

## Edgar Wille

increasing number of fashion pages in the newspapers, with photos of unsmiling models lined up looking as if they are getting little enjoyment out of what they are wearing?

Jesus says that all these things 'occupy the mind of the heathen', but 'your heavenly father knows you have need' of the essentials of life. If you let Him rule your life, He says you will have enough. 'Let each day look after its own troubles'. 'The love of money is the route of all evil.' It's a matter of LOVING money, not just having enough and being content with it.

Elsewhere in the Bible, someone prays 'Give me neither riches nor poverty'. Some people do lack even the essentials. Do we spare any treasure for them, or just store it up for what we might think we shall need?



### Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

This is **Ozzie**, he is a Labrador cross aged 7 years. Ozzie is a friendly happy dog who is great with people, other dogs and cats. He is house-trained and can be left for short periods. He was handed in to us so we do know some of his history.

If you feel you could offer Ozzie, 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. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

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### Bells in celebration

You are accustomed to hearing bells ring a quarter peal on the second Monday of the month. But you don't know the stories that may lie behind these events – unless I tell you.

April's QP was very special for Lena Woldemariam. A year before, she had bid for a quarter peal at auction, raising funds for the Organ Repair Appeal. She was expecting a grandchild ..... Nicholas was born in Buenos Aires in November. In April we had a date on which Lena could come and listen, and Giles could record the ringing. A CD of Yorkshire Surprise Major is now the other side of the world, and the sound of St Mary's bells can be heard by proud parents – and by Nicholas too as he grows up.

In May, there was a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday to celebrate. David Burbidge has been arranging these Monday QPs for some years and it was fitting that our bells should ring Rutland Surprise Major as a birthday compliment to

him. David rang in the quarter peal – but this time Chris took responsibility for calling 'Bob' in all the right places. (David usually conducts the Monday ringing.)

It isn't often that boating on the canal combines with ringing at the church! Nor that one of our bells is rung by someone in a wheelchair. Chris and David joined the crew of the nb INTREPID to ring London Surprise Major in the late afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> May.

The celebration of lives well lived is also a solemn occasion. In June, the Monday QP was in memory of Stephen's parents: Stephen, Carolyn and James are frequent ringers in David's bands. Stedman Triples is a majestic and musical method, but a little tricky to ring well. In June, I listened to some really enjoyable ringing, a fitting tribute.

*Valerie Clark, Tower Captain*

### Police and crime update for Northchurch



Offence	No. in Northchurch	No. in Dacorum
Dwelling Burglary	2	28
Burglary Other	0	29
Criminal Damage	2	97
Vehicle Crime	3	67
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	269

**Other crime**

Other crimes in the parish include one theft from Tescos.

For more details on crime in your area please visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). Enter a postcode to see the 'crime map' for the local area.

**Outcomes**

- 1 x charged for two accounts of theft from motor vehicle.
- 1 x charged for dwelling burglary.

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**5th July**

*Trinity 5*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Benefice Evening Prayer at  
St Bartholomews

**12th July**

*Trinity 6*

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

**19th July**

*Trinity 7*

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

**26th July**

*Trinity 8*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
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6.00pm Evening Prayer

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### Contacts for the Newsletter

- Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613
- Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor  
Mrs Jill Hipson

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### Next issue: September.

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