



# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



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

## April 2017

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

## Easter Sunday and God's Extravagance

Over the last few weeks at St Mary's, the Lent Group has been looking at the Archbishop's book "Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace." There is a theme that runs through the book that contrasts what control money can have over so many areas of our life on one hand, yet, counter to this, is the pull of the extravagance and abundance of God's love and generosity. The author suggests that money, even when we have a lot of it, can make all of us a bit Scrooge like in that there is never enough, whilst God's extravagant economics suggests a completely different approach to what we have and how we use it. It is a thoughtful book and the discussions in the group have been very interesting as we grapple with the challenges and questions that we are presented with.

One of the things that have struck me as we come to celebrate Easter is that the generosity of God is seen primarily in the self giving of Jesus on Good Friday. In the church services the prayers and readings will pick up on the theme of God holding nothing back but entering into the full complexity, uncertainty and confusion of the world. There are those who are determined to destroy Jesus and those who are prepared to be cajoled into making this happen. The story of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem uncovers a web of power politics, human weakness and violence. The disciples we are told go into hiding, fearful that they will most likely be arrested and be treated in the same way.

The Easter message that the churches will be celebrating is that this is not the end of the story. There is a multitude of themes and reflections that resonate from the story of the resurrection. One that always strikes me when reading or listening to the various accounts is as follows. From the disciples perspective there is a growing realisation that something completely unexpected and astonishing has taken place. The way they understand the nature of God is being changed and alongside this is a new way of living. Jesus was the victim of anger, compromise and violence. Yet, the resurrection is defined by grace, forgiveness, love, and healing. God does not return like for like. The disciples are called to reflect these spirit shaped gifts into the world. That will be a demanding task, but they preach a message that says the axis of the world has changed and even if it feels hard to grasp, God's extraordinary generosity can be trusted.

*Rev Jonathan Gordon*

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### Easter Saturday at 10.00am

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Northchurch Common. Please meet at the Parish Room at 10.00am .



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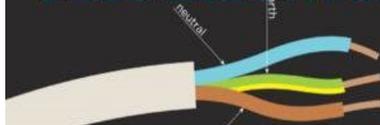
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## Jesus: Giving himself for us

From childhood I have often puzzled over how the death of the finest man who ever lived can affect us today. I have looked at many theories. One, very popular among Christians, is called 'penal substitution'. It says that God had to punish all humans for opposition to him. However, he wanted to rescue as many as possible from the death penalty they deserved. God couldn't just let the human race off. So, according to the theory, he gave his own son to die instead of them: the truly innocent was to take the penalty deserved by the guilty. The theory considered that this would take away our sins. I could never see God involved in such an act of injustice. What could the cruel death of Jesus do to serve God's reputation for punishing sin?

Of late, however, I have realised that Jesus gave his whole life to change the mind and heart of repentant sinners. His ministry in life, his cruel death, and receiving his life back in resurrection, are all involved in the work of Christ to save us and give us the gift of eternal life to be lived in his service.

Jesus and his Father would give new life to them, headed in the direction of Christ's perfection, though not yet without sin.

God could forgive those who repented and absorbed the light. He could share Christ's victorious resurrection with those who put their faith in him. God in his grace did not need a legalistic mechanism in order to forgive.

To sum up, Jesus lived, died, and now lives forever, so that we may receive his gift of immortal service to him and the Father. Jesus gave his whole self to us. The death without the resurrection of Jesus would have been insufficient. In the words of the Apostle Peter : *praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, he gave us new birth into a living hope* (First letter of Peter, chapter 1, verse 3)

Edgar Wille

## The Berkhamsted Bluebell Walk 2017

Join us on the 49th Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 14th May 2017 to raise money for The Children's Society and help change children's stories. In Britain today there are still many children and young people suffering hardship, abuse and neglect. Too often their problems are ignored and their voices unheard. Help us to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people by taking part in the Berkhamsted Walk and raising sponsorship to support the work of The Children's Society.

Now is the time to dig out your walking boots and ask your family, friends and work colleagues for sponsorship, or even to join you on the walk. Come along and walk with us on well-marked paths through Ashridge and enjoy the bluebells and beech trees this Spring.

Choose between the following walks:

- \* **The Fun Walk** – a 6 mile gentle stroll suitable for all ages, particularly families with younger children, (note the route is not buggy-friendly)
- \* **The Bluebell Walk – 12 miles**
- \* **The Challenge – 18 miles.** This route is for fit and frequent walkers.

The 12 and 18 mile walks start from the Court House next to St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted High Street HP4 2AX between 10 and 11.30 am and the 6 mile walk starts at Ashridge College HP4 1NS (free parking) between 11am and 2pm. A prize will be awarded for the highest amount raised through sponsorship.

To find out more visit [www.berkhamstedwalk.com](http://www.berkhamstedwalk.com) and download sponsor forms or collect one from St Peter's Church, The Complete Outdoors, Berkhamsted Library or phone 01442 864968 to speak to Ann Browning.



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Twelfth Night (NT live) on 6<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm

Hero of Our Time (Bolshoi) on 9<sup>th</sup> April @ 4pm.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (NT live)  
on 20<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm.

Obsession (NT Live) on 11<sup>th</sup> May @ 7pm

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (NT live)  
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**Private G13274 Ambrose Alfred BROWN**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).**  
**Killed 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1917**



**THE GREAT WAR**  
**1914 - 1918**

soon after Ambrose's birth.

After leaving school Ambrose started work at the Brushworks in Berkhamsted and took a keen interest in the Northchurch Village Club. On reaching the age of 18 in early 1916, Ambrose was conscripted into 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, and after completing his basic training in September 1916 he was sent to France. Two months later, Ambrose's battalion moved to the Somme.

Following the heavy fighting of the previous months, the conditions in the trenches that Ambrose found himself in were atrocious, and made even worse by heavy winter snowfalls and regular enemy sniper fire.

In early 1917, the Germans started their secret withdrawal to newly-built heavily fortified positions which the British later called the "Hindenburg Line". Once it was realised that Germans had withdrawn, British troops started a series of probing attacks to secure the vacated territory. It was during one such attack, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, that Ambrose was killed. His body now rests in the Croisilles British Cemetery.

**Private 35345 William SEAR**  
**12<sup>th</sup> (Transport Workers) Battalion**  
**Bedfordshire Regiment.**  
**Died 8<sup>th</sup> April 1917**

William Sear, a married man of 39 from Northchurch and regular attendee at the Baptist Chapel, received his conscription papers in the summer of 1916; had he been a year older he would have been exempt. William had spent the previous two years trying his best to keep his aging uncle's building, dairy and market garden running by working all hours of the day, and had watched helplessly as his fellow workmates had either volunteered to serve in the army or had been conscripted.

Ambrose Alfred Brown, recorded on the Northchurch War Memorial as J. Ambrose Brown, was born in Australia in 1898, the eldest son of Ambrose and Susie Brown. His father, who had been brought up in Northchurch, had emigrated there in 1890 and had married six years later. For some reason the Brown family decided to return to Northchurch

All appeals for his exemption were rebutted by the authorities, and being found unfit for front-line service, William was assigned to 12<sup>th</sup> (Transport Workers) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, a home defence unit based in Newhaven, tasked with keeping the port running.

Not long after his arrival in Newhaven in February 1917, William started complaining about pains in his head and became increasingly depressed and nervous. On afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> April he told his landlady that he was going for a walk; he was not seen alive again. The following day William's body was found hanging in a barn on the outskirts of Newhaven. The subsequent inquest found that William had "committed suicide by hanging himself whilst insane at the time". Williams body was subsequently returned to Northchurch and now lies in a grave in the old Baptist Chapel graveyard in Bell Lane, beneath a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

**Private 41068 Albert John DELL**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Manchester Regiment.**  
**Killed 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917**

Albert Dell, the elder brother of Edwin Dell, the first Northchurch man to die in the war, was born in 1892. After leaving school Albert started work in the printing industry and sometime before 1914 moved to Hinckley in Leicestershire. Volunteering for the army the following year, Albert joined a battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment in France in the spring of 1916.

Albert was injured by shrapnel during an artillery bombardment during the Somme Offensive necessitating a stay in military hospital. On his discharge, in December 1916, Albert was transferred to 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Manchester Regiment.

Like Ambrose Brown, Albert was involved in the probing attacks as the Germans retreated to the "Hindenburg Line". It was during one such attack on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, as part of what became known as the Second Battle of the Scarpe, that Albert Dell was killed. His body was never formerly identified and Albert's name is now preserved on the Arras Memorial.





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For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 271591 or go to our website: [www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk](http://www.northchurchandberkhamstedu3a.co.uk)



HERTFORDSHIRE  
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## February 2017 crime & ASB figures for Northchurch

Offence	No. in parish	No. in Dacorum
Dwelling Burglary	1	26
Burglary Other	1	42
Criminal Damage	2	130
Vehicle Crime	2	119
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	294

## OWL Neighbourhood watch

We are still recruiting and would invite any resident of the parish to sign up and receive messages from police about what is going on the area. All we need to sign you up is an email address and/or telephone number and you can start to receive information. To sign up to OWL or for more information please email [SNTBerkhamstedandTring@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNTBerkhamstedandTring@herts.pnn.police.uk)

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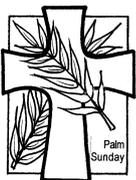
**2nd April**

*Lent 5*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St Bart's

**9th April**

*Palm Sunday*



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

**13th April**

*Maundy Thursday*

7.30pm Parish Eucharist

**14th April**

*Good Friday*



Quiet Morning 10.00am -Noon  
Good Friday Service at 2.00pm  
followed by Hot Cross Buns in  
the Parish Room

**16th April**

*Easter Day*



8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

**23rd April**

*Easter 2*

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

**30th April**

*Easter 3*

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

**Parish Registers: February & March 2017**

### Baptism

19th February Harry Whitmarsh  
5th March Sian Isabella Margaret Evans

### Burial of Ashes

26th February Isabella Goss

### Funerals

24th February Robert Andrew Hume  
1st March Ted Duke  
8th March William Thomas Talbot Pakenham  
15th March June Rose O'Mahoney  
16th March Kathy Turner  
30th March Michael Gower  
31st March Dolores Stiles

Donations of Children's  
Toys, Games and Books  
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### Contacts for the Newsletter

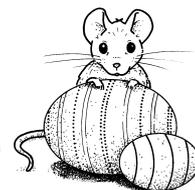
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St Mary's Church

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