

St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367

April 2018



Church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547
revjagordon@googlemail.com

Is Change Good or Bad?

I was walking through Tring recently and was trying to find a cash point and did not appreciate that all the banks had gone. The cash point is at the local supermarket. I imagine this is part of the move towards internet banking. The world has changed a huge amount in recent years and in conversations with folk some way that they find the pace of change very bewildering. We seem to be in a transition period where accepted ways of doing things could soon be things of the past. Alongside this is the news of familiar shops being closed or going into administration and the cut backs in services that help those who are vulnerable and isolated. After a long winter and the recent polar vortex and the "mini beast" from Siberia it can seem to be all bad news.

Yet some really exciting things are happening. Over Lent we have been running a film course and once a month in the future we are going to be showing a film in the Parish Room to which all are welcome. Progress is being made on the plan to keep the church open and on Wednesday afternoons folk have been coming in for cake and jigsaw puzzles. In the modern world isolation and loneliness are ongoing problems and initiatives that can provide a sense of community cohesion and practical benefit are of enormous value. We are very fortunate at the church to have the regular Monday Club and also a Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings that brings people together. In the summer there are plans for cream teas on a Sunday afternoon. We are also very fortunate to have a new website that lets you know what is happening in the St Mary's community. Please do take a look at

www.stmarysnorthchurch.org and this will keep you up to date with all the news and events.

The celebration of community and hope is at the heart of the Easter celebrations and you will be very welcome to come along to the services at St Mary's that are listed on the website or in the church porch. When the woman came to the tomb on the first Easter morning they were grieving. Yet, they were to become the first witnesses to the empty tomb and also the first Easter evangelists as they passed onto the disciples the message that "Christ is Risen." In the confusion and uncertainty there was the recognition that something totally unexpected but extraordinary had taken place. Where there had been death, there was now life, and where there had been despair there was hope. The world had changed but rather than facing this with fear, all things now seemed possible.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Special Services in Holy Week

March 29th Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion

March 30th Good Friday

10.00am-Noon Quiet Morning in church

2.00pm Service of the Word

April 1st Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evening Prayer

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The Christian Commission

Christians often feel embarrassed to tell others about their faith but, as Peter puts it, they should always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them. Paul remembered that God and the Lord Jesus Christ had commissioned him to take the gospel - good news - to the Gentiles as well as the Jews. He therefore felt that he had to acknowledge a commission from God which could not be denied. He told his readers that the challenge of the gospel must be proclaimed and it would put him under unbelievable stress to do this.

Christians today can take note of Paul's energy devoted to telling others about his commission, and in his letter to Timothy he affirms that all scripture was breathed from God and he could not do other than preach it.

We can share this attitude and allow God's spirit to utilise scripture to train us in His ways.

Let us share with Paul and Peter the opportunity to affirm these truths. Paul could do no other, and would expect us to share his love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ available in their commission.

Let us then reveal the commission in our sayings and doings, responding to the apostolic commission. Let us not be embarrassed about our faith, but share it cheerfully with others in the name of the Father and the Son. We should accept this challenge in our lives now.

Edgar Wille

Concerts at St Mary's Church

At St Mary's we are part of a Benefice with St Bartholomew's Wigginton. Throughout the year we are having a few concerts at the beautiful church to encourage music and arts.

On Sunday **May 20th at 7.00pm** we will be welcoming the folk duo **Ninebarrow**. The duo were nominated in the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Folk Award 'Horizon' category for Best Emerging Artist and also for 'Best Duo' in both the Fatea Magazine Awards 2016 and the Folking.com awards of 2017. In March 2017, the duos were invited to perform a live session on Mark Radcliffe's BBC Radio 2 Folk Show, where the presenter described their singing as 'A rather lovely thing...like two halves of one voice'.

Please do buy a ticket and come along: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ninebarrow-concert-tickets-41555614963 or follow the link on the St Mary's church website. If you don't have internet access then please do speak Jonathan.

Private 75902 Charles Thomas MASHFORD

**Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) attached to 2/2nd (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment.
Killed 24th April 1918**

Charlie Mashford, was born in Northchurch in 1899. In 1911, Charlie was living in Eddy Street in Gossoms End with his parents and younger sister. Charlie's father died suddenly in 1914 and 15-year-old Charlie became the sole means of support for his mother and sister.

In the spring of 1917, Charlie was conscripted and joined the Royal Fusiliers. The following March, Charlie was rushed to France in a draft of 114 men and attached to 2/2nd (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment. Exactly one week earlier, the German army had launched their Spring Offensive, and was steadily reclaiming the territory it had relinquished during the battles of 1916 and 1917. As the British losses escalated, they were forced back to well-prepared defences, miles behind the former front line, and it was here that Charlie joined what was left of his battalion. On 5th April, his battalion moved to Villers-Bretonneaux, close to the strategic town of Amiens, one of the key objectives of the German offensive, where they dug

further fall-back trenches ready for when the Germans launched their next attack.

The expected attack came early on 24th April, with an artillery barrage of high explosive and poison gas shells, followed by German Stormtroopers advancing through the morning mist supported, for the first time, by tanks. The German tanks were quickly engaged by British tanks and withdrew, but Charlie's battalion was surrounded on three sides. Charlie's body was found after the fighting had subsided and was buried where he fell. He was just 19 years old and had been at the front for just twenty-eight days.



*Private Charlie Mashford
(Source: British Library)*



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

Richard North

Thank You Northchurch

Thank you so much for putting your faith in me to represent you on both Dacorum Borough and Northchurch Parish Councils in the by-election. I feel both touched and humbled by your positive response to my campaign.

Facing icy wind in Boswick Lane and ducking for shelter from hailstones in St Mary's Avenue was nothing compared to when the Beast from the East arrived. Peaking the Friday before the election, I battled along Seymour Road and Applecroft looking like something from a scene in The Revenant. Although the weather may have been freezing, the welcome from my neighbours was always warm.

As I made my way home that evening, for once due to the snow, there was no traffic in the High Street. A murmur of muffled pub chatter reached me as I passed the steamed up windows of The George & Dragon. I looked over at the Alms Houses and it occurred to me - this was what Northchurch must have felt like before the car. I felt privileged to live in such an idyllic place, but also realised just how much the heavy traffic in the High Street impacts on our safety and the enjoyment of our village. As promised in the campaign, improving road safety is my priority.

The morning after the election I joined Gareth Hawden and other members of the Go20 campaign, along with Terry Douris and members of the Parish Council to meet engineers from Hertfordshire County Council to discuss this very issue. It is likely to be a

long process and I hope to help gather more evidence from the local community to support the campaign to improve road safety. I will work together with everyone concerned to improve road traffic safety for our families.

I have promised to be accessible and to listen to my neighbours. You are most welcome to email any enquiries to larapringle@yahoo.co.uk or call 01442 876 234 and I will be pleased to help where I can.

I have really enjoyed the campaign. The best bit has been the opportunity to meet so many of you. Behind the doors of Northchurch, there is a wealth of experience and talent. I have heard words of wisdom from residents who have lived here all their lives; I have met enthusiastic young people brimming with energy and ideas; I even had the privilege of being shown the Hedgehog's clock, rescued from the trenches of WW1! I am really looking forward to serving and meeting even more of you over the coming months.

Cllr Lara Pringle

The Monday Club

9th April: Film: 2pm in St Mary's Parish Rooms

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

Fed up with watching TV every night? Then why not join your local WI?

We meet every second Monday of the month in the Northchurch Social Centre at 7.30pm.

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 when stirred,
 While tomatoes blush diving deeply.
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St Mary's Film Club

Tuesday 17th April at 8.00pm in the Parish Room and we will be showing "The Battle of Britain," to mark that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force. All welcome.

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If you can offer Ali or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 am and 4 pm or phone for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website. Join our Facebook group to see more photos of Ali and other dogs awaiting homes.

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Easter Services at St Mary's

29th March *Maundy Thursday*

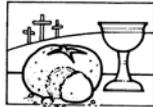
8.00pm Holy Communion

30th March *Good Friday*

10.00am to Noon Quiet Morning in church
2.00pm Service of the Word

1st April *Easter Sunday*

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



8th April *2nd Sunday of Easter*

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

15th April *3rd Sunday of Easter*

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

22nd April *4th Sunday of Easter*

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.

29th April *5th Sunday of Easter*

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. All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published. Copy date is 15th of each month.



St Mary's Church Fete: Saturday 7th July

Arrangements for our summer fete are well underway. All the old favourites will be there including the BBQ, the bottle stall, gift stalls, various raffles and tombolas (for adults and children), games stalls, the plant stall, cakes and teas, books, Soak the Rector, Nearly New and lots, lots more! This year we're hoping there will be enough water in the river to run the duck race and the Puzzle Fest will be back after a year off. There will be lots of entertainment from the Hemel Hempstead Band, St Mary's School and others. A new addition this year is a Tug of War competition on the school field. More details to follow but why not start organising your team of 6-8 members now and get training?!!

The fair will run from 12.30pm to 4pm and this year will raise money for **Phakamisa, The Swan Youth Project, Northchurch United Charities and the Roof Fund**. Please make a note of the date in your diaries now and encourage your family and friends to come along for a great family day out.

If you would like to get involved either in the setting up of the fete on the day before or on the day itself, or to help on a stall, please email info@northchurch.org.uk or let Jonathan know revjagordon@gmail.com

RESERVE THE DATE

All church enquiries to:
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