



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
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April 2015

Church enquiries to:
Revd Jonathan Gordon
01442 871547
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Easter Services and Events

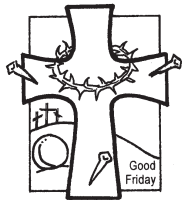
Maundy Thursday 2nd April
7.30pm Holy Communion and
stripping of the altar



Phakamisa Evening

Saturday 18 April

Bring-n-Share Supper at St Mary's Parish rooms - all welcome, starting at 6.15 for 6.30pm. Please sign sheet at back of church if you would like to come to the supper and sign up to bring a food item or give a monetary donation.



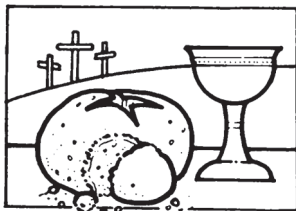
Good Friday Service 3rd April
2.00pm : followed by Hot Cross Buns
in the Parish Room

The Supper will be followed by a Concert from the "FRIDAY SONGBIRDS" in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale from Jonathan/Rachel Gordon at £5. The Friday Songbirds are a singing for pleasure group whose programme for the evening "Songs for the Soul" includes songs that are full of meaning, easy listening, and contemporary.

The Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday 4th April
We will leave the Parish
Room at 10.00am, ready to
find a multitude of eggs that
have been hidden on Northchurch Common.



There will be refreshments at the interval: wine, tea, coffee and cake, on a donation basis. Transport to and from the evening can be arranged if needed.



Easter Day
Sunday 5th April
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer

There will be an opportunity to meet the new Co-ordinator of Phakamisa - Thokozwani Poswa - throughout the evening.



Easter Monday Pilgrimage 6th April
Pilgrimage to St Albans: Please meet at the Parish
Room at 7.00am

Information about the work of the charity can be found on their website:

Taizé Service Sunday 19th April
6.00 pm A quiet meditation service with
chants and silence to celebrate Easter.
Refreshments to be served afterwards.



www.phakamisa.org. Phakamisa responds to the needs of adults and children from poor communities in Pinetown, South Africa who are living with HIV/AIDS through uplifting and economically empowering programmes.

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Northchurch Notebook

Not 'Home thoughts from abroad' (Robert Browning) -
My thoughts from Southbank Road

My memories of the Darrs Lane shops, I shared with you last time -
Now by way of more photos and oft times - terrible rhyme -
See *Northchurch Hall*, 'twas situated just beyond Tesco, I would say
Where the 'High Street South' houses and gardens can be seen today.



Northchurch Hall c. 1920

It was here the Barnett family hosted the Village Garden Shows and Fetes,
At such times Northchurch folk (and others) came in through the gates.
Of course Northchurch Hall needed staff for the house, the gardens and the Home Farm to run well.
So in some of these roadside cottages, they did dwell.

The years rolled by, 'Lady Lemon' now lived at The Hall, she is in my
memory still!

But with the war years upon us, The Hall and the grounds certainly
went down hill.

The Home Guard had their 'headquarters' there, see some of the
Northchurch men,

But after demolition took place, what actually happened then?



Roadside cottages

Of course, housing development - 'The Park Estate' of today -
But I still hear it called 'Percy Bilton's' I have to say.

HEDGEHOG



Northchurch Platoon Home Guard 1940 - 1941



Northchurch Hall Fete 1916

The Monday Club

Monday 13th April:
Jenny Smith will speak and show slides about the work of the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. She will be accompanied by her Hearing Dog, Molly.

Monday 27th April:
Outing to Ashridge Visitor Centre for a short walk followed by tea.

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



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St Mary's Summer Fete 4th July 2015

This event will be running from 12.30 – 4pm this year in the rectory, school and church grounds. There will be all the usual attractions for all age-groups and the money raised will be divided between the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Service, Phakamisa (a charity which supports AIDS orphans in South Africa) and the St Mary's church roof fund.

Any donations of good quality second hand books or children's toys, bottles, items for tombola, gifts and toiletries, white elephant, cakes, or plants would be gratefully received and can be brought to church or the Rectory.

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Holy Joe

Edgar Wille

When I was a child, my father used to hold services in our house. One day someone had scrawled graffiti on the footpath leading to our home. It read: 'Holy Joe'!

To be committed to a religious faith got you seen as someone very 'picky' about what was good and what was bad. And if there was a God insisting on these standards, He couldn't be very nice. 'Holy' is a description that most people would not be happy with. It suggests looking down on other less fussy people who get on with enjoying their lives. However, in the Bible, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews has God saying: 'Be ye holy for I am holy'.

Christians ought to be holy! What does that mean? The work 'holy' means being set apart for special purposes, separated from the way most people go about life, heedless of God. The above writer also says that: 'Without holiness no one shall see God', meaning that they don't perceive what God and Jesus are like, and don't try to behave like them. Those who follow the

Christian way should show love and kindness to their fellow humans, looking for the best in them and not stabbing them in the back with angry, hostile words and deeds. They should seek to help people who are in trouble, and certainly not despise those who live in poverty and experience other misfortunes.

This involves avoiding the practises of what the Bible calls 'the world', to which TV and the press give daily witness. The Apostle James feels strongly about this, saying: 'He who makes himself the friend of the world is at enmity with God'. A 'friend of God' will abstain from the self-seeking and pleasure dominated activities which rule many of people's waking hours. In fact, to live in God's way brings more real pleasure than living with little thought of God and Jesus. Bible writers often call this 'a new life', with new hopes of a friendship with God and unimaginable joys in a future age where the secret of love will prevail.

Three Hours Hard Labour

That's what bellringers volunteer for when they attempt to ring a peal. Alan, Chris, David, Kate, Ken, Maurice, Steve and Valerie (not me!) came from as far as Cholsey, Guildford, Wheatley and Wokingham, and from as near as Amersham, Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted to Northchurch on 16th February – just for the fun of ringing the bells at St Mary's.

I heard a 'wobbly bit' as I listened in the church. I wondered if all was well when the bells were still ringing as the clock ticked past 2 hours 53 minutes. (That's the usual time it takes to ring a peal on our bells.) After 3 hours, I heard the bells come into rounds, the 'pattern' of sound in which bells traditionally start and finish anything they ring. Oh dear! The words "It wasn't successful" greeted me as I joined the ringers in the ringing room.

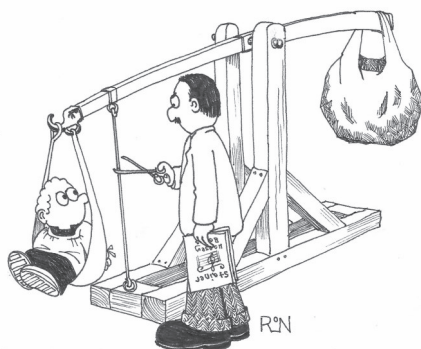
That's when my admiration for those who conduct ringing went up a notch. Alan had realised that two of the bells had changed places - shall we say a little independently of what was expected of them! He could

have said "Stand" (bellspeak for Stop) but he decided to keep going. He worked out when to call 'Bob' so that the erring bells would swap back into their proper places and the ringing would be able to end tidily in rounds. There was no chance for Alan to pause, scribble on a bit of paper, or consult his Smartphone. He made his calculations while continuing to ring his own bell, keeping his place in the pattern of the method!

There wasn't the usual sense of achievement for the band as they left the church – but they took solace in crossing the road to the *George & Dragon*.

You might be a little critical that I said this ringing was for fun. But it's worth noting that these ringers are also committed to ring regularly for Sunday services, giving of their best in the service of the church. Two of them ring at St Paul's and Guildford Cathedrals – and one of them is also a Professor of Divinity.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain



Toby persistently sang flat

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The Berkhamsted Bluebell Walk 2015



This year's Berkhamsted Walk to raise funds for The Children's Society is set for Sunday 10th May so there's plenty of time to dust off your walking boots, limber up and ask your family and friends for sponsorship. Our route master has introduced a few new sections to the routes through Ashridge so do come along to enjoy the bluebells and beech trees this Spring. The money you raise in sponsorship will help tackle the injustice of child neglect here in the UK.

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), or
- ◆ **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.

Our generous sponsors, The Complete Outdoors, are again donating two vouchers worth £100 for the highest amount raised; in the first category by one individual and in the second by a family group or small group of walkers.

The Children's Society needs all you can raise to make a difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged children in this country. To learn more visit 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.



Chilterns Tea Ride—Cycling with tea and cake!

The electric bike is a great way to explore the great outdoors. You can enjoy a leisurely day out with friends and family visiting local historical places and seeing the countryside.

The electric bike tours can now offer you the opportunity of visiting the Chilterns, with its spectacular views and natural beauty. During the cycle ride, you are encouraged to indulge in your love of cake, as the ride relaxes at the Frithsden Vineyard with a home baked cream tea. Anyone who has ridden a bike before will love this experience and marvel at the electric bike's ability to whizz up the steep Chiltern Hills.



The rides are every Saturday and start in Berkhamsted. To find out more about these guided electric bike tours, please telephone 01442 927522 or email support@electricbiketours.co.uk With plenty of things to do, see and eat, electric bikes are a great way to experience the outdoors.

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Easter Services at St Mary's



2nd April

Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

3rd April

Good Friday

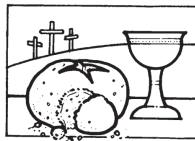
2.00pm A Service of Prayer
and Reconciliation



5th April

Easter Day

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



12th April

Second Sunday of Easter

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

19th April

Third Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am All-Age Worship
6.00pm Taize Service



26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Dacorum foodbank

Priority needs for April

cold meat (tinned) Instant mash fruit juice (UHT)
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