



St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
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November 2020

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NORTHCHURCH COMMUNITY PANTRY ONE PANTRY TWO VENUES

A joint community project on behalf of
St Mary's Parish Church

NORTHCHURCHBAPTIST†

FINDING IT HARD TO
MAKE ENDS MEET?



There is also a donation box where tins, dry goods and children's books can be left
St Mary's open 9-4 and Northchurch pantry located on the side of the Baptist Church

For more information contact
Peggy - 07804 697948 or Mary-Ann – maryann.mountford@northchurch.com

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” Matthew 25:35 NIV



Remembering with gratitude

In October we marked Harvest Festival, giving thanks to God for the created world, the food we eat and all who provide us with what we need. We are reminded to be mindful of our responsibility to care for the environment and the conflicting demands that the pandemic has brought to this issue. This year particularly we gave thanks for those who ensured we had food to eat during lockdown, from farmers to shelf stackers. We had a new appreciation for how vulnerable our food chain is and who are the essential workers on whom our society depends.

This month we give thanks for all those who gave their lives in the wars, on Remembrance Day. We would usually gather in church to pay tribute to those killed in both World Wars and all who have since given their lives in active service. When King George V requested a 2 minutes silence at 11am on 11th November 1919 the act of remembrance represented the national grief of whole communities devastated by the loss of so many. It was also linked with a determination that war should never happen again. Sadly, we know that in that we have failed, and added to the war memorials of the First World War were those to a new generation who died in the Second World War.

We have continued to observe this silence ever since. However over recent years the focus has shifted. It has become almost a celebration, sometimes referred to as Poppy Day. Last year I was on placement at St Peters' at this time and, I made a passing comment about the many poppies that festooned the high street. The gentleman I spoke to replied, "You feel somewhat differently when you have lived through a war". It made me stop and think and reassess our attitude toward Remembrance Day and what we are doing with our poppy display. Each one of these poppies should remind us of the horrors of war and the devastating loss of life. The blood red flowers represent those who had died in such huge numbers in the battlegrounds of the First World War. Perhaps an even greater sacrifice were those who enlisted to

fight in the Second World War, fully aware of the true horrors of war, the near certain death that awaited them in military combat.

We should certainly continue to remember, with gratitude, all those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of others. Yet perhaps this year, in 2020, we should draw parallels with recent events and think of all who have given their lives in the service of others in the course of their ordinary jobs. In the wake of the Coronavirus, we think of those who risked their own safety, sometimes with fatal consequences, in front line jobs; working in hospitals, hospices and care homes. Perhaps this year, in addition to those who died in war, we also bring to mind the health workers who throughout the pandemic exposed themselves to the deadly virus in the course of their work, and themselves became ill and died.

This year we cannot gather in church as we usually would for Remembrance Day, however we will hold an act of remembrance by the War Memorial which will be streamed on the church Facebook page. As we gather, outside or online, let us give thanks for all who sacrificed their lives for others.

Revd Miranda Seldon
Assistant Curate



Hello from **everyone at St Mary's Northchurch and we do hope that everyone is safe and well.**

Please do remember that we are here to help and support our community. If you or anyone you know is experiencing difficulties during this time, please do get in touch. St Mary's Church runs one of the Northchurch Community Pantry venues and is open daily for donations or if you need help.

- ✂ Our Sunday morning service is at 10am every Sunday morning, and on Facebook afterwards.
- ✂ Every evening at 10pm, we have a short Night Prayer (Compline) service on Facebook.
- ✂ Both services are subtitled. Both will be available to watch afterwards.

Look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarynorthchurch> for these services and for more information.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” Matthew 25:35

During the past few months, many in our community have found their circumstances have changed and their lives have been disrupted with so many pressures and too many problems to balance on a daily basis.

Many have lost their jobs, been made redundant, some have zero contracts where they don't know whether they will work tomorrow or not, and some are just simply struggling with debt.

It can be a worry for all who find themselves in these positions. Balancing so many problems and not being able to solve them can lead to depression or anxiety disorders.

There are families that get to the end of the month and find there is nothing left to feed their families. Jesus told us that we are to feed the hungry and reach out to the isolated, this we can do with our Parish Pantry.

St Mary's and Northchurch Baptist Church decided that we can help by setting up a pantry of essential goods that we all use on a daily basis. It's been very encouraging to see that many families have made use of this pantry since we opened it, but I'm sure there are many others who will find themselves in a deeper need to make ends meet over the winter period and as the government put more restrictions on our movements if the pandemic becomes worse.

Using our open church building, the Parish Pantry can nurture and facilitate practical generosity at the heart of our community and help those in real need.

The advantage is that the Pantry is unattended and anonymous, which means that it can be accessed for need without the fear of judgement or shame. We trust God to provide, we make the church the place for his provision.

My thanks go to many who have donated our supply and continue to add to our stock. This is a vital part of the pantry to help it keep going. I thank you for your generous donations each day.

If you feel that you are able to help feed another family, please leave your donation in either church for distribution. There are donation boxes at each church. St Mary's have a box inside the side door of the church and NBC have a wooden shed on the side of the church building.

If we find we have more given than the present demand, we pass it to DENS, our local foodbank to help others.

St Mary's and NBC are open every day.

All are welcome.

Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Peggy Sear 07804 697948

Contacts for the Newsletter: Currently we are only able to publish online.

Editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson Jill.hipson@live.co.uk.
Copy date is 25th of each month.



Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk

Who Would Live in a House Like This?

Rossway – Part 4

In 1904, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Frederick Hadden returned to Rossway with his family. Charles Frederick's ailing father, Charles Staunton Hadden, who had acquired and developed the Rossway estate some forty years earlier, remained at the family's London home, and died the following year.

Charles Frederick Hadden had spent most of his early years at Rossway, but the Ceylon coffee plantation crisis had forced his father to move the family to London and lease out the estate. Born in Nottingham in 1854, he had been educated at Elstree School and Cheltenham College and then, having decided to follow a career in the army, at Sandhurst. Passing out in 1873, Hadden chose to serve in the Royal Artillery and soon showed a keen interest in the technical side of gunnery. As such, in 1885 he was appointed Assistant to the Superintendent at the Royal Laboratory at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

The same year, Hadden, now a Captain, married Frances Mabel Strong, the daughter of a Colonel in the Coldstream Guards, and they set up home in a three-story townhouse in the fashionable area of Stafford Terrace, Kensington. Two years later, Hadden and his wife became parents with the birth of their first daughter, Innes. A second daughter, Sybil, was born two years later, but sadly she was to die in infancy. A third daughter, Phyllis, was born on 1891, followed two years later by the birth of their only son, Nigel.

By now, Hadden had been promoted to Major, and appointed Chief Inspector at the Royal Arsenal. A further promotion to Lieutenant Colonel was to follow in 1899. Two years later, Hadden was appointed to the recently-created Ordnance Committee which advised the Army Council on the development of artillery pieces for the British army. This was to prove a key period in the development of artillery following the end of the Boer War in South Africa which had highlighted a number of shortcomings with the army's existing artillery pieces.

In 1904, the same year that he returned to Rossway, Hadden was appointed Commandant of the Ordnance College and Director of Artillery at Woolwich. Further high-profile roles followed, with Hadden becoming a member of the Army Council and awarded a KCB in the King's Birthday Honours in 1908. 1908 also saw the marriage of Hadden's daughter, Innes, to Nigel Fairholt Paton, a wealthy merchant based in India.

In 1909, at the request of the Prime Minister, Herbert Henry Asquith, Hadden became a member of new committee tasked with examining how aircraft could be used to support artillery in times of warfare. The co-ordination of aircraft and artillery was to play a significant part a few years later following the outbreak of the First World War. Hadden was promoted to Major General in 1913 and became President of the army's Ordnance Board and Royal Artillery Committee, a role he retained until his retirement in 1915. After his retirement from the army, Hadden became Chairman of Northchurch Parish Council, a post he retained for seven years. He also served on Hertfordshire County Council and in 1919 he was appointed High Sherriff of Hertfordshire.

Sadly, a series of tragic events were to hit the Hadden family during the last ten years of Charles Frederick's life. In 1914, Hadden's youngest daughter, Phyllis, died and two years later his son, Nigel, who was serving as a Captain with the Royal Artillery in Mesopotamia, was killed. Then in 1919, Hadden's remaining daughter, Innes, died in India shortly after giving birth to her son, Adrian Hadden-Paton.

Major General Sir Charles Frederick Hadden died of a heart attack at Rossway in September 1924. His funeral took place at St Mary's, Northchurch, and he was laid to rest in the churchyard.

In 1949, following the death of Lady Frances Mabel Hadden, Rossway passed to her grandson, Adrian Hadden-Paton. Rossway continued to be owned by the Hadden-Paton family until 1998 when it was sold.

Richard North



Rossway in the early 1900s

**Grave of
Sir Charles Frederick Hadden
In St Mary's churchyard**



Birthday gloom

Another birthday. Another unwelcome reminder that the track does not wander on into the indefinite future. It will have an ending. Everyone has to face it. Parents, friends, a partner... One day, it will be me. Hope sustains those in trouble. But will those hopes endure?

Some years ago, one dear to us was facing terminal illness. Supporting the suffering and need brought fatigue, grief and tears to our home. On a particular occasion, when they seemed unbearable, we turned to the Bible, seeking hope and reassurance in the psalms. We were not seeking a particular psalm; just the next one. *O God of my salvation, at night I cry out in your presence; let my prayer come before you.* That's how things were with us. *My soul is full of troubles... I am shut in so that I cannot escape...* Please, the encouragement. *My eyes grow dim through sorrow...* We jumped lines. *Wretched and close to death, I am desperate.* No turning, no light. *...My companions are in darkness.* In the end, it was sleep that brought relief.

In times of trouble, we look for hope: surely we can make it to Christmas; this new drug may bring relief; maybe a few more lucid moments; I pray it won't drag on; O that it might end peacefully. Even human hope has a term.

The poet who wrote Psalm 88 could see no turning, no end but despair. Yet his lament was preserved and for many it describes their experience. Maybe there is another point, in those words near the start: *Let my prayer come before you...* When human hope is gone, God is still there. We can still pray, still call upon God.

Jesus' followers saw him put his faith in God, trust him to the end. When their last hope seemed extinguished, something astonishing happened. Then they followed Jesus' example of faith.

That faith is not founded on a feeling, nor is it a certainty; it is a decision to trust, even seemingly beyond reason.

Year by year, anniversary by anniversary, our life story moves inexorably towards its conclusion. Yet Christian faith keeps pointing to a hope that will not be exhausted. Faith generates a hope that stretches beyond the terminal point; a hope that reaches out, beyond the full stop at the end of the last sentence.

So, sustained in faith, we can still celebrate the passing of another year.

David White





Could YOU be a Waterways Chaplain?

Waterways Chaplains are Christian volunteers who have a listening and supporting ministry to those who use and live on our inland waterways. The chaplaincy is ecumenical and chaplains have the very important role of being a visible Christian witness along specific stretches of the river and canal network in England and Wales as they come alongside those who live, relax and work there. Some chaplains have a background in boating but many do not.

I love being by the water and have been sailing for some 35 years and been a Waterways Chaplain on the Grand Union Canal, Berkhamsted for some 10 years now. I find that the great thing about being a waterways chaplain is that it takes the mission of the church outside the church walls and into local communities.

So if you are a good listener and able to walk a mile of waterways once a week God might be calling you to serve him as a Waterways Chaplain. Have a look at our website www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk and if you would like to know more then please call me on 07891 760244.

Mike Wallis
Waterways Chaplain

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No words to pray



A candle prayer

God,
Wherever you are,
I have no words to pray.
I am in the darkness,
Aching,
Lost,
In pain.

As I light my candle,
I reach out to you,
For my family and friends,
For the world around me,
For myself,
Give me strength
To face another day.
Shine your light into my
dark places
And help me to know
I am not alone.

Amen

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