

# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



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

### Parish Room Bookings: Sabina Harvey

Mobile: 079799 14449 harvey.sabina48@googlemail.com September 2015

## An Invitation to Church

There are various national initiatives such as "Back to Church" that encourage people to go along to their local church on a Sunday morning. It is a good idea but it can be daunting. A number of years ago we moved to Southampton and on a decorating weekend I thought that I would go along to the local parish church. I was surprised how nervous I felt going in on my own, not being sure where to sit and wondering what type of service it would be. As it turned out the congregation was very welcoming and the Curate asked me out for a beer. I was thinking of this a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning whilst being on holiday sitting at the cafe by the Ashridge Monument which was packed. It got me thinking of how going to church on a Sunday morning can be an attractive alternative.

The first thing and this is a purely practical point you can still get a cup of coffee after the church service and it is also fair trade and free. There is also the opportunity to buy Traidcraft products and also on certain Sunday's buy free range eggs. Meeting with people after the service, catching up on what is going on, and sharing in the life of the church community is an important part of Sunday morning. If you are a bit worried about coming to church on your own, this is a great way to get to meet people and it makes coming again a bit easier.

If you have young children then actually getting out of the front door can seem an achievement. Once you arrive at church then things start to look up. There is a crèche that meets in the church that is run by a registered childminder who will be delighted to look after your infants. I know a few parents are worried about the noise. It really is not a problem and the sound of children in church is a good one. Also whoever is taking the service

can talk louder and it is also one of the reasons we have microphones. We also have a fantastic team of volunteers who run activities for children of all ages. On the second Sunday of the month there is an All Age Service that is led by the very talented St Mary's Music Group. St Mary's is also linking up with All Saints to appoint Connie Barrett as a new Youth and Families Worker. Connie will be starting in September and we are very excited about welcoming her.

If you don't have children, or your family is out of the area or you live alone then church life is a good way of meeting people and being part of the Northchurch community. Everyone is welcome and we learn from each other. It does not matter how you feel or what is going on in your life, as church life meets us where we are. Hopefully the sermons and worship will give something to think about and it does not matter if you don't agree with everything you hear. St Mary's for 1000 years has been a place of prayer and worship, in which a variety of perspectives on the Christian life have been shared. As a church we seek to worship God and encourage each other in whatever we do to follow Jesus. It sounds simple but has huge consequences that reverberate in every component of life.

So if on a Sunday morning you hear the bells and think what shall I do this morning, seize the moment and come along to St Mary's. If you would like to come but do not have transport, then please do ring and we can arrange a lift. If you have been to church in the past but have got out of the habit, then please consider getting back into it. Whatever the reason or just curiosity, there is an open door waiting.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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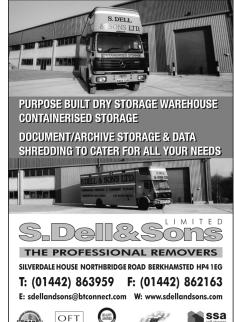


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### **Northchurch Notebook**

**Toward an Early Hibernation** 

'Twas on the New Road bridge where I was asked about the locks, I remember it still -

I said "Gets them 'narrer boats up and down the hill!" Now, the Cow 'Rest' is the top of the hill, that is why The lock gates there were locked at midnight in years gone by.

So that day and night travel would have to stop -And so keep water aplenty there at 'the top'. 'The top' is not really the correct word to use, I suspect. I believe 'the summit', in canal terms, is much more correct.

But I will stay in this area, I have a few more words to say. Perhaps jog a few memories along the way.

As a boy a 'back lane' walk to 'The Cow Rest' with my Mum, Dad and sister was often a Sunday event.

We sat outside with a lemonade, that's how half an hour or so was usually spent. Then back to Northchurch on the Aldbury bus (always known as the 'Bee and Bee'), A long time ago - but still well in my memory.

Now, who recalls O'Neil's scrap yard (car showrooms today one can see), But this photo brings back a certain time to me.

Hesitating on a purchase, I was told "There you are, just as you see 'em - Only two left, this one here and one in the British Museum!!"

Still the Cow Rest - where a flying Fortress crashed and a glider was once forced to land,

And an 'oil bomb' (whatever that was) came down in a field close at hand. This was the Cow Rest, this was wartime -

Just a few more 'things' I remember, put into rhyme.

In years gone by, the motorist in need of petrol was catered for in *this* way. Somewhat different to the garage forecourts we see today. So this is just another glimpse of way back when . . .

Now, I feel I've completed my journey by way of photo and pen.

### **HEDGEHOG**

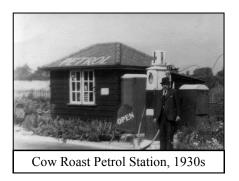
Editor's Note: Hedgehog has decided to go into hibernation. A big thank you for all the fascinating articles. Hedgehog was supported by his Editorial team: his daughter Jackie and his grandson Ryan. Thank you to them too.



Cow Roast Inn, New Grounds



O'Niels Scrap Yard - Note: Flying Fortress Propellor



Hedgehog at Home

## Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

This is **Joey** a Yorkshire Terrier aged two and a half years. Don't be fooled by his cute appearance! He needs an experienced home with owners willing to continue the work we have done socialising him. Joey cannot go to a home with children but could live with another dog. He cannot live in Bedford.

If you feel you could offer Joey, 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 years. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

Our **Open Day and Fun Dog Show** is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Lots of classes, refreshments and stalls. Opens at 11 a.m. classes commence 12 noon. Entries on the day.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY (Reg Charity No 1116848)

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### Christian Aid—Update and Event

This is a belated big thank you to the residents of Northchurch and the volunteers from St.Mary's Church for their fantastic support over this year's CA Week (9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May).

The response on the doorstep is going to be mixed between those that say, and do, donate online for various charities, those that have saved up their small change, those that don't want to contribute and those waiting for their regular collector with that extra welcome and warmth in their giving.

We cannot underestimate the need, it is always there, which is partly why we must continue to show in this small way, that we do care and want to help offering hope to the countless that are in far greater need than we, in Northchurch, will ever be in.

So thank you for the £1,500 we raised, contributing to a Berkhamsted area total of £5,500.

### **Event Alert:**

A representative of Christian Aid is coming to speak at our All-Age Service, 10am on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Thanks, everyone.

Nick Laing
St Mary's Christian Aid Co-Ordinator



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### **60 Seconds-ish Interview**

### with Connie Barrett, our new youth worker

### What's your first memory of going to church?

My parents took us to Church on a Sunday morning and evening. I remember going to Church in my pyjamas so that they could put me, my older brother and younger sister straight to bed when we got home. I must have been three or four at the time.

### Which fiction book did you last read and did you enjoy it?

I read a lot, but mainly Christian literature. Unfortunately I can't remember the last time I read a novel. I've just finished Timothy Keller's Counterfeit Gods. Timothy Keller is one of my favourite authors.

## When you need to do some thinking, do you go for a walk/run? Go to church? Or lock yourself in the loo?

I really connect with God through nature, so when I need to do some thinking I normally grab my trainers and head out the door.

### QUICKFIRE ROUNDS!

Newspaper or Internet?..... Internet.

Secret Indulgence?..... I love Hotel Chocolate.

Favourite place?...... I caught the travelling bug in Nice last year.

Listen to the radio or to recorded music?..... Radio One.

Independent Coffee shop? or Costa, Starbucks etc?...... I love independent coffee shops, and I like 'shopping around'.

Milk choc, white choc or Dark choc?..... ALL! But if you pushed me I would say milk.

Marmite love it or hate it?...... I've never tried it, I can't get past the smell.

Dog or cat, or?..... Dog. My family has always had dogs, labradors mainly.

Savoury or Sweet?..... Unfortunately I have a very sweet tooth.

Morning person or night owl?...... I am unsure I am the best judge of this! As a Youth Worker I tend to find it hard functioning in the mornings.

Techno-can't, techno-can, or techno-geek?..... Techno-can-ish.

On a scone, Jam or cream first?..... Jam first.

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### **Summer Bells**

The bells don't have holidays! Every Sunday and a weekly practice night and occasional quarter peals keep them busy during the summer months. Of course, bellringers may take time off, and I have been pleased to make up the numbers at other towers in the district when their numbers were down and their church had a wedding.

The Chiltern Midweek Group often asks to ring at Northchurch in the school holidays — we don't let them disturb our nearest neighbours during term-time. Their numbers were down in August, so I was invited to ring with them, and we scored a tidy quarter peal (47 minutes nonstop) of Grandsire Triples before crossing the road to the *George & Dragon*.

How might you have guessed it was Grandsire Triples? The tenor bell, the one with the deepest note, simply goes 'bong at the back', so you would hear a steady beat every 2 seconds with the other seven bells changing places — making different music — in between. The bells change places according to a particular pattern so that they never sound in the same sequence from start to finish. You will

hear rounds -1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 — when we start, and again when we finish, but there will have been 1,260 different combinations of numbers before the final rounds.

You might also have heard some solo bongs before Monday practices. Roger and Simone turned up one evening and said they would like to learn to ring. They enjoy hearing the bells ringing, and they were curious to find out how it is done. When you no longer hear their solos, they will be perfecting their new-found skill in

company with the rest of the band.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain



### A Message from St Mary's Fete Committee

We are delighted to announce that we made a profit of around £3,300 at our summer fete on the 4th July. This is a record year for us and there are many people to thank. However, we particularly want to recognise the support of our local businesses who have supported us with their generous donations for the raffle and our coconut shy.

The Car Works
Mary Murray (local artist)
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Our fete has been running for over one hundred years and our success also depends on the support our our local community. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us with stalls, donations and entertainment on the day.

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## **Sunday Services** at St Mary's



### 6th September

Trinity 14

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Benefice Evening Prayer at St Bart's

### 13th September

Trinity 15

Trinity 16

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am All-Age Worship

6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 20th September

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)

6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 27th September

Trinity 17

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)

**Evening Prayer** 6.00pm

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### Dacorum foodbank

### Priority needs for September

Cooking oil sponge puddings long life juice (UHT) Tinned vegetables Collection points: Waitrose, Way Inn & St Mary's Church

### **Contacts for the Newsletter**

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

### cihipson@btopenworld.com Next issue: October.

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published.

Copy date is 15th of each month

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### Taizé Worship at St Mary's Church, Northchurch

Taizé is an international ecumenical Christian community in Burgundy, France, renowned for its simple and beautiful services formed from prayer, chants and silence. Services in the Taizé style are held all over the world and St Mary's holds 5 each year on the second Sunday in the evening. If you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, or would simply like to enjoy the calm and contemplation then you would be very welcome to join us. In particular we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the core of singers who help to lead the chants. If you wish to learn more, and are interested in joining the St Mary's Taizé Group, please contact Renee Alldridge on 0771 405 8581/ r.alldridge578@btinternet.com or Rachel Gordon (07512 714343/rachelgordon@fsmail.net)

### The Monday Club

Monday 14th September: Enrolment and discussion of programme

Monday 5th October: Harvest Lunch at 12.30 followed by a short service in St Mary's.

For more information please contact:

Joan Downhill on 865821 or Barbara Lloyd on 865059.

All church enquiries to: Revd Jonathan Gordon St Mary's Church

E-mail: revjagordon@googlemail.com Phone 01442 871547 Mobile 0775 2261679

Parish Room Bookings: Sabina Harvey 079799 14449

Please visit our website www.stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk