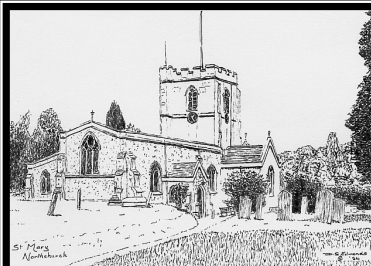


St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter



Parish Room Bookings:
Emily Millar
Mobile: 07929934367



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

June 2020

Pentecost

This Sunday is the celebration of Pentecost and sadly it is another major festival in the life of the church where we will not be able to come together to celebrate. However, the pandemic has brought new opportunities and we have been able to move services online and this is quite likely to be something that we will continue in the longer term. We are really grateful to Kate Nolan, David White and various volunteers who have taken on the responsibilities and challenges of streaming the worship of St Mary's.

I am not sure of the date when we will be able to meet again, but when this happens, the most important thing will be that people feel safe. We have been following the Church of England guidelines and they will provide a number of suggestions on how we maintain a church environment that maintains hygiene and social distancing precautions. This will involve changes to how we normally do things. Once we know the full extent of the guidance it will be possible to provide a plan of what will happen that will be sent out and publicized before the church can be reopened.

It is highly likely that over the lockdown period that you have been through a range of emotions. It has been a unique and challenging time. There have been some undoubted positives. The level of appreciation for key workers in society and the collective sense of looking out for people has been fantastic. Yet, there has also been some really difficult moments. It has been a tragic time for a number of bereaved families in the locality, who have been denied physical proximity with loved ones and the opportunity to come together with family and friends for funerals. It has not been possible to visit loved ones and all generations have had to come to terms with the challenges of isolation. The pandemic has raised some

uncomfortable questions about social inequalities and there is still the wider uncertainty of the robustness of the economy and the implications of a deep recession. Overarching all of this is the fear that while progress has been made the coronavirus may well shape how we live for an indefinite period.

In the Gospel stories the most frequent commandment that Jesus says is "don't be afraid." The fact that he said it so often shows it was an ongoing issue. Fear by its very nature makes us feel anxious, can divide and erode trust. In the Pentecost story the disciples have to overcome a huge fear, a fear that was highly understandable, that if they were seen in public, they might well face hostility and arrest. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they received was the strength to face that fear and preach the good news of resurrection and hope. I have to say that I feel a sense of fear about what will happen and how as a church we will get through this next stage of the church's life. We are certainly going to face some huge challenges. Yet, the Holy Spirit always renews hope. There is something profoundly compelling about hope. No matter how difficult the times we live in, how challenging the situations we face, and despite the hurts and anxiety that we can experience, there is still a power within us that can keep us going and moving forward. At Pentecost we give thanks for the Holy Spirit that can still breathe through the churches and the communities of which we are a part, giving us the courage to reach out and never lose heart.

Thank you to everyone for what you have been doing through prayer and pastoral support and I look forward to welcoming you at St Mary's on a Sunday morning soon.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

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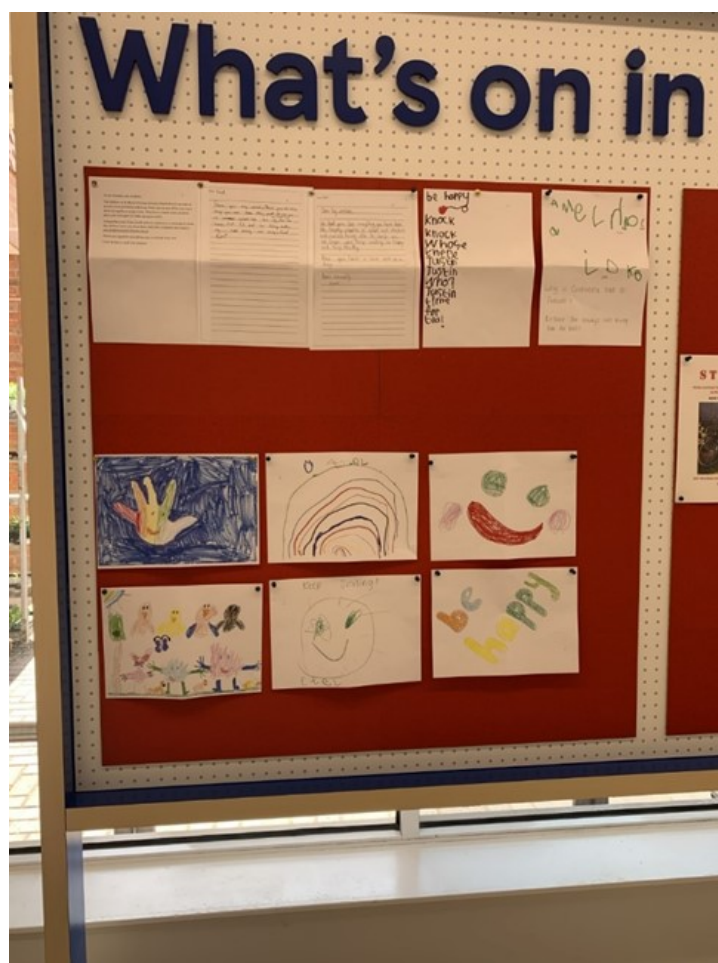
St Mary's Primary in Northchurch

The children of Key workers at St Marys School in Northchurch have been in school working hard not only on their home learning but also on making our community a happy place to be in these hard times! The children drew pictures, wrote jokes and letters to key workers. They then decided who they would like to send them to. We posted them to 13 key workers, including supermarkets, vets, firefighters, police, care homes/carers and hospitals. We even sent pictures to the National Crime Agency in London! The children's work didn't go unnoticed and we received some wonderful 'Thank you' messages back. We're incredibly proud of all of children at St Mary's who even during these difficult times are a beacon of hope and happiness!

Here are some of our responses:

'Firstly I would like to say a huge Thank You to you and all your children who have taken the time to draw pictures, write letters and send jokes to us here on Ward 3. They are all amazing and the jokes really made us all laugh.' - Stoke Mandeville

'I just wanted to say a huge thanks to all of your children who sent us the lovely thank you messages. It means so much to the colleagues in Tring to be appreciated for the work that they do, and this made our day. I placed the letters and drawing on the community notice board as per my photos.' - Tring Tesco



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Who Would Live in a House Like This?

Rossway

This month we start a new series of articles on the larger houses in Northchurch parish and some of the people who lived in them. The first house in the series is Rossway, which can be found in the southwestern part of the parish near the parish border with Wigginton.



Charles Stanton Hadden at Rossway circa 1870. The other people in the picture are possibly members of his family.

The earliest reference to Rossway is thought to date from the 15th century when it was spelt Rotheway. In 1616, the small manor of Rossway, as it was now known, consisted of some 50 acres and remained that size for around the next two hundred years. In 1802, Robert Sutton, a London mercer, purchased the manor and over the subsequent years he bought up much of the adjoining land so that by the time he died in 1848 the estate had grown in size to 577 acres. Then in 1863, Rossway was purchased for £34,500 by Charles Stanton Hadden.

The Hadden family were originally of Scottish decent, but Charles Hadden's recent ancestors had become wealthy hosiery manufacturers in Nottingham, which was where he was born. Charles Hadden was among the British pioneers, who in the 1840s, had gone to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to help clear the jungle and create new plantations to grow the highly profitable coffee plant. Ceylon's perfect climate, soil conditions and geography meant that within a few years it had become the world's largest coffee bean producer.

Using the profits from the sale of coffee from his

plantation, Charles Hadden demolished most of the existing property at Rossway and employed architect, Robert Evans, the brother of author Mary Ann Evans, better known under her pseudonym of 'George Eliot', to design the new two-storey Italianate mansion which still stands today. Work on the new mansion was completed by the end of 1866 and during the next few years the grounds were extensively remodelled and included a major tree-planting project. Living with Charles Hadden at Rossway at this time were his wife Fanny Anne and daughters, Anne, Eleanor and Fanny Jane, whilst his son, Charles Frederick, was away from home serving in the army. Profits from the family coffee business also enabled the Haddens to employ a governess, a cook, a lady's maid, three other maids, a footman and a groom. By 1871, Charles Hadden had become a Justice of the Peace covering Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and he and his family, along with the domestic staff, were regular worshipers at St Mary's Northchurch. Every Sunday, no matter the weather, the family and servants walked the two miles down the valley side to the church and returned by foot after the end of the service, the use of carriages on a Sunday being forbidden by Charles Hadden.

All looked well for the prosperous Hadden family, but events back in Ceylon would soon mean a major upheaval.

To be continued...

Richard North



Some of the domestic staff at Rossway

2020 Choral workshop:

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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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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 isolating or experiencing difficulties during this time, please do get in touch.

- ✂ Our Sunday morning service is now live on Facebook at 10am every Sunday morning.
- ✂ Every evening at 10pm, we have a short Night Prayer (Compline) service, live 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.

Stay well and keep safe!

A message from Terry Douris

If a group is undertaking a specific project related to and supporting people as a result of CoronaVirus COVID-19, I have some funding available. There are some rules relating to the allocation of this but I would be happy to discuss with any group.

Terry Douris
County Councillor for Bridgewater Division
Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Localism
Hertfordshire County Council
Phone: 01442 402273
Mobile 07818 580087
Email: terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Church Fete Update

Unfortunately there will be no church fete in July.

The Fete will be back next year, bigger and better.

Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 07821 896734. Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson Jill.hipson@live.co.uk.

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