St Mary’s Church North Mymms
Magazine

Included in this issue
♦ Harvest Service and Pew Lunch
♦ The Stalingrad Madonna
♦ Will Aid 2013
♦ Dennis Spicer Memorial Plaque

50p

October 2013

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk
Parish Diary for October

**Tues 1**  
3.00pm Bible Discussion Group

**Sun 6**  
**Harvest Festival**  
11.00am Harvest Festival Family Communion  
followed by a Bring and Share Lunch

**Mon 7**  
9.30am Team Eucharist at St Michael and All Angels Birchwood

**Sat 12**  
9.00am – 5.00pm St Luke’s Church St Albans Awayday

**Sun 13**  
**Twentieth Sunday in Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church  
11.15am Pet Service  
2.30pm Open Church Teas in St Michael’s Room

**Mon 14**  
9.30am Team Eucharist at St Etheldreda’s

**Fri 18**  
2.30pm Poetry Group in St Michael’s Room

**Sat 19**  
9.00am – 5.00pm Christ Church St Albans Awayday

**Sun 20**  
**Twenty First Sunday in Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church  
11.30am Baptisms

**Mon 21**  
9.30am Team Eucharist at St John’s South Hatfield

**Tues 22**  
2.15pm Women’s Fellowship Meeting

**Sun 27**  
**Bible Sunday**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Eucharist

**Mon 28**  
9.30am Team Eucharist at St John’s Lemsford  
2.00pm – 4.30pm Art Workshop  
7.00pm – 9.30pm Art Workshop
Letter from Julia

September brings with it the return to school after the long summer holidays. For many parents there is a collective sigh of relief and many children, despite what they may say, actually enjoy the return to school life.

As some of you may know before I was ordained my husband and I ran a boarding house at Aldenham School for many years. It was a house of boys and girls aged thirteen to eighteen and as you may well imagine there was never a dull moment! Last week they invited me back to preach in the school chapel service for the beginning of the school year. With my years of experience behind me I knew only too well that the very smartly dressed pupils that I met would, within days, have scuffed shoes, lost ties, open shirts, stained blazers and the like. As a friend remarked to me in passing last week;

“I have just seen a small school boy in a huge new blazer…it must be September!”

I am sure you all have your own memories of going back to school after the long holidays. The children in our church school in Welham Green assured me that they were glad to be back when I did my weekly assembly with them. They also had the added excitement of a new headmistress this term. At the end of last academic year Mrs Jane Guy, who had been headmistress there for a good number of years, retired. I am delighted that her replacement is Mrs Vicky Humbles, who has been deputy head at the school for a long time, and whose knowledge of the school and her passion for building on the foundations that have already been laid, make her a wonderful choice to take the school onwards and upwards. We are very lucky to have such a caring and nurturing school in our village and I hope that we will all do what we can to support them as our local church school. In a couple of weeks the school will be coming up to the church for their harvest festival service. One of the joys of this particular event is that for many of the reception class this will be their first trip to church and it is always a thrill to see them taking in their surroundings and taking part in their class display. This year both school and church will be supporting the Bishop’s Harvest Appeal which is raising money for bee keepers in Ethiopia. If you would like to know more about this project then please do come along to our FAMILY COMMUNION FOR HARVEST ON OCTOBER 6TH AT 11.00am. This harvest celebration will replace all our usual services that day.

As we look forward in our church diary to November we will be holding our annual Remembrance Sunday service on 10th November. In anticipation of that I am asking people for their own memories of the war so that we can use them in our service that day. If you have a story to tell we would love to hear from you. It can be

Cont’d…..
something simple…like the taste of your first orange after the war, or something more personal about yourself or your family. These memories and experiences are a very important part of who we are and writing them down so we can pass them on to successive generations is really important. If you would like to email your memories to me then please do so at julia.boothby@btinternet.com or drop them into the Vicarage or post them to me (at The Vicarage, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Herts AL9 7TN). These memories will then be used in our prayers on Remembrance Sunday and also, if enough people contribute, to a display in church. (They can of course be submitted anonymously if you prefer.) Please do help us to make this Remembrance Sunday something special in North Mymms.

Yours
Julia

HOPE launches in October 2013 with an all-night prayer event for 40,000 people and a reception hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the leaders of Britain’s churches and ministries.

HOPE is a catalyst bringing churches together to transform communities. Momentum is building towards a year of mission in 2014 – the whole church, reaching the whole nation, for a whole year, together in words and action. The mix of denominations, churches, ages and cultures – and the number of Christian ministries involved is unprecedented.

Prayer is at the heart of all HOPE does – and HOPE is inviting millions of Christians around the UK to pray from 18 October 2013 to 31 January 2014 using prayer pointers specially-written by HOPE’s partners.

A week later, the Archbishop of Canterbury is hosting a reception at Lambeth Palace for 100 key leaders, leading the nation as we ask God to transform our country. And HOPE is inviting churches to meet during the week 18-24 October to pray for their village, town or city in preparation for 2014.

More than a million copies of a specially-written prayer calendar are being distributed by HOPE’s partners. The prayer topics include the local church, families, friends, united mission, children & young people, the marginalised, our communities, neighbours, work colleagues, and the persecuted Church. As well as a written prayer, which could be used in worship services each Sunday, there are special prayers for Advent, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and for Poverty & Homelessness Action Week. The prayers can be downloaded from the HOPE website http://bit.ly/15dUslb.
6th October
Harvest Festival
11.00am

No 8.00am or 9.30am Service

One Big Church Family
Eucharist at 11.00am

Bring and Share Lunch to Follow

Bring your Family and Friends

Harvest Goods Will Be Going to a Local Church Food Bank

Special Collection for Bee Keepers in Ethiopia
Magazine in the desert!!

Giles Legood was a curate at St Mary’s. He has, since he joined the RAF as a Chaplain, been out to Afghanistan on deployment. Imagine my delight when we received this email and photo.

“I have just got back from a deployment to Afghanistan where I was the hospital chaplain at Camp Bastion. I hope you like the picture of me reading something interesting on top of a Mastiff armoured personnel carrier!”

On the road again!!

On 27 October I am undertaking another charity run. Not a marathon this time, not even a half marathon, but just 10 miles! It may be only 10 miles in distance but it includes lots of hills!

I am taking part in The Ricky Road Run, now in its 30th year, this run around Rickmansworth has raised over £200,000 since its inception in 1984. The main beneficiary has been the charity Water Aid, an international NGO dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world’s poorest people. The other has been Kit Aid which after fifteen years on, has helped to recycle football kits and sent them out to over 200,000 children and adults in 40 different countries across the world. A third charity this year is the Watford New Hope Trust which serves homeless and vulnerably-housed people by providing accommodation and opportunities to rebuild damaged lives. To help me raise money for these 3 worthwhile causes, or get more information, please see me on a Sunday morning, call me 01707 260687 or email m.ferdinando@virgin.net or to contribute to Water Aid alone, visit http://www.justgiving.com/Martin-Ferdinando

Martin Ferdinando
PET SERVICE

AT

ST. MARYS NORTH MYMMS

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER 11.15

A warm welcome to our family pet service!

This short service is for all the family and all your pets!
Do come and join us in thanking God for the animals we share our lives with and have them blessed.
Refreshments and animal biscuits to follow!
1942

WEHNAUFTUN im KESSEL

LICHT

FESTUNG STALINGRAD
The Stalingrad Madonna

Our Patronal Festival was celebrated on Sunday September 8th. Revd Mary Robins gave the sermon which she based on the Stalingrad Madonna. Many people were very moved by the story she told and the message of the healing love of God that it represents. Mary kindly agreed to provide a précis of her sermon for the magazine.

One of the fiercest battles of World War 2 raged over the besieged city of Stalingrad.

It was Christmas Eve 1942.

Kurt Reuber, a German pastor, surgeon and artist sheltered in a bunker, sketched and prayed for the Russian people - the enemy – who were being bombarded in the city of Stalingrad.

This is his ‘doodle’ of “enfolding and protecting” shown by St Mary, Mother of Jesus, and his words of prayer around the edge are of trusting in “hope, life, light, love” and of the faith he knows will emerge from the darkness, death and hatred of this time.

The Russians drove the Germans out. Reuber died in the prison camp, but someone found his doodle on the back of an army map and recognised his name.

Copies of this prayerful sketch are displayed in Volgograd – Stalingrad renamed – in Berlin and in Coventry Cathedral where it is part of healing and reconciling wounds of war, conflict, discrimination.

Reuber’s work continues. There is healing in the love of God shown his Madonna.

People at St Mary’s Church understand something of this love.

At this time we enfold the confused factions of the Syrian conflict while we discern action.

We would enfold all people in God’s love with no discrimination on the grounds of poverty or wealth, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or nation hood.

We are agents in carrying hope, life, light, love on in our world.
‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour; and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son’s return.

There are more women in Luke’s Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’ and tax-collectors, more ‘outsiders’ who are shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

By David Winter
Will Aid 2013: Making a difference together for 25 years

This November, Will Aid will again offer the opportunity for people to make a quality basic Will with a local participating solicitor in return for a donation to good causes. The suggested donation is £90 for a single basic Will.

Over the past 25 years, Will Aid solicitors and their clients have contributed £13.6 million in donations to charities and during the same period £95m has been promised as gifts in Wills to charity, making Will Aid the UK’s most successful charity will-writing scheme.

Last November alone, the general public responded with enthusiasm and around 24,000 people were given the push they needed to finally write their Will and in so doing raised almost £2.1 million in donations (including Gift Aid).

The money raised is shared between the participating charities (ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SCIAF and Trocaire) and provides vital funds to help people to build their communities and improve their future in the UK and around the world.

Only with professional help can people feel confident that their Will is valid and their wishes will be carried out. Many people don’t make a Will because they assume that their partner will automatically inherit everything. This is not true. For example, people who are not legally married or in a civil partnership are not automatically entitled to anything from the estate of their partner. There are even financial limits on what a surviving legally married person can receive. This may be less than the value of the family home – possibly forcing its sale to pay off other relatives. As a result, many surviving loved ones may have to endure a drawn out legal process and a good deal of emotional stress.

It is also very important to keep the Will up-to-date. This is particularly important when family circumstances change. There may be births, deaths, divorces, marriages and of course people named as guardians for children or executors of the Will may become unsuitable through age or ill health.

With preparation and the help of a Will Aid solicitor, making a Will need not be difficult or time-consuming. In fact, it can often be done in a lunch hour. Details of participating solicitors are available online. The Will Aid website www.willaid.org.uk has lots of information to help, including a useful Will Planner or call 01460 271178 for further information.
SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE

King Solomon decided to build a temple to honour the Lord God. It took 80,000 men to cut the stone for it and 30,000 men seven years to build it. The finished temple was 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide and 30 cubits high and the inside was completely covered with gold!

READ about Solomon’s temple in 1 Kings 5:1 - 6:38

A ‘cubit’ is about 18 inches or almost 45.5cm long.

The blocks for temple have all been mixed up! Carefully cut out each block and rearrange to build God’s temple. Glue onto card and colour in.

God said “Build a temple that will honour me”
**13th October - 3pm**  
**Isabel Hospice Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving**  
Haileybury School Chapel, Hertford Heath, SG13 7NU.

**13th October - 10.30 – 3.30pm**  
**Charity Horse Ride**  
The Rotary Club of Hatfield are holding a charity horse ride in aid of Isabel Hospice and another charity at Hatfield House Park. To enter, contact the Rotary Club 01707 325808.

**17th October**  
**Isabel Hospice’s Big Pub Quizathon**  

**19th October**  
**Headz Live for one night only!**  
**Memorial Hall, Welham Green 7.30pm**  
Come along to the Memorial Hall, Welham Green, AL9 7PG, and listen to this rock band made up of local head teachers. Tickets are £12.50 and include nibbles. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets from 01707 265333. Proceeds to Isabel Hospice.

**31st October**  
**Brocket Hall Charity Golf Day – 7.30am**  
In aid of Isabel Hospice, this day is played on the prestigious Palmerston Course and includes bacon rolls on arrival and a buffet meal and auction. Teams are £500. The day has been sponsored by Athena. Contact Emma Lippiatt on 01707 382500 to book.
“I’d like you to go to North Mymms,” the Revd. Edward Cardale, Vicar of Lemsford and my tutor, said. “I think you’ll like it there.”

And here I have been – on and off – since the middle of July on the only church placement of my theological training. Before I look at some of the highlights of the placement, it might be useful to share a little background information.

I am currently in my final year at “Vicar School,” as my daughters describe it. My training has consisted of a weekly session at St Albans, six residential weekends and a week’s summer school every year. It’s been a thrilling adventure, with some wonderful experiences of delving deeper into the theology behind my faith and taking me way outside of my comfort zone in terms of pastoral experiences. There has been the hard slog of six essays a year, but I don’t try to think about them too much! Upon Ordination next June (God willing) I will continue to work at Aldenham School, and will serve as a Self-Supporting Minister somewhere fairly close to here. The matching process will begin in October.

So what of my time here? I have been amazed at the energy of Julia as I have tried to follow her from one engagement to another. I have been welcomed into people’s homes and have sat in on meetings trying to discern how we (you!) work out God’s mission in this place. I’ve enjoyed starting nearly every Sunday with the beauty of the Book of Common Prayer service and it’s been a thrill to attend Evensong, which I have not had the chance to do in any Parish before. And it’s been a privilege to preach at the 9.30 Eucharist, too.

At that service, I talked of how we had been re-thinking mission at the summer school this year. I remain convinced of the Belonging/Believing/Behaving model of mission. We need to create opportunities where people can feel welcomed into a community before any “evangelism” can take place. I have seen that welcome in the way visitors are treated in the regular services, but especially in the family service, the baptism, the wedding and the funeral I have attended.

I want to thank all of those who have shown me how you “do church” in North Mymms. Particular thanks must go to Julia, who has been incredibly generous with her time, despite all the pressures on her. And thanks, also, to Revd. Cardale for sending me here. He was right – I have liked it here, as you can probably tell!

Philip Green
A Good Samaritan

I was on the bus on my way to work one morning, when the bus driver stopped at the bus stop to pick up some passengers. Four students, two couples and a middle aged lady with a little girl hopped on. The middle aged lady told the driver her destination and the driver told her the amount of her fare. The lady started to count out all the small change from her purse and she found that she was twenty pence short. She tried to explain to the driver in her poor English that she didn’t have enough money and that’s all she had in her purse. The driver was not convinced and he asked the lady to get off the bus. The lady was upset and distressed because her daughter would now be late for school. The driver still wouldn’t have it and still asked her to leave the bus, until one passenger intervened, an old lady, who offered to pay the twenty pence. Watching that moment I was thinking about the Good Samaritan in the Bible. To me, that twenty pence that she gave to help the lady so she could take her daughter to school might gain her a small place in heaven. For the LORD says... "whatever you do to others on earth, you do to me..." and for that twenty pence worth of help, she become a Good Samaritan

Gloria Inder

Annual Memorial Service

As you may know it is the tradition at St Mary’s to have a service near All Souls Day at which there is an opportunity to remember our loved ones particularly those who have died recently.

This year the service will be held at St Mary’s on Sunday 3rd November starting at 4.00pm with tea and cakes served in St Michael’s Room beforehand.

It is a quiet service of hymns, readings and prayers during which the names will be read out and candles lit in memory of those who have died.

A book will be opened in the church from Sunday October 13th for anyone to enter the names of people they wish to be remembered. We will automatically include those who have died within the last twelve months and who were connected with St Mary’s Church or congregation.
EDITOR - An email to Julia from Robert Freeman sent me scurrying off to find out more.

In his email Robert Freeman explains that he is the custodian of the Dennis Spicer Memorial Plaque in St Mary’s Churchyard – a role which he carries out on behalf of The Magic Circle London. He and his wife were married at St Mary’s in 1967, his daughters were baptised there and his parents Kathleen and Cyril Freeman’s ashes are buried there. His parents lived in East Lodge as Cyril was Butler to Major General Sir George Burns in North Mymms Park from 1963 until the house was sold. Robert and his wife still visit St Mary’s to keep an eye on the plaque which is about to be refurbished. Robert is himself a professional magician and jester and performs at the monthly medieval banquets at Hatfield House.

Dennis Spicer was a ventriloquist – born in 1935 he got his first booking at the Railway Club in Coventry when he was just 10 years old. In 1954 he was booked as a member of the Resident Revue Company at Butlin’s Holiday Camp in Filey. Dennis married June in October 1955 – his regular dummy, James Green, was best man and made a speech at the reception! In the same year he signed an exclusive contract with BBC Television and numerous television appearances followed over the next few years including a regular appearance on Vera Lynn’s fortnightly BBC show. In America he appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. As well as television appearances Dennis was also kept busy with live stage work where he met and became firm friends with Ken Dodd. In 1964 he was one of the acts in the Royal Variety Performance. The reviews named him as one of the hits of the show and one of the Queen’s personal favourites. Tragically, two weeks after the Royal Variety Performance, Dennis was killed in a road crash on the A1 near Stamford Lincolnshire.

Dennis Spicer’s untimely death, at the age of 29, and his funeral held at St Mary’s in 1964 were national news items. Many ‘show biz’ personalities attended including Tommy Cooper, Jimmy Tarbuck, Eddie Calvert and Ken Dodd. The Queen also sent a tribute. Dennis’s grave was, for many years unmarked as June, his widow did not believe in headstones but in 2001, with the help of Revd Terry Ranson, the plot was identified and, in a simple ceremony, a plaque was unveiled. This was under the Magic Circle’s Memorial Initiative which seeks out, attends and honours graves of past magicians and those in allied arts like ventriloquism.

Most of this information comes from a fascinating article in the Spring 2011 Edition of ‘The Call Boy’ the official journal of The British Music Hall Society. The full article can be found on the St Mary’s North Mymms website.
ART WORKSHOPS

TWO, four session, art workshops led by Robin Elgar
held in the St Michael's Room
at St. Mary's Church North Mymms
on Mon 28th Oct, 4th, 11th and 18th Nov 2013
Afternoons 2 - 4.30pm
OR evenings 7 - 9.30pm.

Both the afternoon and evening workshops will cover different mediums and follow a specific theme
No previous artistic experience is needed.
£5 per session. Please sign for all 4 sessions

If interested SIGN on the notice board outside the church office or phone Robin
Please make sure you sign up for either the afternoon or the evening workshop.
For further information contact Robin Elgar 01707 261810

HOST UK

Could you offer someone a home far from home for just a day or two? HOST, a well-established charity, is hoping to hear from people who enjoy making others feel at home, and who would love to meet interesting young adults from other parts of the world who are currently studying at universities in the UK, and who want to understand this country better.

One host wrote: 'It is a great to welcome these students and make them feel wanted. They get to see a good side of life in Britain in contrast to what they might learn from the media. It is also fun getting to know someone from another country.' Invitations can be for a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas. Sharing Christmas with someone who has little idea what Christmas is can be really special – and for the guest, much better than being on a deserted university campus. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter how far they live from a university. To find out more, please see www.hostuk.org or contact local organiser Sandra Purrett 01296 681625. Thank you.
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* PARTIES *
* FUNERALS *

PLEASE CONTACT
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Wanted!!

We would love to have your news, views and reflections, dates for the diary, stories of interesting trips you have been on or books that you have read that were thought provoking. Preferably up to 400 words with a photo if possible. So give it some thought and get in touch.

Next Copy Date
Contributions for the November edition of the magazine please by Friday 18th October to the Editorial Team:

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From the Parish Church Registers

**Baptisms**
- 15 September: Henry Samuel Blatch, Owen Scott Phillips

**Weddings**
- 14 September: Kathryn Linnell and David Bilyard
- 21 September: Patricia Masters and Alan Parkhill

**Funerals**
- 6 September: Cyril Everard
- 20 September: Irene Leverentz

**Burial of Ashes**
- 1 September: Grace Crouch
- 7 September: Dorothy Carruthers

**General:**
Enquiries concerning Baptisms, Marriages, Blessings of Civil Marriages and publication of Banns of Marriage should be directed to the Vicar, who should also be contacted for all matters concerning Communion of the Sick and Confessions.

Bodies of all parishioners may be brought into their Parish Church for a Funeral Service, prior to burial or cremation.

The Parish Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00am to 2.00pm.
Tel: 01727 825578
Email: northymmschurch@btinternet.com.

Only the current registers, (Baptisms from December 2001; Weddings from January 1999, Burials from March 1984 and Services from May 2005) are stored at the church.

All previous church registers, and parish magazines, are stored at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8EJ. (01992) 555105, to ensure they are adequately preserved.
An Affirmation from the Morning Service at Iona Abbey

In a world of many tears we search each day for markers of hope: for the small unexpected signs of light and love; for the quiet assurance that goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong and that one day the captives will go free.

And sometimes on the journey we discover a gift without price: the balm of understanding deep within our soul.

The knowledge that, despite everything, ‘we are companions of God in the work of creation’: wounded healers even when weeping ourselves; bearers of justice even when overwhelmed; witnesses of hope even when struggling to survive.

For Light still shines, and illumining our days we walk together in it. And in the walking we remember and celebrate the miracle and wonder of life – but also something more: the unfolding and surprising purposes of God forever at work in ourselves and the world.

by Philip Newell, Neil Paynter and Brian Woodcock,
*Iona Abbey Worship Book* Wild Goose Publications,
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