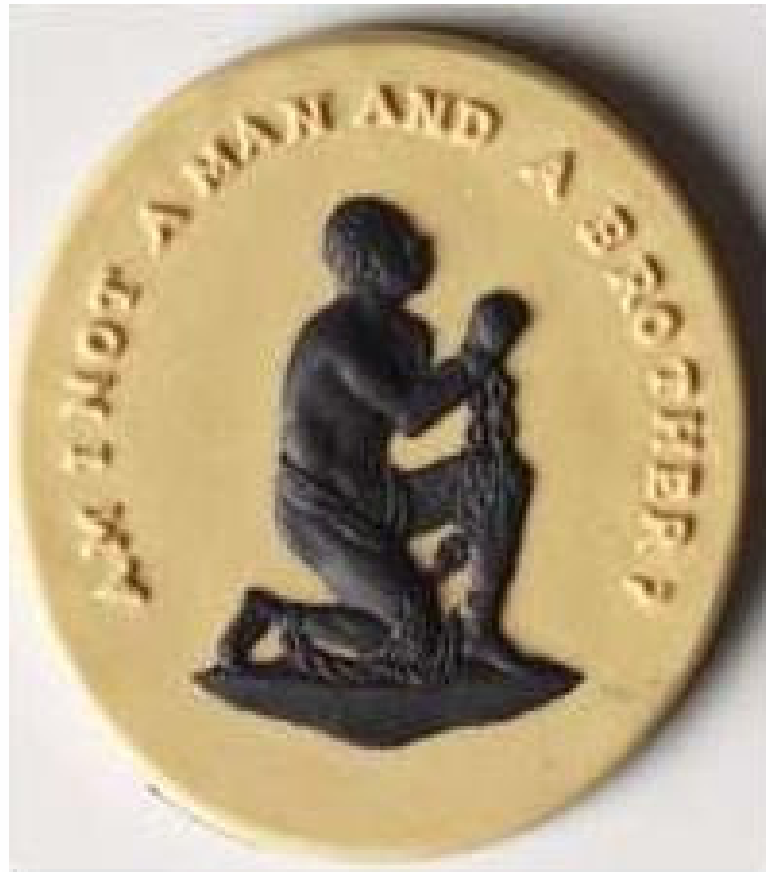


ST. MARY'S CHURCH NORTH MYMMS



**More from
St. Moluag:**

**From Slavery
into Freedom:**

**Christingle
Service:**

**A Parish on the
Isle of Lewis**

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writes**

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at Candlemas**

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March 2007

Parish Diary for March

Sun 4th

Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior Church
11.00am	Home Communion for the Sick
6.30pm	Choral Evensong (BCP)

Mon 5th

9.00am-12 noon	Team Consultation at Rectory, St Etheldreda's
7.45-9.15pm	Lent evening study group – session 1
8.00pm	Team Council, St John's Hilltop

Tues 6th 2.30-4pm Lent afternoon study group – session 1

Sat 10th 10.00am-12 noon Wedding Workshop – St Michael's Room & Church

Sun 11th

Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion (CW*)
9.30am	Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior church
6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)

Mon 12th 9.30am Team Communion at St Mary's
7.45-9.15pm Lent evening study group – session 2

Tues 13th 2.30-4pm Lent afternoon study group – session 2

Thurs 15th 7.15pm Diocesan Pilgrimage Meeting to Holy Land (rescheduled)

Sat 17th 9.30am Diocesan Synod (Biggleswade)
10.00am - Churches Together Lenten Retreat
3.00pm St Mary the Virgin, Essendon

Sun 18th

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
9.30am	Family Communion
6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP)

CW - Common Worship

* - Traditional Language

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

/contd. inside back cover

Image on front cover: In 1787 a Jasper copy of the emblem of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery was produced by Josiah Wedgwood (an active participant in the Abolition of Slavery cause). Such medallions were intended to adorn hat pins, brooches, and other fashion accessories in order to make known the suffering of slaves.

From Slavery into freedom....

The imagery of God setting his people free from slavery is a recurrent one in the Scriptures. Passover, a major Jewish festival, celebrates the release of the Hebrew slaves existing under an oppressive regime in Egypt and marks the beginning for them of a new identity and purpose – shaping them as people whose lives bear witness to the world of a merciful and glorious Creator God.

For the Christians, the meaning of Passover takes on fresh understanding through the life, death and resurrection of the Jew, Jesus Christ. It is his presence that leads us from the slavery of human sinfulness to a new spirit-filled life which we celebrate on Easter Sunday, so beginning again the cycle of restoration, hope and destiny for all humankind and which is central to our liturgy and church worship.

Added to our celebrations this year will be the marking of Parliament's abolition 200 years ago of the Slave Trade. It was an epic moment in the history of our parliament and no less epic for the millions of slave communities and their descendents who awoke each morning to another day of brutality, enforced hard work, hunger and sickness. A 'trade' of human misery that began for Africans in the 15th century with Dutch and Portuguese adventurers who were joined by the English in the 16th century. During this period it is thought 9 million Africans were abducted and sold into slavery; they were mostly men, but included some women and children too. Those that made the arduous sea journey in unimaginable conditions, survived to a chained existence working mostly on plantations.

It was an epic moment in the life of William Wilberforce too for he had dedicated 20 years of his life to campaigning to outlaw the slave trade in all areas in the world under British control. This was no easy victory; vehemently opposed in Parliament, derided as a misguided do-gooder, and traitorous fanatic, his campaign had often seemed hopeless and had a heavy toll on Wilberforce's health.

Yet, compelled by his deep Christian faith Wilberforce campaigned tirelessly for issues of social justice, the abolition of slavery being the cause for which he is most remembered. He became an MP for Hull when he was 21, settled in South London where he led a group of Christian Evangelical reformers known as 'The Clapham Sect'. Together they – and others with them - persevered and were rewarded on 23 February when the abolition debate resulted in a landslide majority vote. Parliament formally passed the Act to abolish the slave trade on 25 March 1807 – hence the weekend of 24/25

March will concentrate its commemorations of this epic moment in world history. Not being 'a one-issue' parliamentarian, Wilberforce went on to campaign for other causes. Just before he died, Wilberforce witnessed the complete abolition of slavery throughout the whole world.

This significant milestone on the road to justice and freedom is one we must continue to travel. Milestones come about through convictions of those with courage and hearts of compassion for their fellow human beings. Their courage moves others to change their minds; this takes time to filter down to our attitudes - how we view and indeed value, one another. The legacy of the slave trade is a long one - West Africa has been impoverished by the looting of its people and resources; racism has still to be strongly resisted on all continents and the consequences of 'white supremacy' linger on in many cultures. Slavery remains an unfinished business; shockingly, there are more slaves today than 200 years ago – child soldiers, sex trafficking and 'enslavement' to drugs and alcohol.

The spirit of Wilberforce is still with us and many people are engaged in great work to 'set the captives free'. A work that we are all invited to share: upholding the dignity of the human person. As we journey through Lent, let us ponder these great issues in our world and the people whose courage calls us all to turn and change so we are inspired to use our gifts and resources to God's work in seeing more people brought out of slavery into freedom. That would be a great way to prepare for Easter!

With love and prayers
Sally

Special Prayer (Collect) for Wilberforce

God our deliverer,
who sent your Son Jesus Christ
to set your people free from the slavery of sin:
grant that, as your servant William Wilberforce
toiled against the sin of slavery,
so may we bring compassion to all
and work for the freedom of all the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever.

**St Mary's North Mymms:
Events and Services for Holy Week and Easter**

Sun 1st April

Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am Parish Eucharist with dramatized reading of The Passion
 6.30pm Service for Passiontide

Holy Week

Mon 2nd 8.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Tues 3rd 8.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Wed 4th 8.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Thu 5th

Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper & Vigil to Midnight

Fri 6th

Good Friday

8.30am Morning prayer
 10-12 am Children's Special - the Easter Story with craft and activities including preparing the Easter garden.
 All children ages 3-12 years very welcome
 Children 3-5s to be accompanied.
 2-3pm The Last Hour - Good Friday meditation

Sat 7th

Easter Eve

8.00pm Easter Vigil: Service of Light

Sun 8th

Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am Family Communion
 6.30pm BCP Evensong

Snowdrop Sunday and the abolition of the Slave Trade

This year we experienced a kaleidoscope of seasons in six short weeks - snow, frost, sunshine, floods and gales. I wondered if the snowdrops would be over for Snowdrop Sunday. My concerns were unfounded, as I saw them clustered in glorious abandon under the trees, around the ancient gravestones and bordering the wide open fields going into the distance.

Snowdrops, the harbinger of Spring, signalling the birth of a new year of growth. There they grew, in the shadow of the towering church, which has witnessed this miracle of nature for hundreds of years.

History records hard, cruel frosts and hungry freezing winters where the survivors of famine saw the rebirth of hope as this tiny plant burst out of the ground to start a new cycle of life.

Having enjoyed the beauty of the flowers, we entered the warmth of St Michael's Room where there was laid out a feast of cakes and sandwiches. The room was crowded with people of all ages enjoying the food, the company and the music provided by the Chiltern West Gallery Quire.

Thanks must go to Colette and Gill for their organisation, to those who made the cakes and sandwiches, and the kitchen workers who kept the tea flowing.

At 4pm the Chiltern West Gallery Quire went up into the gallery to lead the congregation in the special Snowdrop Service using music composed in the 18th century.

Some of the psalm tunes were composed by Matthew Cooke, who in the 1790s had been employed as organist at North Mymms.

Under the leadership of Ian Cutts, the Quire, dressed in period costume, sang psalms in beautiful harmony, with the congregation being asked to join in singing psalm 147 and hymns. Instruments of the time such as the shawm, sackbutt and serpent, as well as violins, were played to accompany the singing.

Sally's address dealt with the work of William Wilberforce who dedicated his life to the emancipation of slaves, and the outlawing of slavery in the British Empire.

The collection was in aid of Anti-Slavery International, whose work is so important in combating modern-day slavery.

David Thomas

Walk for freedom

On Saturday March 24th there is to be a 'walk for freedom' with two starting points - one in Hatfield and one in Welwyn Garden City. This is being organised by the Welwyn Garden City Baptist Christchurch, and further details can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.stophetraffik.org> for global information
<http://www.walkforfreedom.net> for local information

The Hatfield walk starts at White Lion Square at 10am

The WGC walk starts at The Campus at 10.30am

- both walks converge at Stanborough Lakes.

The aim is to increase awareness of the 2.4 million people (of whom 1.2 million are children) who are trafficked today and to encourage people to sign the global petition asking governments to take tackling this issue seriously.

Passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Bill - March 25th

At the 9.30 Parish Communion on Sunday 25th March, the actual day when 200 years previously Parliament voted to Abolish the Slave Trade in 1807, St Mary's North Mymms will be marking the occasion in a way that is unique to us. The choir will sing a hymn, taken from the Rev'd Basil Wood's collection, that has been set to music by Matthew Cooke, former organist of St Mary's in the 1790s, just a few years before this historic vote. The hymn is headed:

'To William Wilberforce Esqr (by whose efforts the Slave Trade was Abolished March 25th 1807) the following Hymn is Dedicated by the Composer.'

The words of the hymn are most certainly not politically correct in their expression! Nevertheless, they reflect the thoughts and attitudes prevalent in Cooke and Wilberforce's day.

To hear them sung, you will have to attend St Mary's on that day! We shall also be joining churches throughout the country and include in our worship *Amazing Grace* written by the former slave trader, turned hymn writer and preacher, John Newton, whose personal story is most vividly expressed in that popular hymn.

Sally Davenport

Christingle Service

On Sunday 28th January we had a special Candlemas Christingle Service at St Mary's.

The Christingle has its origins in a Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon, in memory of the coming of the Saviour which he said has kindled a flame in each heart which keeps burning 'to His joy, and our happiness'. Christingle means 'Christ-Light'



Our modern Christingle consists of:

- an orange . . . representing the world
- a red ribbon, tied round the orange . . . representing the blood of Jesus
- fruits and sweets, skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange . . . representing God's good gifts - the fruits of the earth and the four seasons
- a lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange . . . representing Christ, the light of the world

We were all given a Christingle which had been made earlier and towards the end of our special service Sally asked all the children to come out to the front of the church and told everyone all about Christingle. She lit one of them but when she blew out the candle it relit itself! It was a magic candle!

Sally then lit each of the Christingles held by the children and the light was shared around the Church as we lit each others candles - all the lit Christingles made the Church look very pretty. We then blew out our candles and took our Christingles home to enjoy.

Lucy Hopkins

Junior Church

There are activities for children from 2 to 10 years during the 9.30am service every Sunday until Easter except for Sundays 18th March, 1st and 8th April.

4th March : The Lord's Prayer, Giving of Communion

11th March : preparing for Mothering Sunday


18th March: no Junior Church Mothering Sunday service with children participating

25th March : preparing for Palm Sunday – the Passion Play

1st April : The Passion Play, with children participating

8th April - Easter Day Services

Junior Church resumes on 22nd April



On the 28th January, me, my Mum and Nicole went to St Mary's Church. I had to go to St Mary's Church because I had to say a prayer. It was Christingle and everyone at school made a Christingle.

The orange represents the world and the candle represents Jesus and the fruits represent the fruits of the world.

Sally lit the candle and it stayed on every time she blew it out. This shows us that Jesus is always there.

Gemma Cooper Year 3

Year 5 visit to St Alban's Abbey

At the end of January Year 5 went to St Albans Abbey for the day. All the children dressed up in Victorian clothing and experienced life in a Victorian classroom. In the afternoon they did a brass rubbings workshop. They all enjoyed the experience and were very surprised at how differently they would have been expected to behave in the Victorian times compared to now.

Year 6 visits

Year 6 have been on two visits recently. They visited the Cuffley Outdoor centre where they did river investigations including cross section measurements and speed of flow of the water.

Later in the same week they went to the University of Hertfordshire to meet the author Anne Fine who talked about her books and signed the books that the children had bought before the event. They were extremely well-behaved and a credit to the school

Other visits

On 21st February Year 4 visited the British Museum, and on 23rd February Year 3 visited the Hertford Museum. More next month.

St Mary's plays host to other schools

The school was delighted to be asked to host a Teachers' training session at the school. Dr Eva Hoffman is an expert in the field of learning to learn and personalised teaching. Year5 children, and some from year 4 spent two days working with Dr Hoffman and teachers from other schools. They learnt about how they learn best, what their brain needs in order to learn, and what they are good at.

Everyone who attended the training enjoyed it and gained a lot from it.

Head teacher Mrs Botarelli writes:

'I am sure that the training that the teachers received will have a positive impact on the way in which we help children to learn across the whole school.'

It is with mixed feelings that I have decided to step down as Editor of the North Mymms Parish magazine in June of this year, having completed four years in the 'job'.

Being Editor is a varied and interesting job. Desk-top publishing techniques mean the magazine has a more professional appearance, but by the same token, our readers expect more from their monthly 'read', both in terms of content and presentation.

Some months there is almost too much to include, whereas in other months there may be a dearth of copy.

Each month I have tried to vary the content - with a mix of reflective articles on the work of the Church, informative pieces on what is happening both locally and in the wider world, mixed with some light relief!

A couple of years ago I took the decision to increase the number of pages by 4 which gives much greater scope to include articles with more substance to them.

To complement the traditional magazine, 18 months ago I set up a website for St Mary's, North Mymms at www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk which, in addition to other useful information about St. Mary's, also provides a link to the magazine. I can see from records of visitors to the site that we have quite a few readers in the States and Australia!

However - I would not wish to give the impression that I have achieved this alone!

Patricia Cook - having proposed me for the post initially - has been a tower of strength, both with her contributions, and in giving me encouragement and support on the minutiae of Church matters of which I might be ignorant, particularly during the first two years which included the inter-regnum when we were very much 'on our own'.

Her informative articles on 'Know your Church' can now be viewed on the website, alongside her excellent photos of the stained glass in St. Mary's.

The other great asset has been Sara Boothby's 'Profiles'. I know from speaking to various people that this is often the first feature that they turn to. Sadly, through an increase in her work commitments, Sara feels she is unable to undertake this each month.

So - a challenge out there for someone to take up! Our Vicar, Sally Davenport, together with Mary Robins, now provide a significant share of the copy each month, and other regular contributors can always be relied upon.

In addition there are many useful sources of information on the Internet, including the Church of England website, and that of the Diocese of St Albans.

Parish magazine (contd.)

The magazine has been published since 1865 - a record of which we should be proud, and which we must aim to uphold. Earlier issues are kept at the County Records Office in Hertford.

But now seems the time for someone else to bring their own talents to work on this important tool in the communication of St Mary's in the wider community.

I hope to continue managing the website in tandem with the new editor, and would be happy to help in any way during the handover.

So please think about it - it's not that arduous, is stimulating and varied, and nothing is more rewarding than seeing the latest copy you have been responsible for land on your door mat each month!

If you want any further information please contact me at:

jean.hockings@btinternet.com

tel: 01707 650642

An Evening of Eastern Promise

Nepal/North Mymms Friendship Link will be holding 'An Evening of Eastern Promise' at Brookmans Park URC on Saturday 5th May at 7 pm. Vegetarian and non-spicy meals available on request.

Details and tickets, price £5.50, available from Colin Brutey or from Mary Biggs at 42 Bluebridge Road

Service for Christian Unity

The theme of the Churches Together service at St Mary's on Sunday January 21st was 'Listening and praying for those who felt themselves isolated from society'. A member of each church acted as the voices of those people---the deaf and dumb man healed by Christ, an exploited worker, and a bullied youth.

Instead of a sermon Sally called out members of the Carers' Support Club, run by Churches Together, and questioned them. Esther Callomon told of the formation of the club when the policy of 'Care in the Community' was introduced, and many people were isolated in their own homes, or with care from relatives who had little or no time for themselves. Noreen Withall and Margaret Clark showed that the group is not a sad place - there is dancing, singing games and much laughter and friendship. Asked how she saw the future of the club, Esther said that helpers had been working since retirement - some for 20 years, and new blood was needed.

May I take this opportunity to ask if there is anyone—man or woman, who can give a few hours of their time to befriend these lonely people, listen to their stories, or perhaps help with the 'chores'. Just contact Esther Callomon, Noreen Withall or Chris Willis - or call in on Thursday - you won't regret it.

Margaret Clark

From black house to broadband in 50 years

When I moved to live on the Isle of Lewis 25 years ago life was different from what it is today. Not everyone in the village had a car as they do now, few of the women went out to work, and there were more people walking about. There was much more going in and out of each others houses – visiting each other was a regular custom and anyone who lived alone could be certain that they would not be alone all day, that one or two of the neighbours would pop in for a chat. As the only way in and out of this village goes past my house, I got to know many people who stopped and talked over the garden wall – in fact, any job in the front garden took far longer than it should because there was so much talking to be done.

I got a lot of unsolicited advice from the older men who told me I was wasting my time trying to make a garden here – that nothing except weeds would grow. I proved them wrong – and this is the only change in this village for which I can take some credit: having seen that it could be done, other people started gardening and now there are gardens around nearly every house.

All the houses here stand on at least a quarter acre; many of them are on crofts of 4 or 5 acres. There were a lot of sheep in the village then, and from October until May they roamed freely around – gates had to be securely fastened if one wanted a garden! In May the sheep went out to the moor and we could all relax a little.

We all had our own peat banks on the village moor. Some families cut enough peat to heat their houses throughout the year. I just cut enough to keep one fire going in the coldest months, and really enjoyed the hard work cutting, drying and turning the peats until they were dry enough to bring home.

Getting the peats home was a communal activity. A neighbour with a tractor and trailer (a lot of people had tractors), together with a few other neighbours would go up on to the moor, load up the peat and deliver it, help build the cruach (peat stack) and all end up having a dram together. People came to help me, and I went to help them in turn. The only time the village was really noisy was in June with tractors going up and down every evening.

That has nearly all stopped now. Very few cut peat these days, they use oil fired central heating instead. The sheep no longer are allowed to run loose around the village, few people walk about except on a summer evening, most of the women work outside the home, and there is nothing like as much dropping in and out of each other's houses.



<http://www.saintmoluag.com/>

From black house to broadband in 50 years (contd.)

Yet the changes between 1982 & 2007 are as nothing compared with the changes in the Lewis villages between 1955 & 1982.

In 1955 some people still lived in 'black houses', especially in the outlying villages such as the one where St Moluag's Church is situated, (see February issue of this magazine) where black houses were in common use until the 1960s. These are stone built, thatched cottages, consisting of a living area with an earth floor, a peat fire (no chimney) in the middle, over which cooking was done, rough benches for seating, and a curtained off area with box beds for sleeping; and at the other end of the building was the area where the animals were kept. By the post-war years many of these had been improved a bit, but still primitive – still no water or electricity, so no bathrooms.

Even the villages such as that in which I live – only 5 miles from Stornoway – had no electricity until 1956 and no mains water supply until 1958, even though the houses were more modern, with gas (bottled) cookers, a proper fireplace and chimney, separate bedrooms. Very few had a car in those days and everyone had to walk to the well for water several times a day.

So, the change in lifestyle over 50 years has been dramatic. From black house to luxury new houses with central heating and every mod con you can think of; From walking a mile with buckets for water to washing machines and power showers. From cooking over an open fire to ready

meals and a microwave. From cosy chats around a peat fire to digital telly and broadband.

No one would want to go back to the old ways. But there is a down side: we don't see as much of our neighbours as we used to. Yet the grapevine operates very well – I swear it's faster than broadband! – so if someone is ill, or has any kind of trouble, the old neighbourliness immediately swings into gear and help is abundantly on hand.

It is still a good place to live. Peace and quiet. Security. The school children leave their bikes, not even padlocked, at the bottom of the road and go on the bus to school, picking the bikes up when the bus brings them back in the afternoon. We don't need to lock our doors, our cars, we can leave anything lying around in the garden. A great sweep of white sandy beach at one end of the village, and moorland at the other: I would not live anywhere else.

Revd. Barbara Morrison

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Just a note.....

The Nine Lessons and Carols seem a long way behind us now, but I would like to put on record how much we adult choristers enjoyed having a team of six juniors to work with. Even better when a young instrumentalist can add another skill to our singing - thank you Edward.!

Sunday mornings are a real wake-up session for us all before we even get to the service. Not many of us can sing comfortably and in tune at 9.30 in the morning. Just as every athlete has to warm up, so do our voices, and the choir does the same.

What about the congregation?

I was thinking about this a few weeks ago when working with the St Mary's church school juniors at hymn practices. It occurred to me that singing was a bit like driving a car. What is a really effective way to warm up the voice? A good long hum! If you look at one of the hymns for the service see if you can remember the tune, and hum it to yourself. I don't suppose Philip would mind a bit!

What about gears? Surprisingly, singers often talk about voices having three 'registers' - a bit like the clarinet - and we call them chest, middle and head voice. Changing from one to another is rather like changing gear, I likened the three registers to 1st, 2nd and 3rd gear. and the changes are what we practise gliding over to avoid uncomfortable breaks. The school

children seemed quite taken with that idea!

So if voices have gears, where is the 'clutch'? Your 'abs' as the sportsman would say. Abdominal muscles have a large part to play in controlling our voices. You need them at the awkward places where the voice seems to go out of control. We have plenty of times to practise in a hymn - so many verses and you can use each one to improve! You never know - the choir might become redundant.....

Seriously, I hope not. Even more, if there are some of you who are tempted to join us and try improving your singing, come on Friday night, 8-9pm in St. Michael's Room. If you can read a little bit of music, so much the better. We have room for juniors, too.

Singing is well-being; and we all need to keep working at it!

Brenda Harris

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Mission Rumania

This small nationally registered inter-denominational Christian charity is principally active in Northern Rumania.

For the last fourteen years it has taken specifically requested aid to the orphanages and socially deprived groups in this area. With a group of dedicated volunteers it has achieved an amazing amount to relieve the suffering of these people. There are no paid staff and trustees pay their own fare to Rumania.

The local Mayor appealed to the Mission for help to create and run a laundry to be staffed by young people who had no work. The project would cover collecting, sorting, washing, ironing, and returning the items to their owners. A building was made available and modernised to accommodate washing machines, dryers, ironing boards, irons and also coffee making facilities for the volunteers, and the work was begun.

The Dalia Foundation was created when a special needs teacher wanted a 'half-way-house' for seventeen year old orphans who were homeless, some were mentally or physically disadvantaged. Mission Rumania bought land and a derelict farmhouse which will be developed to become a market garden to house and teach these youngsters and give them a chance in life. The existing farm house will be renovated to provide accommodation and storage and

eventually to provide a summer camp for up to fourteen orphanage children.

Mission Rumania has many and varied projects in action covering health, welfare, social and educational needs. These activities always include basic practical help and supply everything required catering for body mind and soul. We were pleased to send two hundred pounds to help with work as part of our annual programme of giving to charitable organisations.

STOP PRESS on the laundry project.

This project is now up and running and is proving very popular with the elderly and handicapped. The Mayor's Social Initiative for help has inspired his fellow townsfolk to get involved in all forms of social welfare and so even more will be done.

Josie Thomas

G.M. Blyth CMBHI

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Women's Fellowship

Our January meeting was held on a bitterly cold day, so perhaps it was appropriate that our speaker, Mr John Britten had chosen the subject of Antarctica. He had spent a holiday in the north of that region flying from Chile to Port Stanley and hence by ship with a crew drawn from a variety of countries making for an interesting cuisine.

Transport to shore was by small zodiac boats jumping into which was not for the fainthearted. Once there his camera was put to its usual excellent use, but even his photography could hardly convey the magnificent icy beauty of the vast empty and silent landscape.

In such an inhospitable region there is little wild life apart from elephant seals and vast flocks of penguins. These buried their nests of stones plodding laboriously from the beach to higher ground with one stone at a time in their beaks although the less scrupulous characters are not above helping themselves from their neighbour's pile.

Another diverting afternoon in the company of the intrepid Mr Britten.

In March there will not be a speaker but following the formalities of the AGM Mrs Josie Thomas will no doubt have some entertainment prepared - Tuesday 27th March at 2.15pm in St. Michael's Room.

Muriel Norman

Gordon Harvey RIP

Many of us at St. Mary's will have been saddened to hear of Gordon Harvey's illness and recent death.

For 25 years Gordon and Elizabeth were so much a part of our church life, and we will all have different memories of the Harvey Family. They first attended St. Mary's the week they moved into Holloways Lane and they worshipped faithfully there until they moved to Lewes thirteen years ago.

During his time at North Mymms, Gordon fulfilled many roles in the life of St. Mary's. He sang in the choir, was churchwarden, a Church School governor and supported numerous parish events, courses and classes.

For the last few years until he moved away, he was a diligent chairman of governors of St. Mary's Church School. Not surprisingly Gordon became equally involved with the church in his new parish. He was a devout Christian whose life bore witness to his deep faith.

He died peacefully on 24 January. Our sympathy and love go out to Elizabeth, Maggie, Christopher and David.

Please note that the final Lent study Group (Session 4) is a combined meeting of both afternoon and evening groups on Tuesday 27th March at 7.45pm in St. Michael's Room

Isabel Hospice Local Events

Linaria

at 23 Bradmore Green,
Brookmans Park

invites ladies to their
Spring Charity preview Day

Wednesday 7th March
10am - 5pm

Champagne and Prize Draw

Quiz night

on Saturday 24th March at
North Mymms Memorial Hall

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £10

(includes light refreshments)

For details and tickets for either
event telephone:

01707 656640

01707 265333

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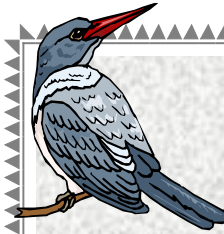
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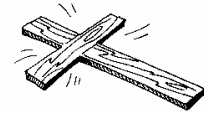
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**PLEASE CONTACT
KAREN ARNOLD**

**TEL: 01707 270700
MOB: 0781 406 0735**

From the Parish Church Registers

Funerals:



Our sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

Glynis Barbara Bartmeier	February 14th 2007
Arthur James Gregory	February 15th 2007
Alan James Wharton	February 16th 2007

Lent Study Groups

The final Lent study Group (Session 4) is to be held on Tuesday 27th March at 7.45pm in St. Michael's Room.

This is a combined meeting of both afternoon and evening groups

**Parish Office Hours
open 9am - 1.30pm
Tuesday/Thursday
tel: 01727 825578**

On the first Monday of each month the Vicar holds an office hour at the Vicarage from 6.30pm until 7.30pm

**The Vicar can be contacted at any other time by telephone:
01727 822062 or through the Church website:
www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk**

Only the current registers, (Baptisms from March 1980; Weddings from January 1999, Burials from March 1984 and Services from July 1996) 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.

Mon 19th	9.30am 7.45-9.15pm	Joseph of Nazareth Team Communion at St Luke's Lent evening study group – session 3
Tues 20th	2.30-4pm	Lent afternoon study group – session 3
Sun 25th		Fifth Sunday of Lent
	8.00am 9.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (CW*) Parish Eucharist Evensong (BCP)
Mon 26th	9.30am 7.45pm	Team Communion at St John's Hilltop PCC meeting with Communion
Tue 27th	2.15pm 7.45pm	Women's Fellowship meet in St Michael's Room Lent study group- both groups – session 4
Fri 30th	10.00am	End of term service for St Mary's Church School

Weekly

Wednesday	8.00 pm	Bell ringers' Practice
Thursday	10.00am	Carers' Support Group meet in St. Michael's Room
Friday		Vicar's Day off
	10.00 am	Pramsters meet in St. Michael's Room
	7.00 pm	Choir practice

APRIL COPY DATE

Copy for the April 2007 issue please by Monday 12th March to:

Jean Hockings 01707 650642
64 Mymms Drive,
Brookmans Park, AL9 7AD jean.hockings@btinternet.com

or:

Patricia Cook 01707 655449
100 Brookmans Avenue,
Brookmans Park, AL9 7 QQ epcook@tiscali.co.uk

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