

BERKHAMSTED

REVIEW

FOR TOWN AND PARISH • NOVEMBER 1995 25p



*Berkhamsted School
Chapel Centenary 1895 - 1995*

The Parish Magazine of St Peter's with All Saints



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27 Hill View (875320)

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The Gardeners' Arms, Castle Street

Next Copy Date Friday: 3 November

Please let us have your contributions at:

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at any time in the month but **not later than the Friday evening listed on this page if you wish it to appear in the next issue.**

Typed material, double spaced and on one side of the paper only, is preferred though hand-written material is not refused.



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NEXT THREE COPY DATES (All Fridays)

3 November
8 December
5 January

Cover Illustration by
Ginny Ostle

Ginny has been the art
teacher at the Boys' school
for the past thirteen years.



Steven Wells sends us

A LETTER ABOUT THE LOTTERY

I think my letter ought to give you something topical to think about. What about the National Lottery? Do any of these thoughts ring any bells with you?

1. Snobbery

"I wouldn't dream of wasting time, money and emotion on any form of gambling, and the National Lottery is the supreme bore. Those who do it are morally and socially beneath me."

2. Indifference

"There are so many real problems: war, poverty, crime, bigotry, jealousy, the breakdown of family life and so on. Why bother with anything so boring?"

3. Cynicism

"This is a cruel way of persuading the poor to pay a voluntary tax and to finance middle-class charities at the expense of the most needy causes."

4. Morality

"Gambling does enormous harm to our sense of values. We believe in a rational God. *Thou shalt not tempt the Lord, thy God.* To call it entertainment is bogus: it is irrational selfish greed."

5. Concern

"An inevitable consequence of gambling on this scale is that a small but significant and increasing number of people become compulsive gamblers. They spend all their family's money. They beg, borrow or steal vast sums to feed their habit, like drug addicts."

6. Embarrassment

"If we question the National Lottery, will we not have to question all the raffles by which the church and charities raise millions of pounds?"

7. Being practical

"No-one really wants to win a million pounds anyway. Few winners are happy people."

8. Despair

"Democracy and religion are out of date. We are mere pawns in the system. The National Lottery has come to stay and there is nothing we can do about it."

I had better stop there. I can think of plenty of points on both sides, but what do you think?

STEWARDSHIP: HARD QUESTIONS, HARD ANSWERS

Guess the missing amount in the following extract from a letter written in 1943 - a letter written by churchwarden to a newly appointed incumbent.

"The principal cause of the annual headache is the diocesan quota £...(a bit tall), but always having been good boys and paid in full we shall have to get cracking again sometime in October"

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The sum was **£65**. It may seem laughably small, but the message remains completely familiar to us today. For St Peter's with All Saints the equivalent amount in 1995 is **£54,609** - the major part of a total requirement for the parish of over £120,000. In Lent the stewardship committee talked and wrote about the challenge facing the parish this year - to find £12,500 more this year than last year, with each member in the stewardship scheme needing to find an extra 80p each week.

A review of our stewardship six months on from the season of renewal at Easter is an opportunity for some heart-searching and for some questions and answers that may help us to see our giving in a wider perspective.

Are we meeting the challenge outlined in Lent?

We still have a long way to go. Unless something unusual happens, we shall be £7,000 or even £8,000 short of our target at the end of the year.

Have we failed? Should we be dismayed?

Two out of every three members in the stewardship scheme responded to the committee's appeal at Easter. Not all were able to increase their giving, but many have. This is a heart-warming response at a time when family finances remain a source of anxiety in many households. But the sums pledged won't pay the bills. And for those who haven't responded, now is still a good time to do it. Whatever your response, it helps to have it, so that planning the work of the Church can take your stewardship into account.

How does our response this year compare with previous years?

Over the past ten years, the average weekly giving by each member of the stewardship scheme has more than doubled, to reach £5.20 in 1994. Each year, members of the stewardship scheme

have increased their giving. We have kept up with inflation. Sometimes we have done better than that. In 1993 alone we increased our total stewardship income by nearly £12,000. We need to match that figure in 1995. We need to double what has been pledged so far this year, and then add some more. If you can increase your pledge, or can encourage someone who is not in the stewardship scheme to join it, today is the day to do it.

Why are we being asked to increase our giving each year by amount that far exceed the increase caused by inflation?

We are part way through a process in which responsibility for the financial welfare of our parishes is passing to the parishes themselves. Whatever we want to do in our parish, whether in ministry, or in outward giving or in the care of our buildings, we are going to have to find the money *in the parish*. And we have a responsibility within the wider family of the Church. Our stewardship must never become selfish and parochial.

Why is this change taking place? Why is the church giving less money to its parishes? What is happening to the money?

The cost of paying clergy pensions and the cost of maintaining clergy housing have increased so greatly in recent years that most of the money formerly available for clergy salaries is now taken up in those responsibilities.

Why should we give to a Church that has failed so publicly to manage its own financial affairs?

Yes, the Church Commissioners have mismanaged the historic assets of the Church, but stewardship contributes most immediately not to those historic assets, but to the daily work of the Church in this parish and this diocese. To withdraw from stewardship as a token of protest to the

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Church Commissioners might give a certain selfish satisfaction, but the parish will suffer and our outward giving, not the Commissioners.

Lastly, we must remember that Christian stewardship is not just the Church performing as a fund-raising charity. At the heart of Christian stewardship is the commitment of the individual to Christ's teaching. Through stewardship we can free ourselves from selfishness and from the misplaced love of material wealth and possessions.

If we want the Church to remain as a spiritual cornerstone in our community, if we believe that Christian values have a place in our community, we have to make the work of the Church possible, we have to find the resources - Yes, the hard fact is, we have to find a further £7,000 or £8,000 this year.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus - It is more blessed to give than to receive.

*Christopher Green
Tony Roberts*



Butchers

The mention in the *Review* a couple of issues ago of the closure of Goddens the butchers in *Graball Row* has prompted comments from one or two residents. I was reminded that centuries ago that part of the Town centre was known as the Shambles, suggesting that this is where Berkhamsted's slaughterhouses and butchers shops were once concentrated. If so, Goddens was the last butchers shop to survive in the traditional place for them in the Town.

Kelly's Directory for 1899 lists three butchers in the High Street, all with the name of Tompkins. Charles Tompkins was at No 134, lists Emily Tompkins at No 140 and Charles Tompkins junior at No 157. Before it closed, Goddens was at No 152, but earlier this century I believe the houses and shops in the High Street were re-numbered, so it is not easy to relate old with new.

The field behind the Girls' School known as Tompkins Meadow or Tompkins Field has been much in the news lately, as that is where the Berkhamsted Schools wish to put up substantial new buildings. It gets its name from a Mr Tompkins who used to rent it as pasture from the School. Was he one of the High Street butchers, fattening his sheep and cattle there before slaughter?

Whatever the justification for their arguments, would future irate correspondents on the subject of the planning applications for development on Tompkins Field, when writing to the Editor of the Gazette, please note that he had a 'p' in his name.

Soldiers Bottom

Two ladies who are good sources of local information have responded to my question on the whereabouts of Soldiers Bottom where legend has it that the ghosts of Civil War soldiers still march at dusk. Yvonne Rix also wrote in about it for last month's *Review*.

To find it you walk up Cross Oak Road, across Shootersway, down the lane the other side labelled Dennys Lane and

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under the bypass. Then my informants give slightly different directions. One believes it was on the left, between the bypass and Hockeridge Wood in the place called Hockeridge Bottom on the ordnance survey maps, and Yvonne thinks it was there too; the other believes it was in Hogg Lane, taking the right fork at the corner of the wood and go towards the turning to Marlin Chapel Farm, just past Pancake Wood. This lady can remember her father speaking of the tales of the ghosts of the marching soldiers at Soldiers Bottom.

Hogg Lane has a council sign at the end of it labelling it Northchurch Lane, heaven knows why. The lane goes towards Hawridge Common, not Northchurch and as far as I know nobody ever calls it Northchurch Lane. The lane happens to form the county boundary between Herts and Bucks at this point so perhaps that has something to do with it. The name Dennys Lane, too, seems to be a fairly recent invention. At the junction where there is a fork with Hogg Lane it is signed as Johns Lane. Where did they get these names from?

Marlin Chapel itself, just off Hogg Lane, pre-dates the Civil War and the ghosts of the soldiers by some four centuries. Its remains, which are not actually accessible from the footpath, have walls nearly three feet thick of crumbling Tottenhoe stone and flints. It dates from the 13th century and is the only one left of several chapels of case in the area. Marlin is a corruption of Magdalene.

Bean Tree

We were all sorry to see the end of the Indian Bean Tree - the Catalpa - which had been such an important feature of Lower Kings Road as long as most of us could remember. Every spring I was concerned that it might not have survived the winter, because it came into leaf so much later than most native species. It also flowered late - not until August - but when

it did it made a spectacular splash, providing a sort of grand floral arch over the road for the benefit of commuters hurrying to the station.

What was the age of the tree? Bill Willett writes in to say that it was about 75 years old, and it is not too difficult to count the annular rings on the stump to confirm that this is so. He points out interestingly that the Catalpa is a very fast growing tree and that some of the rings of ours were 5-8mm across.

But its days were numbered. Although being hit by a skip lorry finally brought it down it was rotten at the roots and had been leaning over more and more each year. There is therefore absolutely no grounds for the rumours that immediately sprang up round the Town suggesting that the circumstances were suspicious, although its removal does give the opportunity to improve the entrance to the Kingsgate development.

Trade Names

Looking through old legal documents of one sort or another like marriage certificates and church registers, it is interesting to see that people used to be, and still are, identified not only by their names but also by their trades. Of course this is how some of us, like me for instance, got our surnames. Today in Berkhamsted the trade or profession is more likely to be *systems analyst* or *management consultant* than the traditional blacksmith, grave digger or boot-maker.

Stopped at the traffic lights at Two Waters the other day (where the link road from Hemel Hempstead crosses the old A41 in the most hideous forest of traffic lights, signs and lampposts) my eyes alighted on a sign in large letters on a nearby building. It says: 'S. Pratt, Independent Banana

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Ripener'. You live and learn. It would never have occurred to me that while most of us are doing rather ordinary and dull things for a living, only five miles down the road from Berkhamsted there was

someone busily, and independently, ripening bananas. For some reason this brightened my day.

John Cook

Notice Board

ST.PETER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Wednesday 22nd November at 2.30pm in the Court House when Doris Mobbs will be talking to us about *Writing Family Memories*. This should be a particularly interesting afternoon and visitors will be very welcome.

THE PARISH SECRETARY

Vera Pullen, who has been the secretary to various rectors for the past thirty years has decided enough is enough. It is difficult to express one's gratitude sufficiently to Vera for her sterling work over such a long period. Therefore, on your behalf I would just like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to her. As a result of her decision, Jean Green has been appointed the new Parish Secretary from the 1st October 1995; however both Jean and Vera will work in close tandem with one another so that there will be a smooth transition from one to the other.

It is well known that Father Roger spent a proportion of his valuable time doing what can only be called secretarial work. It is fair to assume that the next incumbent might not be so keen to undertake the same kind of task. Consequently, the appointment of Jean Green will be a remunerative one and eventually it is hoped that she will occupy offices in the Court House cottage. Until then she can be reached at her home address - 17, Cowper Road, telephone: 863241.

John Banks
Church Warden.

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

In 1997 our Victoria Church of England First School will celebrate its centenary on its present site and as part of the celebrations we hope to produce a book telling its history.

The Berkhamsted Local History Society would be very glad to hear from anyone who has attended the school and is willing to tell us about their time there. We shall be particularly interested in the reminiscences of older folk but shall also be glad to hear from anyone who attended the school more recently to give a rounded picture of how things have changed over the years.

If you were a pupil, or teacher, or in any other capacity do please get in touch with Vera Pullen, 44 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1JB (862196) who will be happy to meet you and hear what you have to say. Or you can send it in writing if you prefer. We should also be glad to have photographs - and will promise to return them!

FESTIVE MUNCHES AND BUNCHES

Berkhamsted Flower Club are holding their annual open evening on Tuesday 14th November at the Civic Centre. This year we are departing from our usual format as indicated by the title *Festive Munches and Bunches*. The demonstrator is Mr Bob Harris and he promised us floral and gourmet delights.

Tickets will cost £5.00 and will include a glass of sherry and some shortbread. Doors open at 7.15pm for an 8pm start. Tickets may be bought at the door or please ring on 864106.

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The 1996 Berth has been reserved for 5th-9th July for a challenging voyage from London to Southampton. The closing date for applications is **30th November**. If you are interested in applying to the fund or know someone who might be eligible please contact Penella Warren on 862816, or pick up an application form from Berkhamsted Library.

(The Trust regrets it cannot accept voyagers weighing more than 14 stones).

MOTHERS' UNION

Bullying in Schools is the subject of our next meeting. This is an open meeting and will be held on Wednesday 8th November at 8pm at the Court House. The meeting will be led by Mrs. A. Sawyer. Do come along.

September saw the start of a new prayer group led by Mrs Jenny Wells to be held once a month at Nightingale Lodge. The group next meets on the 15th November. Further details from Mrs Wells on 870981.

The branch is proposing to organise two travelling cribs, one for St Peter's and one for All Saints', in the run up to Christmas. This proved successful in other parishes last year. How does it work? The cribs are blessed at the beginning of Advent and then passed between participating households throughout Advent until Christmas. Further details will be available towards the end of November.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXHOLDERS.....

Once again autumn has arrived and it is time for the annual box opening, so please could you bring your boxes to the 9.30 service at St Peter's on any Sunday in November. If this is not convenient then please phone me and I will be happy to come and empty your box for you. I look forward to seeing you all again over the next few weeks and on behalf of *The Children's Society* would thank you all for your continuing and loyal support again this year.

If there is anyone reading this article who would like to have a collecting box do please contact me and I will be happy to tell you more about The Children's Society.

Kathy Lally (863526)

TUESDAY CLUB

During our meeting on 7th November we shall look forward to Mrs Janet Tucker telling us about the Youth Theatre. All would-be thespians are in for a treat!

More details about our informal group may be obtained from Thelma Harris on 865785 or Rene Dunford on 862420.

We hope to see many of you at this unusual special evening.

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SUNDAY LUNCHES

Are you living alone? If so, would you like to share Sunday lunch with us in the Court House on the first Sunday in each month? The cost is £2.50 and includes sherry or orange juice. Lunch is served from 12.30pm for 1pm. Ladies and gentlemen are equally welcome. Please ring Joan Morris (863780) if you are interested.

OXFAM MAKES MUSIC

Oxfam is making a song and dance about music. A special appeal for cassettes, CDs and records has been launched by the charity amid widespread media interest. Proceeds from the sales will fund a variety of projects in needy countries including Senegal where musical instruments paid for by Oxfam have been used to great effect to promote education on health care, environmental issues and development programmes.

So swing along to the Oxfam shop with all those yesteryear favourites and set the tills ringing!



BERKHAMSTED W.I.

The September meeting started with the presentation of two competition awards to Mrs G Blumson and Mrs D Brooks. It was reported that during the week of 20th September an informative display to advertise the activities of the W.I. was placed in the Herts College window. There was a discussion of the upcoming Autumn Fair held on 21st October in the Great Hall in Berkhamsted Town Hall. The public was invited to join us in supporting the W.I. in an enjoyable way. Mrs Peggy

Cunningham took us on an *Ooh and Aah* trip to the many countries which have added flowers, shrubs and trees to our English gardens. Her talk with slides was entitled *Around the World in an English Garden*.

The meeting on Wednesday 15th November, as always in the Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street at 7.30pm, will be the annual general meeting and the speaker will be Mrs E Barrett. There will be a competition for the best crepe paper hat.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

Our president, Mrs. Joan Griffiths, welcomed members and visitors and after business matters introduced our speaker, Mrs. Eva Plumb. Her talk was entitled *A Key to the Keys* which we found to be most entertaining, with her vast knowledge of pianos and composers of classical music. She brought with her several tapes of piano recitals of music by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Mendelssohn and it was not long before we were all in a relaxed mood listening to well known pieces by these eminent composers.

During the month members had enjoyed outings to a scrabble day and a talk given on animal training for films and T.V. Also during the month there was a community affairs evening with excellent speakers on *Supermarket bar codes and how checkouts work* and *The use of D.N.A. in the detection of criminals*. On 4th November our Annual Meeting will be held at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2pm.

Notices for the Review?

Please let David Woodward have details (3 Murray Road, 862723) before the next copy date shown on the inside front cover

Parish Personalities: 95

John Davison



Master at Berkhamsted School for the past 35 years

The full report of the commission was published on 20th September. What is it about? It is about the central organisation of the Church, about policy making and the direction of resources at the national level. It is not about the work of the Church at parish, deanery and diocesan level. It reviews existing practices and recommends a variety of changes.

The commission was set up in the atmosphere of disquiet following the revelation that the Church Commissioners had sustained serious losses in their management of the Church's historic assets. How could this come about? Who is ultimately responsible? Is the organisation too cumbersome to cope with rapidly changing social and economic conditions in the modern world?

The report concludes that, yes, there have been too many committees acting with too little central direction. The recommendation is for a new National Committee led by the Archbishops and numbering not more than seventeen people in all. This new committee will take over the work of several existing committees and will have a responsibility of direction and oversight in relation to all the other limbs of the central organisation, including the Church Commissioners. There is a clear suggestion that the

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OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(THE TURNBULL COMMISSION)**

dioceses should have a more active consultative role in the central bodies of the Church. The report recommends that the Church Commissioners, while continuing as trustees of the Church's historic assets, should be reduced in number from 95 to 15, and there is a recommendation that the staff of the Church's central bodies should belong to a single staff service and be housed in a single building, probably Church House, Westminster.

Within the proposed reorganisation, the House of Bishops would retain its responsibility for doctrine and liturgy, and the General Synod would remain as the Church's elected law-making and debating body.

In a nutshell, the Turnbull Commission recommends that there should be fewer committees, less paperwork, clearer direction and encouragement of the staff of the central organisation and a greater sense of accountability. Few could argue with these recommendations. Let us pray that the Church is responsive to this far-sighted report.

Copies of the full report are available from bookshops, price £5.95, or by post from Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN, price £7.25 including postage

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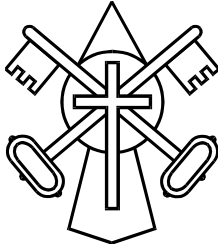
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News from the PCC

The PCC, at their October meeting, heard that arrangements for the running of the parish during the vacancy were working well. Help from all concerned was much appreciated. Jean Green had been appointed parish secretary with effect from 1st October. Efforts were continuing, led by the churchwardens, to select and appoint a new rector. The two congregations will be kept informed, at Sunday services and through the pew leaflet, as and when news is forthcoming.

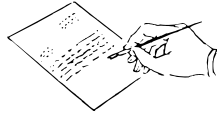


national level. A new National Council is proposed which would function as a single body able to take an overview of the needs and resources of the whole Church, ensure the necessary decisions are taken and that things get done, not just talked about. A leaflet outlining the proposals is available from both churches, and the audio tape, which lasts around 15 minutes and is very informative, is also available on request (*an article on the report by Christopher Green appears on page 17*).

Members listened to an audio tape on *Working as One Body*, the report of the Archbishops' commission on the organisation of the Church of England. The commission has made wide-ranging proposals to re-organise the way the Church of England functions at the

Following Father Roger's departure (together with his computer expertise!), the PCC has acquired its own computer equipment. This issue of the *Review* accordingly the first to be typeset 'in-parish'; a great step forward.

Letter to the Editor



GRACE HODGES

Cherry Heaton writes:

I came by a copy of the *Review* July 1995 issue and, regarding the *News from the PCC*, which reported a legacy to the parish, I want to write with a little bit about Grace Hodges as yet another 'old local' passes on. I feel a mention is more than deserved.

Grace Hodges was born in Berkhamsted, went to school there, and had a number of brothers and a sister. One of these was Hedley Hodges, a life-long resident formerly living at *Lynanns*, London Road, and latterly at *Nightingale Lodge*, with Amy, his wife, who is now down here in

Sussex. Their father owned the shoe shop that is now Jones'. Grace was for many years a radiologist at West Herts Hospital and after retiring, moved to Toddington with her sister, where they were parishioners.

I hope this is helpful for you, although there are a few people still in Berkhamsted who would remember her.

*Meopham House, Rother Road
Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 4HS*

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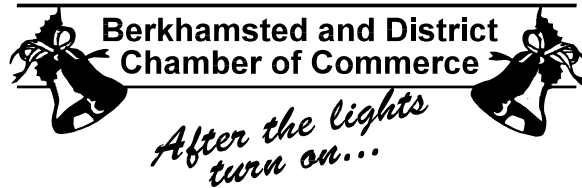
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A Cautionary Tale

Over the last ten years there have sprung up a number of private organisations devoted to the care of elderly or sick people, partly, no doubt, in response to the government's 'care in the community' programme. An article in *The Observer* on 1st October described how many such organisations are now franchised, enabling suitably qualified and motivated people to join a national network which provides training, advertising and other supporting services for what are, in effect, new business ventures. Most of them are reputable and provide nursing and other caring staff to look after people in their own homes and, in many cases, to help out in hospitals as well. My wife Jane works regularly for one of them. Others, however, seem to be driven by more dubious considerations, as the experience of an elderly friend illustrates.

She does not live in Berkhamsted but in another town in another county where we used to have our home before we came to Berkhamsted. She is in her eighties and has recently suffered a stroke from which she has made a good recovery. We will call her Rose. Fortunately her daughter, Mary, lives nearby and visits her mother daily, doing her shopping and ensuring that Rose is well looked after.

In August Mary went on holiday for two weeks with her husband Richard. Although Rose's recovery was well advanced Mary arranged for a local care agency to provide someone to visit her each day for a couple of hours and prepare a meal for her. She had no previous experience of the agency but the woman who ran it had a re-assuring telephone manner and the agency's name made imaginative use of the word 'care'. At first all went well. Then one day the 'carer' arrived to find that Rose had a friend

visiting who had prepared a meal which Rose was eating. Since the carer had nothing to do except sit and watch the television Rose asked her if she would pop down to the supermarket, about two hundred yards away, to buy some milk. The 'carer' refused, explaining that this was not her job.

Worse was to follow. Rose has a small, elderly dog whose idea of a walk is a trip round the nearby park, a distance of about a hundred yards. Rose asked the 'carer' if she could take the dog for his walk. The 'carer' explained that this was not part of her job and that an extra charge would be made, even if it took place during the time that she was being paid for visiting Rose.

When she returned from her holiday Mary discovered that her mother had received, and paid, a bill of over £70 from the agency, returning the invoice with a request for a receipt. Mary made strenuous efforts to find out from the agency what the bill was for. She met a blank wall of silence and the agency steadfastly refused to return the invoice which detailed the charges. Mary's offers to visit the agency's offices to discuss the matter were similarly brushed off. She eventually discovered that the office consisted of a spare bedroom in a nearby council house.

After further strenuous efforts she learned that the £70 invoice was for taking Rose's dog for a walk on four or five occasions. It appears that, if Rose had said that *she* wanted to go for a walk and had insisted that the dog accompany her, there would have been no charge! She will not be using the agency again. Apparently there is nothing illegal about what the agency did but the experience suggests that, before engaging the services of such organisations, especially for sick people, it

would be wise to consult a doctor, a district nurse or other professionals who

can vouch for their good intentions, or otherwise.

Stephen Halliday

Friends of Berkhamsted Town Hall

Despite the adverse effects of the High Street construction works and a difficult financial climate, the Friends continue to make great strides. Our contributions to the Town Hall Trust this past year have enabled the installation of chandeliers in the Great Hall, the purchase of 120 new chairs, complementing the Gothic arches in the Great Hall, and the re-covering of 100 existing chairs in the same fabric most economically at just £10 each. Earlier in the year Berkhamsted Citizens Association lent the Trust £1,000 towards the cost of a speech reinforcement system in the Great Hall and the Friends provided additional funding. Furthermore, Trustee James Ford-Smith secured from the Marks & Spencer charities £600 for the purchase of a £850 sound loop for the hard-of-hearing, and the Friends have earmarked the remaining £250 for its installation. In



Extracts from the report on the past year by chairman Giles Clark

September, the Trust fitted in the Great Hall a motorised projection screen and velvet curtains at about £4,000, totally financed by the Friends.

Another major strand of the Friends' work is to keep the restoration in the public eye and to promote actively the virtues of the building. Examples included our successful flag day, a games stand at the castle fetes and charity fair. Our raffles yielded over £1,000 profit. A setback occurred in the early summer during the height of the disruption in the High Street. Virtual evacuation of shoppers meant that we had to suspend our monthly sessions market. However, the sessions market will return on the Saturday mornings of the 4th November and 2nd December.

With great sadness, I report the deaths of Jim Manders and Pat Moulds, who as extraordinary supporters on the Friends' Committee from its inception did so much to advance the Town Hall. In respect of Jim Manders 'no job was too small'. Always cheerful, he provided the backbone to virtually all of our fund-raising events. To mark our appreciation and respect, the Friends are giving the Trust a £400 pay-telephone

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on the first floor to act as a reminder of his good works. Likewise, Pat Moulds worked tirelessly and played a pivotal role in organising the monthly sessions markets, castle fetes and the annual flag days and raffles. Through her efforts, persistence and dedication, many thousands of pounds have been generated for the restoration of

the Great Hall. Her death is premature, we have lost our champion fund-raising organiser. The Friends will be dedicating an appropriate new feature in the Town Hall in memory of her. We extend our very deep sympathy to Jim's and Pat's relatives.

Fourth Sponsored Bike Ride 1995

In April and May the first salvoes of paperwork for this year's Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust bike ride were delivered to me by Patrick Lepper who has always been our local organiser and is Chairman of the Trust.

An advert for the *Review* was enclosed and among other things a registration form for participating churches which also asked, with commendable attention to detail, for confirmation as to whether we would have toilets available on the day! Thereafter came pew leaflet notices and church announcements and posters for display in the town.

Surely by now the message had got through? But all seemed to be too quiet and interests no doubt diverted to other important activities in the town.

Then, when it almost seemed too late, the enquiries came along with requests for sponsorship forms. At last the show was on the road again.

As always there were many willing offers to receive and register visitors in church on the day and one wondered what if anything still needed attention.

Then it dawned on me - it is said that one should encourage by example. So touched by conscience and not having a bicycle, my only option would- be to walk.

My aim was to visit ten churches and-though I must admit to finding it rather difficult to approach sponsors I set about the usual psychological arm twisting of relatives and friends.

With a little forethought I made sure that wherever possible my route was either flat or preferably downhill. The first stop after setting out from St Peter's was to be St Mary's at Northchurch.

For a change I could ignore traffic lights and watched with detached interest as drivers were shaken up over our traffic calming humps. Maybe the traffic was being calmed but certainly not the drivers. Even the traffic wardens seemed friendly today.

There are some really attractive villas and cottages that I had hardly noticed before and it was most interesting to be able really to look at them as I walked by.

From St Mary's it was just a short way back to Northchurch Baptists and an interesting first look inside for me. On the way Priscilla Coombs came striding towards me. She was a little surprised at my having been to St Mary's already whilst she was still en-route despite the fact that we had set off at much the same time. She had of course visited other churches on the way and planned to go much further afield whereas I had gone direct. Priscilla is an avid walker and I was flattered that she even thought me capable

of getting anywhere faster than she could on foot.

Durrants Road was next with a none too charming view across the valley before arriving at All Saints. Then down Cross Oak Road and into Park Street for the Sacred Heart which is attractively set back behind lawns and greenery. There are far too few churches so well displayed, more's the pity. I needed to take only a few steps more to the Quaker Meeting House, set back unobtrusively behind a protective garden wall and all the quieter for that since the High Street seems ever busy despite the by-pass.

Returning to St Peter's I was very pleased to find that about fifty visitors had already been registered in just three hours. After lunch my first call was the United Reformed in Chapel Street where a dear elderly lady signed me in whilst basking in the sun on a seat outside the church.

Next to St Michael's and All Angels set up the bank on the sunny side of the valley with an unavoidable slight uphill approach. Once again the welcomer was enjoying the sunshine, this time sitting at a table in the churchyard.

It was here that I met Jean Cooper, St Peter's organist. She had apparently set out from Bovingdon on her bicycle and was going great guns with an ambitious list of over forty visits to make.

On my way to St John the Baptist at Bourne End the traffic was very noisy and intrusive but my spirits were lifted by an enthusiastic wave from Jean speeding by

on her way back from St John's. It is a very attractive little church, passed by thousands in their motor cars but I suspect seldom visited. I had a good walk around the outside and promised myself a return visit hopefully to see the inside as well.

I had expected that the last leg back to St Peter's would be rather boring retracing my steps along the noisy London Road, and it was! However my interest was taken by a group of donkeys and ponies sharing a field with a magnificent example of the highland cattle breed. Who says that the car is indispensable when it's possible to walk and notice such things for the first time?

On to a friendly welcome at Berkhamsted Baptist and finally back to St Peter's where the one-hundredth visitor was awaited. The honour was soon taken by a young girl rider from Hemel Hempstead and we all congratulated her appropriately. A perfect day for the bike ride and for me a new perspective on our town, friendly meetings, gentle exercise and above all an unexpected bonus -



*a fine example of
the highland cattle breed!*

Frank Nason.

NORTHCHURCH

Northchurch (St Mary). Rector: The Rev John Tabor, MA

Recently I travelled over to Suffolk via Newmarket. As I had an appointment the other side of Ipswich soon after 10am I had to make an early start. It was a brilliantly fine morning with a cloudless sky and very clear air - the sort of day which is extremely exhilarating and makes one glad to be alive. Many of the cornfields had already been ploughed and re-sown and the countryside had been refreshed by the autumn rain.

The last time I had made this journey was in the height of summer when the harvest was being gathered, and the pasture and grassland were burnt up. What a transformation had taken place during the past month through the coming of the rain! That which seemed to be dead had come to life again. I particularly remember one large expanse of grass near the Newmarket training gallops which was breath-taking in its beauty in the morning sun.

During the drought we have all been reminded how essential water is for life; without it even the most fertile land will soon become a desert. The desert was an important symbol for the poet T.S. Eliot as he reflected on human life as he saw and experienced it. In *Choruses from 'The Rock'* he writes:

*You neglect and belittle the desert.
The desert is not remote in southern
tropics,
The desert is not only round the
corner,
The desert is squeezed in the tube train
next to you,
The desert is in the heart of your
brother.'*

Whenever we leave God out of the reckoning or allow ourselves to be cut off from him, whether as individuals, or as communities and nations, we create deserts, wastelands which need the refreshing power and presence of God, if they are to be restored to life, and to become what God intends them to be. This year with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day, we have been reminded of the devastation caused by two world wars which blighted the lives of millions, and later this month on Remembrance Sunday we shall once again be remembering those who gave their lives or were wounded in the fight against the monstrous evil of Hitler and the Nazis, and the Japanese warlords.

The causes of the 1914-18 war were rather more complex, but there can be little doubt that the 1939-45 war was caused by a group of people who left God out of the reckoning, and became consumed by an evil and uncontrollable lust for power. If we think of the many moral, social and economic problems we face in our country today, they too have the same root cause; we are leaving God out of the reckoning - declaring him redundant and imagining in our arrogance and pride that we can live without him. That, as T.S. Eliot recognised, is the way to create wildernesses and deserts both for ourselves and for others.

Not long after I passed that vivid expanse of 'resurrected' grassland at Newmarket I met during my visit to Suffolk a young mother who had recently been through a painful time in the 'desert'. Her second child was born with an obscure genetic disorder which has necessitated her being frequently rushed to hospital for urgent treatment. She was also

told that it was unlikely that the child would live more than two or three years.

future might hold in this life, in the end 'all will be well.'

Inevitably she went through an agony of doubt and unbelief, which was all the more painful for her since she had not long qualified as a lay minister and preacher in her church. She was continually tormented by the question 'How could a God of love let this happen to such a beautiful and innocent child?' For a while she became suicidal and lost her faith, but her pain and her doubts were cured when she had a vision of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee, tenderly embracing her and her child. She was reassured beyond all shadow of doubt of the love of Christ and that, whatever the

Over the years I have known several people who, in moments of great crisis, pain or tension, have had similar experiences of the loving presence of Jesus, which have healed their wounds and taken away their doubts and fears. Just as the rain and the autumn sun has brought new life to the parched fields, so will Jesus, if we will but look to him in faith, bring new life to the deserts in our own hearts and lives.

John Tabor

ST PETER'S with ALL SAINTS' November Diary

All services at normal times (see back page) unless stated.

November

- 1 All Saints' Day Patronal Festival: 8pm sung Eucharist in All Saints' Church
- 2 All Souls' Day: for service details see pew leaflet
- 9 All Saints' area committee
- 10 St Peter's area committee
- 12 Royal British Legion: Remembrance Sunday service: 3pm in St Peter's church
- 16 7.30pm Thomas Coram: school governors' meeting

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms (St Peter's)

3 September Sophie Ann Giddings

1 October Timothy Alexander Katsarelis

Funerals (St Peter's)

5 October Patricia Moulds (Kingshill Cemetery)



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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BERKHAMSTED

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

1.	Northchurch Baptist		
		Mrs H Blundell	Berk. 875021
2.	St Mary's Northchurch	Rev J Tabor	Berk. 865312
		Mr W Frew	Berk. 864368
3.	All Saints' Anglican		
		Mr John Malcolm	Berk. 874993
4.	Methodist All Saints'	Rev. Nicholas Patterson	Berk. 866324
		Mrs Ida Rance	Berk. 865829
5.	Sacred Heart (RC)	Father V Commerford	Berk. 863845
		Mr J McLellan	Berk. 871818
6.	Society of Friends	Robert Ward	Berk. 864404
7.	Kings Road Evangelical	Pastor Billy Milton	Berk. 876917
		Mr J Rainey	Berk. 866315
8.	United Reformed		
		Mrs D Bahadur	Berk. 871107
9.	St Peter's		
		Rev J Macpherson	Berk. 866262
10.	Berkhamsted Baptist	Rev James K Neve	Berk. 873283
		Mrs J Ivin	Berk. 865309
11.	St Michael & All Angels	Rev S Breukelman	Berk. 865100
	Sunnyside	Mrs T Gibbs	Berk. 863266
12.	St John the Evangelist	Rev S Breukelman	Berk. 865100
	Bourne End	Mrs M Ireland	Berk. 865098



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The Revd Canon Basil Jones, 17 Lochnell Road. Tel: 864485
The Revd Jim Lawrenson (Hon.Asst.Priest), Downside, 7 Torrington Road. Tel: 865999
The Revd John Macphersoh (Hon.Asst.Priest), 5 Kingsdale Road. Tel: 866262
The Revd Preb Stephen Wells (Hon.Asst.Priest), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981
Miss Mariorie Bowden (Reader), 18 Greenway. Tel: 871283
Mrs Joan-Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street. Tel: 866278
Tom Montague (Reader), 27 Hill View. Tel: 875320
Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981
Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241

Churchwardens

Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241; John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195

Parochial Church Council

Secretary: Alan Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798
Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

Services at St Peter's

Director of Music: Vaughan Meakins. Tel:01494 837412; Assistant: Mrs Jean Wild. Tel: 866859
Organist: Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088

Sundays		Weekdays	
8.00am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
9.30am	Family Sung Eucharist with Creche & Sunday Schools (in the Court House) followed by coffee in the Court House.	Wednesday	6.45am
		Thursday	11.00am
		Friday	9.15am
		Holy Days - see weekly Notices	
11.15am	Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only)	1st Monday in the month at 7.30pm, Holy	
6.00pm	Evensong & Sermon	Communion & Service for Healing	
(except 1st Sunday see All Saints')		Matins & Evensong said daily	

Confessions

After Saturday Evensong (5.00pm) or at other times by appointment.

Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals

Please contact Revd Canon Basil Jones

Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 9 Kings Road. Tel: 863804

Services at All Saints' (shared with the Berkhamsted Methodist Church)

Organist and choir: Mrs Valerie McCalla. Tel: 871765

Sundays	
8.00am	Holy Communion (1st Sun - Methodist)
9.15am	Family Sung Eucharist & Sunday Schools, then coffee in the Hall
11.00am	(Methodist Morning Service)
6.30pm	Evening Service (1st Sunday - Anglican rite, other Sundays Methodist rite)

Weekdays

Holy Communion: Tuesday 9.30am

Holy Days - see weekly Notices

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