

BERKHAMSTED

# REVIEW

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FOR TOWN AND PARISH • DECEMBER 1995 25p

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*Arriving for Christmas*



## The Parish Magazine of St Peter's with All Saints

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### Next Copy Date Friday: 1 December

Please let us have your contributions at:

Gardeners' Arms, Castle Street  
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38 Gaveston Drive

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.



*Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this Review and for the accuracy of statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor.*

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### NEXT THREE COPY DATES (All Fridays)

1 December

*(note change from last month's Review)*

5 January

2 February

### *Subscriptions Please!*

Will you please note that annual subscriptions are now due. These give you twelve issues for the price of ten! Cheques (£2.50) are payable to *Berkhamsted Review*. Please pay your distributor, or Daphne Montague (at the address above) if you don't know your distributor or are a new subscriber.



## Father Basil Jones talks about CHRISTMAS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Many of you travel throughout the world and in most of the places you have been, as well as here in Berkhamsted, people of all races will be hoping that something of the divine nature of the Christchild, born in a manger, will burn in their hearts this Christmas.

*And the Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us*

St John's mighty words have echoed throughout the world down the centuries transcending dynasties and empires, revolutions and the newest technology. They have their roots in a babe born in the most humble circumstances couched in a manger. That shows us clearly that no-one however underprivileged, deranged or outcast is left outside God's care unless they so choose. The silent attention of the animals, then as now, is a constant reminder that this is always so. The babe,

born for us all, was first shown to the shepherds, men who were noted for their integrity, courage and compassion.

The energy which has flowed and still flows from this babe continues to amaze. A divine energy caught by some painters, sculptors, musicians and poets but never in the past was it able to be harnessed for worldly power alone.

We, in our generation, have to ensure that this precious gift which has been handed down to us is not lost or obscured beyond recognition. The thrill of children at Christmas should help to remind us all of God's greatest gift celebrated each Christmas: *And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.*

**A happy and joyful Christmas from the Team.**

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### ***THE READER MINISTRY***

'Lay Reader', 'Lay Preacher', 'Lay Minister', 'Lay Curate'. These are all titles which have been considered and rejected for a ministry which today goes under the simple name, 'Reader'. The name derives from the word 'Lector', used in the very early church to describe a non-ordained ministry.

I am now more than half way through my training programme and hope to be licensed as a reader in 1996. I will join

three other active readers in the parish - Marjorie Bowden, Joan Cook and Jenny Wells - together with our reader emeritus, Tom Montague and our other reader in training, Martin Macdonald. Until I went through the application process and then started training, I had not appreciated either the history or the growing importance of reader ministry. Neither, I have to confess, was I completely sure of the duties and responsibilities required of a reader in the Diocese of St Albans.

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Today, there are more than 8,000 licensed readers in the Church of England, around a quarter of whom are women. You will see them in cassock, surplice and blue scarf, taking part in leading worship on Sundays. During the week they will be involved in a variety of other jobs in the parish. In many rural and inner city parishes, it is only through the ministry of readers that churches are able to hold regular Sunday services. In recent times, the number of readers admitted each year has been greater than the number of people being ordained. Against the background of the Archbishop of Canterbury's vision for increasing lay ministry, coupled with the adverse financial position of the Church, this is a trend which is likely to continue.

So what is the history, what do they do and what is involved in becoming reader? The present office of reader dates back to Ascension Day, 1866, when there was a revival of lay ministry in the Church of England. The way forward was not always easy and in her book, *Celebrating Reader Ministry*, Rhoda Hiscox has this to say:

“On the one hand it is a story of bishops and clergy whose vision of the priesthood of all believers has led them to encourage readers to share their essentially *lay* ministry with priests and deacons to further the Kingdom of God. On the other hand, it is the story of the reluctance of other bishops, clergy and laypeople to allow readers to respond to liturgical and pastoral needs...”

It took, for example, one hundred years before the first woman reader was admitted in May 1969, although today there are over 2,000 women readers.

At present, a reader's activities are governed by the *Bishops' Regulations for*

*Reader Ministry* authorized by the House of Bishops on 15 January 1991, and prepared and published by the Advisory Board of Ministry (ABM). Each diocese has some discretion and St Albans, for example, does have a few supplementary guidelines for readers. When a person is admitted to the office of reader by a bishop, they are also licensed to perform their duties within the diocese. The licence will be drawn up by a bishop, in our case the Bishop of Hertford, in consultation with the incumbent, or rural dean, to whom the reader will be licensed and be responsible.

Duties will be defined in outline, although readers are bound either to have prepared and agreed a job description, or accept relicensing every three years. *Bishops' Regulations* provide the framework and duties usually include: Preaching at Holy Communion, Morning and Evening Prayer; assisting in worship and taking Morning and Evening Prayer when required; reading lessons, the Epistle and the Gospel; distributing Holy Communion; pastoral, teaching and liturgical work in the parish; publishing banns of marriage in certain circumstances; taking funeral services, subject to certain conditions including the agreement of the minister of the parish and the family concerned. Readers are not allowed to perform marriages or baptisms.

I found the initial selection process quite rigorous. With a series of interviews followed by a two hour selection panel. The panel's recommendation had to be agreed by the Warden of Readers (the Bishop of Hertford), and then the PCC had to pass a resolution supporting my training. Training itself is very flexible, usually takes three to four years, and is tailored to the needs and time availability of the individual trainee. The training is moderated by ABM to ensure that national

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standards are maintained and it is quite hard work! I have certainly been challenged and strengthened in my own faith, and have learned much about the Bible, Church history, liturgy, theology and so on.

So much for the detail! Whilst I still have to complete my training, the interregnum and the vacancy at All Saints' have given me plenty of opportunity to gain an idea of

what it is like to be a reader in an active parish. I look forward to new opportunities as we move towards the third millennium and thank God for being able to share in the Archbishop's vision for the future of lay ministry.

*John Malcolm*



### **Churchwardens**

Just inside the main doors of St Peter's Church there is a framed list of all the churchwardens (except for the present two) with their dates, going back to 1589 - from the time when it was first required that every parish in the realm should have two churchwardens. The present list first put there in 1906 was later extended and is now full; so that is why the present wardens are not on it. We will either have to enlarge it again or start a second one.

Many of the Town's well-known names from the past took on the role of churchwarden in their day. In 1645, for example, there was Nathan Payne, the stout Berkhamsted Parliamentarian, who got into trouble when he declared his great regret at ever having fought on Cromwell's side when he heard of the execution of Charles I 'the most horrid murder that any history ever made mention of'.

Then in 1834 came Augustus Smith, the local champion in the fight against the enclosure of Berkhamsted common and

who later had a school in the Town named after him.

The other churchwarden in Augustus Smith's time has not just one but two things which bear his name: the world-famous apple tree, *Lane's Prince Albert*, and a cypress - *Chamaecyparis Lawsonia* 'Lanei'. He was Henry Lane, founder of H. Lane and Sons Nurseries, which became a very big business in the Town and widely known, lasting until after the second World War. Does any reader have a Lane's Prince Albert apple tree in the garden still, or one of those cypresses?

Henry Lane was later churchwarden again, and during his second term of office his fellow warden was General the Honourable John Finch. Finch lived at Berkhamsted Place and was a notable local benefactor. He was largely responsible for the re-building of the Bourne School and for the Town Hall project. Finch Road, off Shrublands Road, is named after him. Finch's portrait used to hang in the Town Hall and now that the Great Hall has been completed the portrait will shortly be re-hung there.

Then a few years later in 1865 we had Henry Longman, who was head of the great publishing house, Longmans, Green & Co. - always known as Longmans. If you have a book on your shelves published by them you will see the company's logo

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on it: a galleon; and at the top of the window in the Church in memory of Henry Longman (the *Light of the World* window) the maker included a galleon, in stained glass.

### **Famed Novelists**

It is widely known that Graham Greene was born and raised in Berkhamsted and often wrote about it. After his death four years ago some of the obituaries referred to him as the most important novelist of his day. In October this year the irascible Kingsley Amis died, and at least one obituarist used exactly the same words of him. He was certainly very widely read. Now Bill Willett tells me that Amis also once lived in Berkhamsted - in Shrublands Road - a piece of the literary history of the Town which came as news to me.

It is years since I read Amis's novel, *One Fat Englishman*, but I do vaguely recall a reference in it to Berkhamsted School. Like so much of Kingsley Amis the reference was calculated to disparage - in this case to the effect that the parents of the anti-hero in the book tried to get him into a good public school and failed, so in the end they had to send him to Berkhamsted!

There is a small exhibition called *The Writers of Berkhamsted* touring the Borough at the present time, and it is due to come to Berkhamsted library in January. It is really astonishing how many men of letters of one sort or another were born or educated, worked or lived in this Town.

### **Computer: Friend or Foe?**

The November issue of the *Review* was the first to be produced in house using the Parish's computer hardware and the expertise of computer buffs in the

congregation, particularly Chris Smalley. They deserve warm applause for the excellent job done, and I am told that we can expect further improvements.

Like many users of computers I am ignorant of how to make the most of the range of capabilities of this marvellous tool on the desk in front of me. At times I daringly experiment with some of its functions, but there are dangers lurking. I do recommend to anyone using a computer for word processing, having completed what they believe to be a work of some literary merit, to think twice before clicking the button labelled 'grammar'.

If you do you are immediately confronted with a faceless and disagreeable schoolmaster, picking holes in your work and it seems sneering at your best efforts. Worse, he is moralistic, being particularly critical of sexism and any departure from political correctness. If I use the word 'chairman' he accuses me of being *gender specific* and recommends replacing the word with 'chair' or 'chairperson'. I certainly would never do any such thing, and fortunately you can always click the 'ignore' button; but one is left feeling reprimanded and uncomfortable. Never once does he give a compliment.

Then at the end of the grammar check marks are awarded, according to various indices of readability and so on. Low marks result from the use of long sentences and long words. My work is ruthlessly penalised for the use of the passive voice. We all know we ought not to start sentences with a conjunction or end them with a preposition but we do just for

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effect. The grammar check won't let me get away with either without a sharp rap over the knuckles.

The writer's lot is a solitary one, sitting alone with just his computer for company.

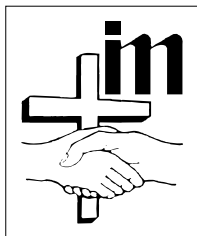
When that starts to criticise your best efforts and bite the hand that feeds it the whole world seems to have turned against you.

*John Cook*

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## 57 means more than Heinz

A lot more in fact, because it just happens to be the number of local chaplains who provide workplace ministry in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Some chaplains are local clergy while others are lay men and women: most denominations are represented. There are also four full time area chaplains, an agricultural chaplain and a chaplain to London Luton Airport. Industrial chaplaincy is carried out under the auspices of the Herts and Beds Industrial Mission Council (IMC), a true ecumenical joint venture strongly supported by both clergy and lay people from the churches. Chaplains minister in many locations - factories, offices, shops, fire and ambulance stations, warehouses, bus stations and homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is need.



appointment of a new Bishop of St Albans were fulsome in their praise of the work of chaplains, so whether you are ordained or not, you might like to put your name forward for consideration for appointment as a local chaplain. The pay is non-existent, but the potential rewards are limitless.

- ◇ Or how about volunteering to be the industrial mission 'correspondent' in your local church, keeping your church family informed about IM? All we need is your name and address.. we will do the rest.
- ◇ Then, inevitably, there is the possibility of financial support. Your local church could support the annual appeal (launched each Autumn) or you personally could become - for a modest fee - an individual member of Herts and Beds IM Council

Industrial mission is a vital part of the churches' ministry to thousands of people who have no contact with Christ's church. The chaplains, - our chaplains - are held in the highest esteem by those they serve. As chairman of Industrial Mission I see one of my main tasks being to communicate with churches, so if you would like to know more, please do contact me through the Industrial Mission office, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 1HE (Tel: 01727 869461).

*Andrew Barclay*

So what has all this got to do with the women or man in the pew? Well quite a lot...

- ◇ Firstly the chaplains need your prayers for the work they do in His name and ours, dealing as they have to with stress at work, relationships which have broken down, unemployment and many other issues.
- ◇ Next, the need is greater than the supply. The captains of industry, who were consulted over the recent

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# Notice Board

## ST.PETER'S SERVERS

There is a need to replace a number of our servers who have moved on to university this autumn. Would you like to help in this important part of our church's liturgy? If you are young, not so young, male or female and would like to serve, please contact David Crawley (871495) or Keith Middleditch (862423). Full training will be given.



*The Parish Church of Berkhamsted*  
*Music at St Peter's*

On Saturday 23rd December at 7.30pm the *Chiltern Chamber Choir*, directed by Adrian Davis, is performing the *Mass for Christmas* by Michael Praetorius in St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. This exciting, seasonal work requires divided choral and instrumental groups as well as the *participation of a large group of good singers in the audience* to lead the congregation in the chorales.

*Chiltern Chamber Choir* is inviting experienced singers to buy a yellow 'Singer's Ticket' which, at £3, is half the £6 (white) ticket price.

Yellow ticket holders are asked to be in the church by 7.00pm and in their seats, in the specially reserved rows, by 7.10pm for a 'warm-up' and minimum rehearsal with Adrian Davis (the 'warm-up' could be a rather literal necessity at this date in St Peter's!). The music will be provided. All tickets can be bought from any member of *the Chiltern Chamber Choir*. Singer's yellow tickets must be bought in advance. They will **not** be sold on the night.

For further information contact Adrian Davis on 864722 or Jean Green on 863241.

## ST PETER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Wednesday, 13th December, at 12.30pm in the Court House for our Christmas lunch, and we look forward to seeing our members there.

## COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING

There is to be a charity stall for *Compassion in World Farming* in the Sessions Hall on the first Saturday morning of each month. This began on 4th November. We are looking for volunteers to come and help run the stall and also donations of saleable articles, bric-a-brac and so on. Edible items such as home-made cakes, scones and similar delicacies will be gratefully received. Please contact CIWF organiser Jane Herbert on 871317 if you are genuinely interested in getting involved in this charity work. Every penny we collect and new member we recruit is vital to the work of animal welfare connected to farming.

## BERKHAMSTED'S BEST KEPT SECRET?

No longer! Townsfolk flock to the monthly Sessions Market run by the Friends of the Town Hall where they look for bargains amongst the bric-a-brac and books. They also buy delicious cakes, dried flowers, craft items, jewellery, toys, plants and hand-made furniture. It is a marvellous opportunity to support local enterprise and favourite charities which on 2nd December will include the Hospice of St Francis, the Folly Donkey Sanctuary, the Chiltern Society, Compassion in World Farming and the Cat Protection League as well as the Friends.

A small band of fundraisers is energetically working to continue the restoration of the Town Hall for the benefit of the community, so please, do support us.

For enquiries about the Friends, phone Giles Clark (874347) and about the Sessions Market Christopher and Angela Morris (866992). We thank our many supporters for their encouragement which is much appreciated.



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Silver into syringes is Oxfam's aim as they appeal for good quality bric-a-brac to support their child immunisation programme in countries where diseases such as measles are child killers.

When you are clearing out cupboards to make space for your new Christmas presents, spare a thought for desperately needy youngsters and take any surplus ornaments, glassware, vases, kitchenware in good saleable condition to the shop in the High Street and save lives.

### SALVATION ARMY INVITATION

You are invited to carols for the Hospice of St Francis to be sung in Berkhamsted Town Hall on Monday 18th December at 6.30pm. The singing will be led by the Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army, Commissioner Dinsdale Pender and Commissioner Winifred Pender, with soloist Helen Lewington.

Tickets are £1.50, on sale at the Way Inn every day of the week and at the Town Hall on the High Street on Tuesday mornings only, or they are available with a stamped addressed envelope from 31 Beech Drive, telephone 876024.

### JOHN AND PAM MACPHERSON

As we go to press, we hear that John and Pam are to leave the parish. We will include a full appreciation of their valuable contribution to the parish in the January edition of the *Review*.

### BESSIE GASCOIGNE

Sadly we hear of Bessie's passing as we go to press. She made a special contribution to the parish and we will be offering an appropriate tribute in the next issue.



### BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

On 3rd November we held our annual general meeting when vice president Miss Liz Baxendale (in the absence of our president Mrs. Joan Griffiths) welcomed members and visitors and introduced our speaker Mrs. Sheila Muston V.C.O. During business matters, reports were given by the secretary, treasurer and Mrs. Mary Harris, vice president, who read the president's report in her absence. Members were reminded of the excellent speakers we have listened to and of the various outings we were able to attend and enjoy during the year. Mrs. Sheila Muston presided over the election of the president and committee. Mrs. Joan Griffiths was re-elected as president for the coming year. At our next meeting on 1st December we look forward to meeting the Ivinghoe Bell Ringers at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2pm. We extend a warm welcome to all visitors.

*Thank you to all our distributors without whom the Review would not reach its readers. We know that you work tirelessly in all weathers, by daylight and moonlight, and we're very grateful!*



Thank you to those readers who responded to the readership survey in our October issue. Special thanks are due to those who wrote letters to supplement the points made on the questionnaire.

In general the replies were very complimentary but you expressed some clear preferences and ideas for improving the magazine and making it more lively. We shall take these ideas very seriously. If any of you would still like to reply we shall be very glad to hear from you.

*Editor*

## Parish Personalities: 96

John Malcolm



*Reader-in-training, All Saints' Church*

# A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVES

Imagine a magnificent tall sailing ship moored at London Bridge City Pier on a very hot humid day and that you were going to spend a week aboard her. Like me, I expect you would be thrilled but apprehensive as to what was ahead, as this was to be my home for the next seven days.

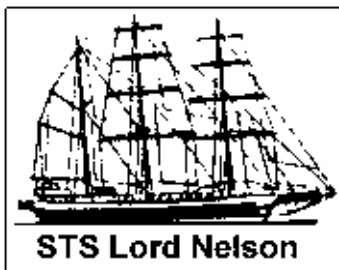
I must explain that *Lord Nelson* is a glorious square rigged sailing ship which is purpose built to cater for all types of physical handicap. There are special facilities to assist deaf and visually impaired people and wheelchair users. Everyone takes a full and active role in running the ship. There is a new annual bursary which provides a berth for anyone in Berkhamsted who is physically disabled to sail on *Lord Nelson* and I was the first voyager to take up the challenge.

I was apprehensive about the weather when I was introduced to my *buddy* - someone to help me. Her name was Gail. I needn't have worried as life on the North Sea was far better than in the heat of Berkhamsted High Street. I quickly felt I was part of a big happy family and everyone helped one another to sail this unique ship.

On my voyage we sailed from London to Chatham via Amsterdam to meet up with the tall ships race for the weekend. What a weekend! Millions of people - for it was like a festival. Hundreds of craft on the water - so much so that I could hardly see any water. In the evening there was the most splendid display of fireworks I have ever seen - together with marvellous music which kept in time with the fireworks.

Afterwards hundreds of sirens showing their appreciation. Such fun!

Each day was packed with activity: each night was incredibly beautiful. *Dog Watch* ran from midnight till 4am The white billowing sails against a beautiful dark blue clear sky with millions of stars darting to and fro with the movement of the ship; the green water with little cascades of white foam and the silvery moon lighting the whole scene. I was at one with nature - a sight I shall never



forget.

On deck there was never a dull moment: hoisting 15 sails, swabbing the decks, cleaning the brasses and that's besides doing mess duties. I took the helm twice - once in the middle of the night when my team was on watch (another ship radioed in to ask what course were we supposed to be on - I think I was zig-zagging!) The other time was when the Captain asked me to steer the ship through the lock into the open seas. This time I burst one fender and sent another shooting into the air.

There were so many happenings, but the two most memorable were being hauled up the mast onto the observation platform in my wheelchair, strapped in by ropes, and the Captain choosing me to take the helm as we went through the locks into the open seas! What faith! What memories!

*Yvonne Rix*

*Details on how to apply for the Berkhamsted berth in 1996 were given in the November Review.*

## Bell Ringing News

### 150 YEARS OF PEAL RINGING AT ST PETER'S



The present ring of 8 bells at St. Peter's was cast and hung in 1838 to commemorate Queen Victoria's accession. The work of recasting the old bells with the addition of new metal was entrusted to *Mears and Stainbank*, a firm still in existence but now known as *Whitechapel Bellfoundry*. The tenor (the heaviest bell with the deepest note) weighs 15cwt and is tuned to the key of E. In 1946 three of the bells were recast, but the original oak frame is still in use. The bells are now hung on ball bearings.

A 'full peal' consists of 5040 changes and takes around 3 hours to complete. Only 8 people may participate and no substitutes or other outside assistance is allowed. 5040 is the number of different ways in which 7 bells can be ordered.

The first full peal at St. Peter's took place on 28th October 1845. It was rung by members of The Society of College Youths who were almost certainly London ringers. The method chosen for the first peal was Grandsire Triples, and it was completed in 3 hours and 5 minutes.

Earlier this year plans were laid to mark the 150th anniversary of the first peal. Most conveniently 28th October was a Saturday! The invited peal band included 6 present and former Berkhamsted ringers. The method chosen

was again Grandsire Triples. Records do not disclose the composition for the peal in 1845, but the composition used this year was Holt's Original, a complex plan for producing 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples.

The peal was successfully completed in 2 hours and 50 minutes, the ringing being accurate, well struck and rhythmical throughout. The following took part: Gareth Bennett 1, Dorothea Robotham 2, Roger Turner 3, Martin Macdonald 4, John Mayne (conductor) 5, Jon Chamberlain 6, David Sheppard 7, David Burbidge 8. Particular congratulations are due to Gareth whose first peal this was.

The conductor is very well known in ringing circles having now completed 3355 full peals, one of only 3 people to have achieved more than 3000 peals. His home tower and that of Dorothea is St. Stephen's, St. Albans. Dorothea has rung 2139 peals. David Sheppard and Jon Chamberlain are former members of Berkhamsted tower now ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral and Abingdon respectively. The ringers of 1,3,4, and 8 are St. Peter's ringers. 81 full peals have now been completed in the tower.

*David Burbidge*



*A Happy and Joyous Christmas  
to All Our Readers*



# Letter to the Editor

## The National Lottery

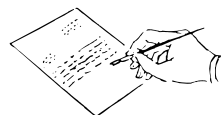
Allan J A Wilson writes:

Rev Stephen Wells has done us all a service in the November issue of the *Review* by opening up a debate on the National Lottery and on gambling in general.

Under the heading of 'Embarrassment' he asks, "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?"

My answer is, "Most certainly". May I offer briefly three reasons.

First, in what Mr Wells earlier describes as a rational world, there is no place for the transfer of wealth, however modest, on the basis of chance, but only as a gift or in return for work done.



Secondly, have we really thought through the idea of giving to a charity in the hope of receiving more in return? This seems to me to show considerable confusion of motives.

Thirdly - and most importantly for the Christian believer - have we not lost our way if we indulge in this activity while at the same time claiming to believe in a God who gave himself in agonising suffering, utter degradation and desperate loneliness?

Against a background of love such as this, the rest simply doesn't fit.

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## BERKHAMSTED BOOK FAIR

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## THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

*With age I sit and ponder,  
Does this magic still exist,  
Or has cynical correctness done away  
With our once traditional day?  
Has the family gathering supreme  
Been superseded by the TV screen?  
So I dream of the old days  
The wonder of Christmas past,  
When tales were spun and we had fun,  
Content with our orange, apple, bun.  
Lantern lit rounds with the village choir,  
Enjoying the largesse of the squire.  
The midnight service cast its spell,  
A feeling of joy in our simple faith,  
Living once more our Saviour's birth,  
Coming to bring us peace on earth.*

S G Dollimore

## EURO-SCEPTICS: *Fed up with nowhere to go*

One of my jobs is to teach students to carry out market research among diverse groups of people. Last summer, as an exercise for them I asked them to conduct a survey of attitudes towards European Union amongst businessmen in the five largest states of the European Union: Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Italy. 935 businessmen completed questionnaires on such subjects as the single currency, the quality of the workforce and higher education in each country. Another group of students questioned 3141 British citizens and 392 Germans on similar subjects so that we could see whether the views of citizens as a whole differed from those of businessmen. The results were fascinating and contradicted some widely held views about Europe.

In the *political sphere* each national group of businessmen agrees that Germany is most in favour of the concept of a federal state and Britain least in favour. As one would expect, there was similar agreement on the subject of a single currency with each national group identifying Germany as most enthusiastic about the proposal and Britain as least in favour. The British businessmen surveyed are particularly emphatic on this point, with 88 percent of them identifying Britain as being least in favour.

The *citizens survey* reveals much more scepticism in both countries on the currency issue. Only 25 percent of Britons and 13 percent of Germans believe that a single European currency will be introduced in the foreseeable future. Moreover, both British and Germans were firmly opposed to the replacement of the

Pound or the Deutschmark by a European currency. Although the Germans and the British are much closer than is sometimes assumed on the currency issue their views

are much more divergent on other European issues, notably the role of the European Parliament. When asked whether they looked forward to the European Parliament playing a greater role in national affairs 29 percent of Britons answered that they did, compared to 52 percent of Germans.

The 3141 British respondents in the citizens survey were asked how they voted at the last general election and how they intended to vote next time. This enabled the compilers of the survey to compare past and future voting behaviour with attitudes towards Europe. Voters were divided into *loyalists*, who intended to vote next time as they did in 1992 and *lapsed* if they intended to vote differently next time. Lapsed Tory voters were consistently more Euro-sceptic than any other group in all their responses. For example 71 percent of them were opposed to its assumption of a greater role.

The businessmen were asked which country was *most effective* and which was *least effective* in arguing for its own interests. On the latter point there is unanimous agreement. Each national group believes that *its own representatives are least effective* at putting its case within the Union. The Italians hold a particularly low opinion of the negotiating skills of their representatives with 75 percent of them believing that they get the worst deal. The Italians also believe that they exercise less influence in Europe than any other nation. The Spaniards and Italians

★ ★ ★  
***Both the British and  
the Germans were  
firmly opposed to a  
European currency.***  
★ ★ ★

both believe that Germany is best at defending its own interests while ancient rivalries may account for the fact that the British and French regard each other as being most effective at this rather selfish accomplishment. When respondents were asked which member states were *least likely to put European considerations before national interests* all agreed that *the British qualified for this doubtful honour*. Even the British respondents agreed to this proposition which suggests, at least, a degree of candour on the subject which should be of some comfort to the pro-Europeans.

There is unanimous agreement that the Germans are best and the British worst at speaking foreign languages, the British themselves being disarmingly frank about their incapacity in this field since 84 percent of British businessmen rated themselves worst in this question. There is almost as much agreement on environmental issues. All national groups rated the Germans as being most aware of environmental issues while Italy and Spain fought for the wooden spoon.

There are more divergent views on social services. German, French and British businessmen all believe that their own nation's health service is the best of the five, with 71 percent of Britons taking this view. The Italians, true to their consistent mood of national gloom, think that *everyone's* health service is superior to theirs with the single exception of Spain's. Views on higher education are more mixed. Germany, France and Britain rate Germany's system the best while Spain and Italy choose Britain's system. Germany's banking is rated as best,

followed by Britain's. The banking systems of Spain and Italy are held in low esteem by businessmen. Amongst all 935 respondents the only ones who judged Italy's banking system the best were three Italians. One assumes that they are Mafiosi who own the banks concerned!

What conclusions may be drawn from the two surveys? The first is that Germany is seen as being most committed to the community and is also perceived as having gained most from it. This implies a degree of justice. The second point that emerges from the survey of businessmen is an encouraging willingness to acknowledge that other European nations are better at some things than one's country of birth, be it education, banking, industry or technology.

The *citizens survey* makes interesting reading for politicians. Lapsed Conservative voters are of consuming interest to all three major parties but the one thing that appears to unite them is scepticism about Europe and it is hard to

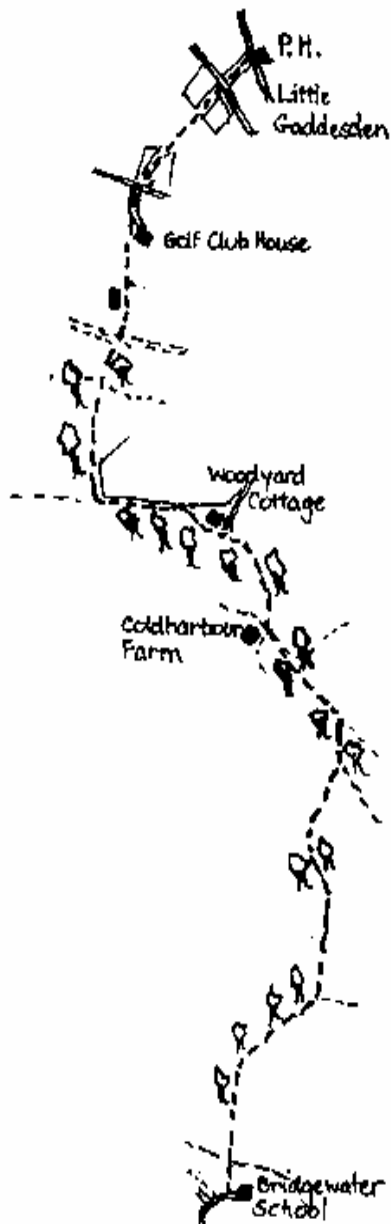
imagine their views being better accommodated in either the Labour or Liberal party. If, by default, these older, working class Eurosceptics return grudgingly to the Conservatives as being the most Euro-sceptical party it could be very good news for John Major. But what if they abstain? No

doubt the Conservatives, who do this kind of research for themselves all the time, are well aware of these facts. I confidently anticipate that, over the next year or so, government ministers will be competing with each other in making hostile noises about Europe in an attempt to lure these lost sheep back to the fold.

*Stephen Halliday*

*★Amongst 935★  
respondents only★  
three Italians judged★  
Italy's banking★  
system the best.★*

## BERKHAMSTED TO LITTLE GADDESSEN



I gather there are those who want to take me to task about my comments in the October *Review* on the effect of horses on paths!

Perhaps I should be a bit more specific. The big problem with footpaths is the fast-growing invasive plants which smother them during the summer; stinging nettles, brambles and bracken - especially bracken.

On farm land and golf courses they are kept in check. But on common land bracken particularly grows vigorously, six feet tall in places. All but the most heavily used footpaths become completely engulfed and impossible by about July.

There is a footpath across Berkhamsted Common which we have used for the Berkhamsted Walk several times in recent years. When we do the walk in May, it is reasonably easy to find and pleasant walking. In high summer, however, it is invisible and impenetrable.

In contrast the newly re-opened bridleway 51 is still open. We made a special effort to clear it sufficiently for horse riders to get along it before the bracken started growing. It is still useable even though a bit narrow in places. Hopefully, during the winter the horses will widen it a bit, 'rotavate' it a bit so that by next summer we shall have a reasonably wide and clear path which is pleasant to use.

I agree that elsewhere, especially in woodland, it is better if pedestrians and equestrians can be segregated. In woods, without sun or a drying wind, paths can become very muddy and stay so for weeks. Horses only make matters worse. Fortunately the route I described in

September is so wide that you can usually avoid the mud even in winter!

Now for your last walk before winter really sets in: Berkhamsted to Little Gaddesden. This is a nice three and a half miles (or, as of metrication day, 6km!) walk. Good for a walk before lunch and there is an optional (and slightly shorter) route back.

Start from Bridgewater School. Stand outside the main gate and face the school. To your left you will see a well-used footpath going uphill. That is your route. At the top is a 'crossroads' of footpaths. Go straight across and along the side of a field with trees on your left. Keep going with the fence on your left, through three fields until you come to a stile. Go over the stile and downhill for a hundred yards (sorry, metres!) or so, and look for a stile on your left. This leads into woods (the Alpine Meadow nature reserve). Follow the path through the meadow, over another stile, into a field. The path keeps to the left side of the field. Go over two more stiles into more woods. Turn left onto a bridle path (this is bridleway 51 mentioned above). Follow it as it twists and turns until it joins another very heavily used bridleway, the Broadwalk described in the September *Review*. Turn left onto this bridleway.

You are now walking the next bit for the third time (if you have done the other walks) so you should know it by now. Turn right when you get to Coldharbour Farm, onto the gravel road. Just before you get to Woodyard Cottage, take the bridleway which bears off to the left. It goes downhill and turns left at the bottom, with a wire fence and a field on the right.

At the end of the field, turn right and continue alongside the fence. When the

fence bears right, go straight on, coming eventually to a track. Almost immediately you will come to a 'crossroads' with a made-up road going straight ahead. Follow it.

When you reach a wide grassy drive crossing the made-up road, pause. To your left, in the distance, is the Bridgewater monument. To your right, you will see Ashridge Management College. That's enough of admiring views. Press on along the road which leads to a house and some outbuildings. Keep straight on along a footpath which leads eventually to a golf course. Cross the fairway, driving for the buildings to the left of the clubhouse. The path leads to the golf club access road. Bear left to follow this road as it leads away from the golf club to a T-junction. At this point, go half right to a footpath leading between two fences.

From now on it is plain sailing to your destination. Just keep going in a straight line between the garden fences, admiring the (large) gardens as you go (with one interlude while you cross a golf fairway) until you come to a stile into a car park. Cross the car park and there you are at the *Bridgewater Arms*.

If, when suitably refreshed, you feel like walking back to Berkhamsted there is that nice, easy and more direct route we have used many times for the Berkhamsted Walk. We used it again this year. The Children's Society may well have some spare route instructions (for a fee, of course). The route goes through Golden Valley, Frithsden Beeches and past Well Farm. But you won't want me to write the instructions again, do you?

*Ian McCalla*

## ***SPONSORED BIKE RIDE IN INDIA***

Orissa is a large state just south of Calcutta and is a land of natural and spiritual beauty. The villages and towns are full of surprises and the people unique and colourful. On the plains there are rice paddies, cashew and mango groves and sugar cane fields. There are many ancient monuments, temples and huge sculptures that give glimpses into the legends of the past. But there is a sadder side within all this beauty. There is hardship, poverty and disease. Leprosy is one of its biggest curses and yet it can be cured simply and effectively. There is no need for people to suffer from dreadful disabling disfigurements normally associated with the disease.

So a team of twenty cyclists using their own bicycles are going to participate in a 500 km sponsored ride through Orissa in February (10th to 24th). This exciting

fundraising event is organised by LEPRO and the route planned is safe but challenging with prepared accommodation which includes hotels, inns, lodges and, in the remoter parts, tents. Luggage will be carried by a support vehicle which will also carry a doctor and a mechanic. In the last five years LEPRO has cured over 100,000 people.

Jean Cooper, organist at St Peter's and also a keen cyclist, will be taking part in the ride and invites generous sponsorship for this deserving cause.

There will be sponsor collectors in St Peter's and All Saints' on Sunday mornings in December, January and February, but if you would like to collect sponsors elsewhere, please contact Jean Cooper (874088) or Marjorie Bowden (871283) for details and sponsor forms.

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## **NORTHCHURCH**

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

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.* So sang the heavenly choir of angels at the birth of Jesus as the shepherds near Bethlehem were watching over their flocks. Spurred on by the message of the angels about the birth of a Saviour, and inspired by the singing of the heavenly choir, their response was perhaps inevitable - *Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.* And when they got to the stable and saw the baby lying in the manger, they were not disappointed. They returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had seen and heard.

There is a sense in which we all have to be prepared to 'get up and go' to Bethlehem, as the shepherds did, if we are to perceive and understand the true meaning of Christmas. Sadly for many today, even though they send and receive many Christmas cards, Christmas itself is little more than a pagan festival, devoid of any real spiritual significance.

As the shepherds realised, Christmas is about the glory of God as revealed in the birth of Jesus as the Saviour of the world; it is also about God's gift of peace to mankind. In the Authorised Version of the Bible, which has influenced the wording of many carols, the song of the angels is translated *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.*

This is very different from its translation in the modern versions, since it implies that God's gift of peace is a general gift of peace on earth, which, as we all know, is far from being realised. God's peace is rather for men 'on whom God's favour rests', as is stated in the version I quoted at the beginning; and, for God's favour to rest upon us, we must live in the way we have been created to live, and allow God to touch and bless our lives.

What kind of peace does God promise us? Jesus himself spoke of this peace to his disciples - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid* (St John 14:27) In common usage our word 'peace' carries with it the idea of the cessation of strife and hostility, but in the Bible, and especially in the New Testament, it has a much fuller and richer meaning than this. It is something which is realised when we live in harmony with God our Creator, our fellow human beings, and the world God has given us to enjoy. It also carries with it the idea of all the blessings which God longs to give us. Above all it is a gift of God to those who worship and acknowledge him as Lord.

One of my favourite prayers on the theme of peace comes from a modern collection of services and prayers published by the Church of Scotland: *O God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world and to troubled hearts. Give peace among the nations, peace in*

*our land; peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.* There is sometimes a paradox about the peace God gives us. It is not always found lightly or easily; it may be found through enduring the pain of obedience, illness or undeserved suffering, or through 'wrestling' in prayer over some hard decision, or something which has caused us an agony of doubt.

When thinking of God's promised gift of peace we must not forget, as the words of Jesus remind us in the Sermon on the Mount, that we are not expected to wait passively for this gift: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* It is our duty and calling to make peace for others, and to help bring about a God-given harmony, wherever there is chaos and conflict. It is this thought which inspired the prayer of St. Francis:

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, let there be pardon  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
for your mercy and for your truth's sake.*

A happy and joyful Christmas to you all!

*John Tabor*



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## ST PETER'S with ALL SAINTS' Winter Diary

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

### December

3	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	St Peter's Church
3	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	All Saints' Church
8		PCC Meeting	
12	10.30am	Christmas Pram Service	All Saints' Church
15	9.15am	Victoria School - Thomas Bourne Service	St Peter's Church
17	6.00pm	Joint Christmas Carol Service	All Saints' Church
17	7.30pm	Berkhamsted School Carol Service	St Peter's Church
18	7.00pm	Thomas Coram School Carol Service	St Peter's Church
23	7.30pm	Chiltern Chamber Choir Praetorius 'Christmas Mass'	St Peter's Church
24	4.00pm	Crib Service	St Peter's Church
24	4.00pm	Crib Service	All Saints' Church
24	11.30pm	The Procession to the Crib and Midnight Mass of Christmas	St Peter's Church
25	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Church
25	9.15am	Family Sung Eucharist and Procession to the Crib with gifts for the Childrens' Society	St Peter's Church

### January

6	8.00pm	Epiphany High Mass	St Peter's Church
7	11.15am	Choral Matins	St Peter's Church
12		St Peter's Area Committee	
19		Standing Committee	

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms (All Saints')

29 October	Lydia Claire & Abigail Laura Kellet, Piers Edward Ranulph Wicks Megan Elizabeth Parkins
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### Baptisms (St Peter's)

12 November	Lauren Rebecca Sharpin, Charlotte Emma Mills, Alexandra Marjorie Patricia Sawyer
-------------	---

### Funerals (St Peter's)

2 October	Alfred Green	Chilterns Crematorium
18 October	Nellie Ellis	Chilterns Crematorium
26 October	Julia Ann Case	St Peter's (Ashes - St Peter's)
27 October	Winifred Dollemore	St Peter's (Kingshill Cemetery)
2 November	Harold Leslie Ross	Chilterns Crematorium

## 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 Paterson	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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# St Peter's With All Saints'

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 Preb Stephen Wells (Hon.Asst.Priest), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981  
Miss Marjorie 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

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with  
Creche & Sunday Schools (in  
the Court House) followed by  
coffee in the Court House.  
11.15am Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only)  
6.00pm Evensong & Sermon  
(except 1st Sunday see All Saints')

### Weekdays

Holy Communion  
Wednesday 6.45am  
Thursday 11.00am  
Friday 9.15am  
Holy Days - see weekly Notices  
1st Monday in the month at 7.30pm, Holy  
Communion & Service for Healing  
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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