

# Berkhamsted *review*

*In this issue*

**February 1996**

**Arsenal vs.  
Ash Wednesday**

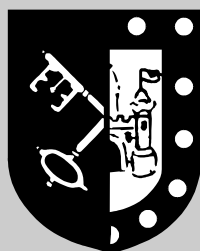
**Strange Legal  
Customs**

**A State of  
Busy-ness**

**A New Electoral  
Roll explained**

**Edwardian  
Berkhamsted**

**This month's  
Events**



*for Town and Parish*      **25p**



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

Many thanks to everyone who has commented on the new format *Review*. All criticism - praise and brickbats - is useful. We don't expect to get everything right first time: it will take two or three issues to settle in our new typesetting systems and to get the style right. Please do bear with us while we sort out the wrinkles!

A tricky area is translating the master copy we produce to the final printed page. The nature of the printing process means that half-tone photographs can end up looking darker than the original copy, and indeed this happened with our first issue last month (we also had problems with our computer system which exacerbated the problem - these have now been cleared up). As I write, we have to see how this February issue will appear in its final printed form - fingers crossed!

Some issues of the January *Review* were missing the inside centre pages. If this happened with your copy, we can only apologise and suggest you contact Daphne Montague for a replacement copy - the missing inside story by Libby Grundy is worth the effort! And do please keep the comments, and the articles and illustrations coming in. *Chris Smalley*

### *In this month's issue...*

#### **Around the Town with John Cook**

Have you had your acknowledgements taken yet?

#### **A New Electoral Roll**

**Christopher Green** explains why our Electoral Roll is to be revised.

#### **Are You Busy?**

A common affliction attracts **Marjorie Bowden's** attention.

#### **We Are Survivors!**

An article taken from *Music Retailer* will strike a chord with many of us.

#### **Edwardian Berkhamsted**

A stroll along Berkhamsted's High Street with **Stephen Halliday**.

#### **Victoria School & Bessie Gascoigne**

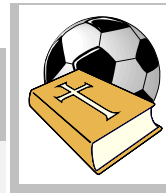
**Liz Baxendale** remembers her time with the school and Bessie Gascoigne.

*... and the usual news and reviews from around the Parish*

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

**Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 2 February 8 March 5 April**



## review leader

**Gordon Hufford**  
**pits Arsenal**  
**against Ash**  
**Wednesday.**

I have just returned from watching Arsenal win 3 - 0 at home in front of 40,000 people. Good fun, although I may have to visit the doctor's tomorrow, because of damaged eardrums.

The gentleman in the next seat had an unbelievable voice, freely giving advice to referee, linesmen, players and supporters of the opposition. Before and after the match and during the half-time break, he was a thoroughly pleasant, kind and interesting person. During the match he changed character, was in another world and completely oblivious to everyone and everything. His

whole life revolved around Arsenal F.C. He travelled the length and breadth of the land to watch them, wore the supporter's uniform and collected every programme and all possible memorabilia. His commitment was absolute.

Travelling home from the match and having myself put right to my colleagues the deficiencies of various individuals, I pondered the commitment of us churchgoers in Berkhamsted. If only it bore some resemblance to my friend at the Arsenal!

An interregnum is not all bad news. It is an opportunity to reflect, for new talent to be recognised and to prepare for a new incumbent. Above all it is a test of our commitment. I am not suggesting that practising the Christian faith can really be compared with supporting Arsenal F.C. Past experience of football supporters tells me that they can be fickle, critical and expect instant success.

Our faith demands a lifelong commitment of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, fidelity, gentleness and self control - despite the failings or whatever of the Rector, the Minister, the Curate or the person in the next pew. But if only we had the courage of my friend at the Arsenal to shout from the housetops as to who we are supporting and why,

perhaps we would encourage others, especially those on the fringe. Enthusiasm is a wonderful thing; it is also infectious.

A number of my friends argue that religion throughout history has been the cause of wars, cruelty and man showing inhumanity to man. Regrettably, bad news emanating from our Church still gains far more media attention than the good news.

Largely the answer lies in the lives that we lead. If only we practised those attributes listed by St Paul, those with whom we work and play, those with whom we are closest, our family and our friends would soon know the motivating force within us.

***It is not easy, as responsibilities increase so do the obstacles, but Ash Wednesday approaches!*** ❖



*The Town Hall clock*

Cover: The Alsford Wharf totem pole. Photo: Chris Smalley

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# A NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

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Our Electoral Roll is due for  
complete renewal

**Christopher Green** explains what  
this involves and its importance.

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EVERY SIX YEARS all the parishes in the Church of England have to prepare completely new Electoral Rolls. This year - 1996 - is the year in which we have to undertake this task. This is not simply a revision of the existing Roll. We have to start again from scratch. Everyone who wants to be enrolled on the new Electoral Roll must make an individual application, whether their name was on the old Roll or not. *Application Forms will shortly be sent to all families on the parish mailing list, and additional forms will be available in both churches.*

## **Who can apply for enrolment?**

Firstly, you must be baptised and over 16 years of age.

Secondly, you must either live in the parish, or, if you live outside the parish, you must worship regularly at either St Peter's or All Saints'.

*There will be maps in both churches showing the parish boundary.*

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***Ideally, the  
Electoral Roll and  
the list of those  
committed to  
Christian Steward-  
ship will be one and  
the same.***

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Thirdly, you must be a member of the Church of England, or a member in good standing of a church in communion with the Church of England, or if you are a member of a church not in communion with the Church of England you must be willing to declare yourself also a member of the Church of England and willing to accept the doctrine of the Trinity.

*[This is a brief summary of the 'Rules', which are set out clearly and in full on the Application Form.]*

## **What is the significance of the Electoral Roll?**

Electoral Roll members can play a part in the life of the parish through their right to vote in the various elections at the Meeting of Parishioners and at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (both on 8th March this year). Electoral Roll members have certain rights in relation to Baptism and Marriage in the churches of the parish. The size of the Electoral Roll determines the number of representatives the parish may elect to the Deanery Synod. The size of the Electoral Roll is also one of the factors taken into account when the Diocese calculates how much each parish must pay towards the cost of ministry in

the Diocese. The larger the Roll, the more we pay. So enrolment involves both privileges and responsibilities. Those who seek enrolment are those to whom the stewardship of the parish is entrusted. Ideally, the Electoral Roll and the list of those committed to Christian Stewardship will be one and the same.

***If you are interested and involved in our parish through the life of St Peter's or All Saints', apply to be on the new Roll.***

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***Deadline for Electoral Roll application forms: 22nd February 1996***

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# Are You Busy?

Marjorie Bowden investigates....

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## *Why is it we take pride in being 'too busy' so much of the time?*

This was a question raised in a recent Radio 4 discussion. The questioner implied that it was not so much a matter to be proud of but more a sign that some thinking and re-ordering were needed.

Being constantly occupied or in motion has become more and more the norm in recent years as ever-speedier sophisticated machines enable us to travel and to do many jobs more quickly than ever before. Certainly there are advantages to be gained from many of these developments. For example, drudgery has gone out of most domestic and some other work and, we are able, both through travel and television, to know much more about the world, its inhabitants and what they are doing.

As a result of the speed and ease with which so much work and travel can be done, surely we should have more time NOT to be busy... but the temptation comes to fit in MORE activities because we have MORE time! It is as if we have to give a daily account of our 'productivity', which certainly must not be less than the rate achieved by those around us! Is there ever time to digest all these activities and experiences? The gentler speed of walking, cycling, riding a horse, gives far more opportunity for reflection and appreciating surroundings than is possible dashing along a motorway at 70 mph.

Slower, hand-done jobs give time for thought too.

The deregulation of Sunday has, of course, boosted busy-ness not only in shops but at Sports Centres, and the like. How long will it take people to realise the wisdom set out over 3000 years ago in the Ten Commandments, when among other matters, a day of rest each week was prescribed - the same day for everyone. Even without the religious element, a day with some stillness, time for thought, family contact and communication is invaluable. Family fragmentation owes much to the frenzied rush so commonly experienced.

The poet W H Davies observes:  
*'A poor life this, if full of care  
We have no time to stand and stare'*

Despite the constant demands upon Jesus during his ministry, it is well worth noting that he regularly draws apart to be quiet, to pray -and so be re-created. It is in the quiet and stillness that we give ourselves a greater chance to hear the voice of God - the 'still, small voice' rather than in the noise and ceaseless activity with which so many keep God at bay.

*'Be still then, and know that I am God'*  
(Psalm 46).



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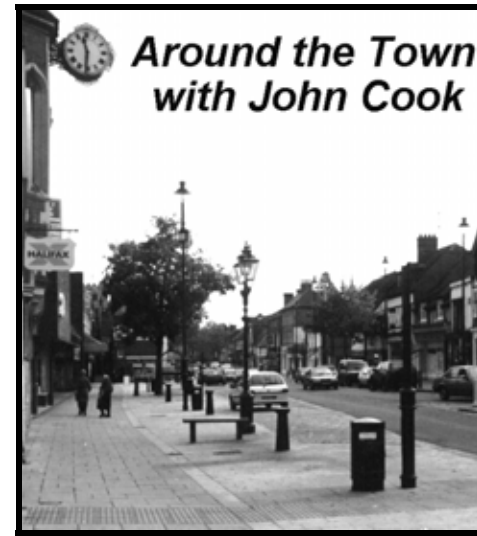
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### Ashridge Rarities

The Ashridge Estate of the National Trust stretches over some of Berkhamsted Common, most of Ashridge Park itself and part of the Chiltern Hills: a real mixture of landscapes and environments for wild life. Among the flora and fauna there are some special rarities.

In Frithesden Beeches are all those uncommon invertebrates which I mentioned recently, happily nibbling away at the plentiful dead wood there; but the man in the street wouldn't know a rare invertebrate if he saw one, and even when pointed out they are of no great interest except to the enthusiastic entomologist.

There are, though, on the Estate other bigger members of the animal kingdom which are both scarce and beautiful. For example flitting among the primroses and cowslips in the spring you may be lucky enough to spot a rare butterfly, the Duke of Burgundy's fritillary. It is dark brown and cinnamon in colour, with spots.

As far as wild flowers are concerned there are only 17 sites in the whole of England where the Pasque flower grows, and two of these are on the Trust's chalklands of the Ivinghoe Hills. If you are lucky enough to come across these

lovely plants in bloom they are unmistakable. They grow among the sparse grasses on dry, sunny slopes, and have a purple flower on a short stalk, rather like a large anemone.

The time to look for them is in the early spring (Pasque meaning Easter), but they are only out at Eastertide if it is a late one. I remember the surprise and thrill when I first stumbled upon across a patch of them in full bloom. They are especially striking at that time of year because most other wild flowers have not yet begun to appear and the grass is short. As for the second location where they grow, I am still looking for that one.

### Our New Verb

The main topics of conversation in the Town in the last two or three years have been Kingsgate, the High Street works and traffic calming; but in recent months these subjects have been superseded by one that has been affecting nearly all of us: the digging up of the streets to put the fibre-optic cables in. Most streets have already had the traumatic experience.

Some readers may have seen the letter in the *Times* recently from Mr Peter Bartrum, who lives in the Town, on the subject of the trendy practice of making a verb out of almost any noun. He quoted the example of water being *tankered* into West Yorkshire; but he didn't mention the example close to home. "Has your street been *Fitzpatricked* yet?", Berkhamsted people have been asking one another, meaning: has the contracting firm which is laying the ducts and cables yet moved in, with all its noisy plant and smooth Irish accents.

Certainly it has been all rather disruptive, but on the whole the workmen seem to have done their best to be co-operative and polite, in considerable contrast to when the railway was built through Berkhamsted some 160 years ago. Then the Town was full of drunken navvies at night, and ladies were frightened to go out on the streets.

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### Busy Lawyers

Congratulations to Penny & Thorne, the well-known Berkhamsted firm of solicitors whose office is in the High Street opposite the Town Hall (*see picture, right*), for reaching the remarkable age of 125 years. I mentioned the list of churchwardens in St Peter's Church a couple of issues ago, and both of Penny & Thorne's two original partners appear on that list. Each of them was very active in the Town in their time and in their different ways.

Thomas Penny was Clerk to the School Board and the first Clerk of the Berkhamsted Urban District Council when it was set up in 1898, a position he held for 30 years. He also acted as secretary of the committee created to manage the restoration of St Peter's in the 1870's, and as such got caught up in the crossfire between the parish and the famous architect William Butterfield who was responsible for the restoration work.

The unfortunate Mr Penny had to try and pour oil on the troubled waters, which he seems to have done rather successfully. One of the letters from Butterfield in London to Penny is preserved in the parish chest, complete with envelope. It is addressed simply *T. Penny Esq., Berkhamsted* - no other details, let alone a postcode - yet it arrived and was replied to the following day. I suppose in those days the local postmaster was expected to know where every gentleman of the Town lived.

The other original partner was Charles Bullock (Thorne came later), and he seems to have been even more active in local affairs than Thomas Penny. Apart from being churchwarden at a busy time in the church's history, he was secretary of the gas company, secretary of the water company, secretary of the local Freemasons and secretary of the Mechanics Institute. In his legal practice he was a solicitor, commissioner for oaths, and, intriguingly, *commissioner for taking acknowledgements of married women*. Don't ask me what this means. Are there

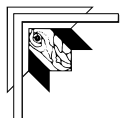


Berkhamsted women who still allow their acknowledgements to be taken by a solicitor?

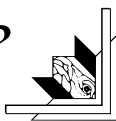
### The Berkhamsted Apple

One plant that is not rare, I have now found out, is Lane's Prince Albert apple tree. This famous tree originated last century in Lane's Nurseries in Berkhamsted and since my reference to it in December's *Review* several residents have told me that they have one in their garden, or know where others still exist in the Town. In fact I could now begin to produce a map showing where the trees still survive in the Town.

People have different experiences with the crops they get, but since the mid-70's never a year has passed when Mr Geoffrey Pike has not gathered some 'Lanes' from his tree in Torrington Road. Picked towards the end of September they are somewhat sharp to begin with, he says, but they mellow come January and can be enjoyed as a dessert variety. They keep well until the end of March. So if it is such a good tree, is it still possible, I wonder, to buy one at a nursery? ❖



## A New Window?



One of the stained glass windows in St Peter's is in very poor condition. It has been badly damaged over the years, and apart from that much of the remaining glass is badly faded. It urgently needs to be replaced or to have a major overhaul which would cost nearly as much as a new window. The PCC favours having a new one to a new design either in stained glass or engraved glass.

The present window was put in as a memorial to the Reverend F. Bullock, curate of Folkestone Parish Church, who drowned in Lake Neuchatel in 1872. Does anyone know what his connection might have been with Berkhamsted? Was he perhaps related to Charles Bullock, the churchwarden and local dignitary mentioned in John Cook's *Around the Town* in this month's issue? We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can come up with any leads.



Above: The Bullock window in St Peter's. The window is located on the north side of the church, nearest the west door.

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We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent: a 'Big Mac' was an over-sized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us 'time-sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato. 'Hardware' meant

# WE ARE SURVIVORS!

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Tom Montague passes on this article reprinted with the kind permission of the editor of Music Retailer.

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nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did your exams. 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant

staying on a double decker bus to the terminus. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our days, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on Sunday, and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a grandmother's lullaby and 'Eldorado' was an ice cream.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the word has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are confused and there is a generation gap today... BUT.

**By the grace of God... we have survived! Alleluia!**

©1995 Music Retailer

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## get Your name in print!

We hope you continue to like the new format *Berkhamsted Review*. Don't forget that to thrive, we need a constant stream of news, articles, pictures and letters - and they come from *you*! We cover pretty well all subjects, both church and secular. What would *you* like to see in the *Review*? Well, don't wait for someone else to write about it, photograph or draw it! Equally, if you come across a story in the press you think our readers would be interested to see - like the piece above - then do please send it in (it would be helpful if you could check with the author or publisher that we can reproduce it). We'd particularly appreciate series of articles which can be included in several issues. So, creative hats on and go to it!

*We can handle contributions in many formats: paper (typed, double spaced if possible but handwritten not refused) and word processor disks (Word, WordPerfect, ASCII text formats). Photographs can be colour or black & white, and we can handle drawings on paper or in electronic format (CorelDRAW! V3, bmp, pcx, tif, cgm formats for the technical).*

## EDWARDIAN BERKHAMSTED

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**Stephen Halliday** takes a walk  
along Berkhamsted's High Street.

---

"Hullo! are you **19 Berkhamsted?**"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you a car that I can hire while you  
overhaul mine?"

"Yes, sir."

"What are your terms?"

"Our terms are very moderate, by the hour  
or mile. By the way, sir, would you  
prefer the driver in livery?"

"Yes, I should - and what is your postal  
address?"

**"Dwight Brothers, Cycle and Motor  
Agents, 141, High Street,  
Berkhamsted".**

This is not, as you may have suspected, an extract from one of those Mercury telephone advertisements involving conversations between people with names like Cholmeley-Warner. It is an entry in a directory of Berkhamsted published in 1904 which I received as a Christmas present and which gives a fascinating and, at times, amusing insight into the town at that date. It is a 52-page booklet which contains thirty-two full-page illustrations of Berkhamsted and its surrounding area at that date. The site occupied at that time by Dwight Brothers garage is illustrated in the directory by a photograph of the premises (as are virtually all the advertisements) and it is easily recognised as the unit which now houses the estate agents David Doyle. Since David Doyle's address is listed as 167 High Street and that of Dwight Brothers was 141 it appears that thirteen additional addresses have appeared on the South side of the High Street since 1904. This re-numbering has occurred on both sides of the street and by the time we reach the premises on the

corner of Kitsbury Road we find that number 241, a boot shop called H. E. West in 1904, has become number 305 (formerly Dennis Casserley Insurance Brokers) so an additional thirty-two addresses have appeared on the south side. *(Dennis Casserley's former office is now temporarily a showcase for an antiques business).*

It is fascinating to walk the length of the High Street comparing the businesses of 1904 with those of 1995. On the corner of Prince Edward Street and the High Street (now Taylors estate agents) is a 'Clothier, Hatter and Hosier' called A. H. Sprigge. In fact this site was occupied by a men's clothing shop (I think it was called Foster's) until about ten years ago so perhaps this was a descendant of Sprigge. The area above Taylor's window in Prince Edward Street was formerly occupied by an advertisement for Sprigge so the ugly yellow patch which is now there is



*Dwight Brothers premises*

presumably a crude attempt to conceal this. Unfortunately it also conceals some attractive Victorian brickwork. In 1904 the premises at 137 High Street (which I estimate is the site now occupied by the Civic Centre) was at that time occupied by a coal merchant, William Lockhart, though the photograph in the Directory shows the railway sidings where Lockhart's unloaded their coal from their own railway wagons to their horse-drawn carts.

On the north side of the High Street it is easy to recognise McIlroys Department Store which was called H. C. Ward and Sons, 'Family Drapers and Furnishers'. It occupied the same premises as now but whereas the present address is 212 High Street, in 1904 it ran from 188 to 194. Moreover the photograph shows that the building has been significantly altered since the first unit occupied by H. C. Ward (next to the passage which separates McIlroys from the fishmongers) was an attractive gabled building quite different in appearance from the one we see now. Was the building demolished and rebuilt or is the new frontage simply a facade?

There are other intriguing features of the guide. There is a large advertisement for James Wood and Son, Iron Fence Makers and another for J. W. Wood and Son, retailers of musical instruments. I cannot identify either of these though the shop occupied by the music publisher looks like the High Street frontage of Wood's Garden Centre. Dean Incent's House was occupied by a photographer called J. T. Newman, a feature of the town referred to in *A Sort of Life*, the autobiography of Graham Greene who

was born in the town the year after the directory was published. The rather unattractive area now stretching from Sketchley's via Waitrose, W.H.Smith and



'Clothier, Hatter and Hosier' A.H.Sprigge's premises, now an estate agent.

Boots to Clinton Cards was occupied by retailers which included a bookshop, a small pharmacist called Henry Gibb, a milliner and a bootmaker.

The Directory also tells us that the population was seven thousand which supported a pack of foxhounds and another of staghounds, both illustrated. The return rail fare to London was four shillings and sevenpence (about twenty-three pence) and the average journey time was an hour. There are extensive entries on the schools, churches and surrounding countryside.

The directory has been found and republished and is available from *The Bookstack* at 248, High Street for the very modest price of three pounds nineteen shillings and elevenpence (£3.99). It is a fascinating snapshot of a town which is recognisable as the one we know. Perhaps you can work out who occupied *The Bookstack's* premises. If you manage to identify any of the premises that have changed in the last ninety years, please write to the *Review*. ❖

98: Martin Macdonald  
*Reader-in-training, St Peter's Church*





Vera Pullen's tribute to Bessie Gascoigne stirred the many memories I have of her, and my time at Victoria School in the early 70's. Bessie and Robert Brown, the Rector, appointed me Head of the Infant Department, four

years before Bessie retired. I remember that at the end of the Interview in school, Bessie took me to tea at Dean Incent's, then an Olde Worlde Tea Shoppe. It was May 1st and snowing! We had toasted tea cakes and cream horns, and the interview continued over the Willow Pattern plates.

As a boss, I found Bessie totally fair; she disciplined her staff as well as the children and I well remember the fateful day when a female teacher arrived wearing the very latest fashion... a trouser suit! (mind you, this one was a bit over-the-top, being turquoise Chenille!) Bessie's face was like stone as she said quietly, "I'll take your class, *dear*, while you go home and put on something more suitable". Bessie had a way of saying 'dear' that made one feel an inch high. I now realise that it was a wonderfully easy and polite way of putting someone down completely, and I confess to adopting this method myself sometimes!

However Bessie would back her staff to the hilt in any dispute which might arise with parents or authorities, though she would quietly and firmly put us right afterwards. I had the odd spat with her; I suppose it was inevitable Bessie being a Yorkshire woman and me Lancashire! We would end up in a few hours of stony silence. Bessie's formula for breaking these would be to say, "Liz, dear, would you like to choose the hymns for Assembly tomorrow?". I knew this was an apology and would respond with suitable enthusiasm.

## Memories of Victoria School and Bessie Gascoigne

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**Liz Baxendale** recounts  
experiences from a long  
teaching career.

---

Sometimes I was asked to bring the Infants to join the Juniors at the monthly Eucharist. Bessie would explain what was going on to the children, from the centre of the aisle. Even the youngest child got something special from those

visits to St Peter's, with the music and stained glass. Sometimes I would ask Bessie what the festival or feast was which we would celebrate. One day she named an obscure saint that I had never heard of. I looked him up in the Saints Dictionary and found him marked *Discontinued by the Church of Rome in 1347AD*. I told Bessie. "All the more reason for us to remember him then", she said firmly! Tradition was strong at Victoria and there were highlights to each school year. Sports days, when all the Friends and Governors were invited to see the races and partake in the sumptuous tea afterwards... Christmas Dinner with all the visitors, staff and children wearing fancy hats... those of the staff got bigger and fancier each year until Mike Hart ended up wearing one about four feet high!... The Thomas Bourne Service and following tea party, and Ascension Day Communion with breakfast in the staff room and the rest of the day off.

Another memorable day was the one when Robin Jackson had to go and report that the recently acquired TV had crashed off its stand and was lying in bits on i+5 the Hall floor. He was quaking! Bessie said, "Is anyone hurt?" On being told that nobody was, she said, "Well, go and clear it up then", and that was that. But the children, while Robin had been away, had written '*Please do not sack Sir*' on the blackboard!



# SHOWTIME AT SHROVETIDE!

*Remember Showtime at Shrovetide last year?*

Well, the good news is that we're repeating the event this year on  
**February 17th in the Town Hall.**



Entertainment is from talented members of our congregations - song, dance, and... well, a few surprises!

Dinner will be provided, as will refreshments - wine, beer and a selection of soft drinks throughout the evening.

*Our invitation extends to all members of our churches - St Peter's and All Saints', Anglican and Methodist. This is an opportunity for us to get together and enjoy ourselves! Arrive between 6:30 and 7pm; we start with welcoming drinks and continue to around 10pm.*

Like last year, there will be heavy demand for tickets and as numbers are limited, do please get yours soon. Tickets are £4 each (£3.50 under 16s) and include a complimentary drink on arrival and dinner. They are available from:



**St Peter's:**

Angela Morris (866992)  
Chris Smalley (826821)

**All Saints' (A):**

Roger Watts (870149)  
John Banks (871195)

**All Saints' (M):**

Michael Sismey  
(866215)



**St. Peter's  
Events**

Bessie, though strict, was kind hearted and infinitely interested in everything and everybody. She was a good listener, and offered wise and carefully thought-out advice if you went to her with a personal problem. She had a ready wit and a sharp sense of humour and enjoyed a good laugh. I well remember the day when the mother of several unruly and wayward children we had in school came into her office and said that she could not pay the children's dinner monies as "My husband has drunk it all away". She added that she couldn't even find the 7/6d for her 'birth pills'. With a twinkle in her eye, Bessie took three half-crowns from the purse in her crocodile-skin hand bag. "Here you are Mrs Blank", she said smiling. "*Don't* have the next on me!". As the surprised woman walked out she turned to me and said, "It'll be worth it in the long run, Liz!".

It seems strange now, but we were all so surprised when Bessie chose a new-fangled 'home freezer' as part of her leaving present. I guess she always kept up with the times, though she had little time for some of the more extreme educational theories. When the school psychologist once tried to explain away a child's bad behaviour by suggesting it was due to a problem at home Bessie said sadly to me, "You see Liz, they don't believe in Original Sin anymore!".

As a young teacher I learnt a lot from Bessie, mainly I think to say what I mean



*Bessie Gascoigne outside Victoria School*

and to mean what I say! From the eight Heads for whom I worked over thirty-one years of teaching, Bessie comes in the top two! I was happy at Victoria; it was a happy school, and a school takes it's tone from the top. ❖

*Vera Pullen's tribute to Bessie Gascoigne appeared in the January Review.*

## THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

To play a part in the life of the parish through the right to vote at the various parish elections, your name must appear on the Electoral Roll. Every six years we must prepare a completely new Electoral Roll, and this is now underway (Christopher Green explains the reasons for the Roll on page 5).

If you wish to be on the new Electoral Roll - *even if you are on the existing Roll* - you must make an individual application. Forms are now available and have already been sent to all families on the parish mailing list. If you have not received yours, then forms are available in both St Peter's and All Saints', and from Mrs Jean Green, 17 Cowper Road (863241).

The deadline for applications is **22nd February**, so don't delay!

# review letters

Two readers write this month to tell us the location of Soldiers Bottom. They serve to highlight that, as Stephen Halliday features in his article this month, that our town and its people's perception of it are constantly changing.

Colin Garrett wrote first:

John Cook has asked about the whereabouts of Soldiers Bottom. I have it clearly shown on the 'Neighbourhood' Map of Hemel Hempstead Berkhamsted Tring and District (1949 Edition, 2/6d) as the name of the piece of road between the new mini-roundabout at the top of Cross Oak Road and the fork at the bottom of the hill where John's Lane goes off to the left and Hog Lane (sic) to the right.

As a schoolboy in the early Fifties I used to go tobogganing there with my cousins from Anglefield Road.

17 North Road  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 3DX

Then Stanley Belchamber wrote:

In 1932 I had working for me an old man of 75 named Alf Mead, who as a lad in 1870 helped to build the now-demolished Cross Oak House. He always said there was an old lane at the bottom of the meadows belonging to Cross Oak; the lane was gradually included in the meadows. That lane was Soldiers Bottom as far as he was concerned. I think he was probably right.

Alf Mead worked at Cross Oak all his working life. When I knew him he lived at the bottom of Cross Oak Road, with his daughter and son-in-law. His daughter ran the fish shop in the Town Hall. Mr Mead lived to be about 85.

38 Gaveston Drive  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1JF

Stanley Belchamber has provided us with the map below which shows the location of Soldiers Bottom, as it was in 1932.

Have you got a point you'd like to make? Something to get off your chest? Or something you think our readers would like to know?

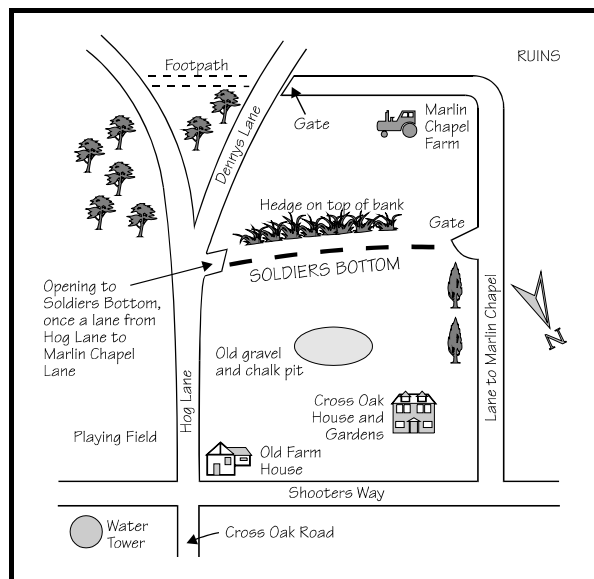


**Then write to us!** Send your letter together with any illustrations, photographs or other material to:

**David Woodward**  
**3 Murray Road**  
**Berkhamsted**

(Tel: 862723)

The next copy dates are shown on page 2.



# An Uncertain Sound

*Our leaders pontificate  
On matters great and small,  
But do their words have any worth  
Or show signs of unity?  
They sermonise on many things:  
sexuality, morality, divorce;  
They depreciate, but do not condemn,  
And seldom mention God.*

*Are there no modern evangelists  
To preach a simple faith?  
Men speaking from their hearts  
In pulpit and market place,  
Fearing God but never man,  
Denouncing all sordid things.  
Deemed by many as turbulent,  
But steadfast to their creed.*

*Our leaders of today might muse  
On Corinthians one, chapter fourteen,  
Verses eight and nine, AV  
Then speak with a united voice.  
By that we may become a flock,  
Instead of scattered sheep.  
Then our church again could be  
A voice for Christian Unity.*

S. G. Dollimore

The above is the result of reading the *Church Times* especially the issue reporting on the Synod.

The verses referred to in the poem were displayed in a prominent position in the late Field Marshal Lord Montgomery's caravan at Alamein in the Western Desert.



**The Rev John  
Tabor, Rector of  
St Mary's, on  
retirement.**

## **review**northchurch

On several occasions recently, perhaps somewhat inevitably, I have been asked 'Are you looking forward to retirement?'

'Are you looking forward to moving?' These are questions which I have not found easy to answer, not least because it is difficult to give a completely honest answer on the spur of the moment, without conveying the wrong impression.

As I have reflected on them, the honest answer to both is 'yes'. Just as I felt increasingly unhappy in the summer about my planned date of retirement last November, now I have become convinced that it is right to retire in April, and that to me is the major element in any decision that has to be made - knowing what is right and doing it, however difficult or painful it may be.

Apart from the overall conviction I have had that it is right to retire, there are other reasons why I have begun to look forward to moving. Throughout my time in the ministry, and not least as Rector of St Mary's, I have worked with long term aims and objectives in mind, as well as the fulfilment of those in the present or immediate future. A subtle change takes place, and an increasing sense of frustration can creep in when one begins to realise that, whatever aims and objectives one might have as the leader of a church fellowship, all will have to be handed over under God and entrusted to someone else. And then there are such mundane things as the new stair carpet we urgently need, since the present one is becoming embarrassingly threadbare in places! It would obviously be foolish to replace it now, with a new family likely to

move into the Rectory in a few months time, who will no doubt want to choose their own pattern.

Inevitably as the time of our move draws closer we are having to think and plan ahead for the future. As I was thinking recently about the responsibilities I should take on in the years ahead, I was reminded of an article on the subject of retirement written by Geoffrey Rogers, a former Warden of Lee Abbey, a few years after he himself had retired from full time ministry. He headed it *Retyrement*. He saw retirement as an opportunity to acquire 'a new set of tyres', an opportunity to be trained and equipped for a new form or pattern of ministry with the new openings that come our way when we retire. Certainly I am looking forward to a time when I shall have greater control over my diary, and hopefully will be able to find time to do some of the things I have longed to do in the past, but, like Geoffrey Rogers, I cannot envisage it ever being right for a Christian to retire completely from any form of active service for the Kingdom of God. Just think, for example, of Anna, the 84 year old widow, who according to St Luke spent practically the whole of her life in the Temple at Jerusalem, 'worshipping and serving God with fasting and prayer night and day'!

I am also looking forward to moving and joining a new community at Aston Clinton, and enjoying the stimulus of working in a new environment. We all need at certain stages in our life the challenge and stimulus which change brings, and I am sure that, as we grow older and have to face retirement, we should do so when we are still young and active enough to cope with change in a positive way. Certainly I would hate to grow old and 'go to seed' in a job, and

become a hindrance and encumbrance to  
*Northchurch Review (continued from p22)*

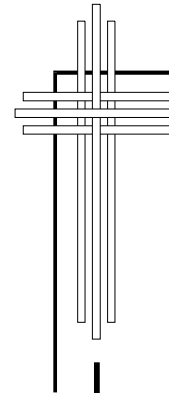
There is, however, a sense in which as Christians we should always be on the move, whether or not this involves a change of location. St Paul, for example, wrote in his letter to the Philippians, 'Forgetting what lies behind, and reaching forward to that which lies ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven wards in Christ Jesus.' That is the way we should face the future, wherever we are in life at the present time.

One of our favourite hymns is Timothy Dudley-Smith's *Lord, for the years Your*

others.

*love has kept and guided.* As I look ahead to retirement my own thoughts and prayers are summed up in the last verse of that hymn:

*Lord for ourselves; in living  
power remake us -  
Self on the cross, and Christ  
upon the throne,  
Past put behind us, for the  
future take us;  
Lord of our lives, to live for  
Christ alone.*



*The Parish of St Peter with All Saints'*

## Our Church Schools

### **Victoria First School**

Prince Edward Street

Berkhamsted

Tel: 865781

*For children aged 5 - 9*

### **Thomas Coram Middle School**

Swing Gate Lane

Berkhamsted

Tel: 866757

*For children aged 9 - 13*

**For information please contact the Schools**

# *review* notes&notices

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## DOLLS, TOYS AND NOSTALGIA

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To help raise the roof at the Berkhamsted Baptist church, Liz Baxendale will be presenting Friends of the Family, an evening of dolls, toys and nostalgia for all the family at the Baptist Church Hall at 7pm on 18th January. Please ask Liz for details or phone 866464.

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## TUESDAY CLUB

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On 6th February, our Birthday Celebration, our speaker will be Mrs. June Douglas who has specially prepared for us a talk entitled *A Feast for the Eye*. Ladies from other church groups have been invited to join us. The meeting will commence at 8.15pm, not at 8pm as previously stated

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## CHRISTIAN AID

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This year Christian Aid celebrated its 50th anniversary. In recognition of this, the All Saints' Anglican social committee organised a supper and quiz evening. The result was a splendid evening's entertainment and a donation to Christian Aid of £136. Also donated to Christian Aid was the profit from the Anglican-Methodist harvest supper - a sum of £81.45.

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## ST PETER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

---

Our speaker at our meeting on Wednesday, 28th February will be Mrs. Margaret Waldron who will tell us about *My Life as a Traffic Warden*. Visitors are always welcome and we meet at 2.30pm in the Court House.

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## W.E.A.

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Starting on Wenesday, 6th March a bird study course will commence, under the auspices of the W.E.A. The course will run from 8pm to 9.30pm at the Library in Kings Road.

Rob Young will present the course - Rob is the county Bird Recorder. For further information phone Anne Gurney on 865445.

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## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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The Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday, 1st March. There will be a service at 10.30am at the Kings Road Evangelical Church, and an afternoon service at 2pm at the Berkhamsted Baptist Church. A creche and refreshments will be available at both services. Call Heather Houston on 865700 for more details.

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

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On a cold winter afternoon, it was a pleasure to be welcomed by our President, Joan Griffiths, to the first meeting of the year. Thirty members were present. During business matters, two members reported on two enjoyable outings they had attended during the previous month. Beryl Smith was one of the many members who were able to be at the H.F.W.I commemoration service which was held at the cathedral at St Albans. Joy Lovell was present at the W.I. carol service held at the Northchurch community centre; she said that for her it was the start of the Christmas festivities.

Our speaker at the meeting was Liz Baxendale, who gave a most interesting talk on *Coaching Days - Coaching Ways*. She brought with her a beautiful display of Ridgeway pottery featuring scenes relating to her talk about those bygone days. The audience sat entranced, listening to the tales of dangers from the highwaymen who terrified travellers and plundered the stagecoaches as they made their way along the old trunk roads which are still in use today.

Next month our speaker is Alex Thompson. His subject will be *Bygone Berkhamsted*. We meet on 2nd February at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2pm.

*Pay us a visit  
See what you'll share  
You're sure of a welcome  
From everyone there.*



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### BERKHAMSTED W.I.

---

The December meeting of Berkhamsted W.I. obviously had a Christmas flavouring. After the usual business section, we had an amusing and interesting talk by Mr. Granger of Haddenham on *Manners and Customs*. We learnt what alarming reactions there can be from assuming the same gestures have the same meaning worldwide. There are very few universal customs. He spoke of the curious way many Christian customs have evolved over the years from Pagan rites and ceremonies. There were

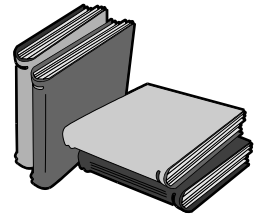
humorous tales of what to us are familiar gestures which mean things entirely different when travelling abroad, particularly in the world of business in Japan, Indonesia and Turkey. Many of the logical origins of manners have gone, but the custom remains.

After mince pies and coffee, members formed a Circle of Friendship, each member having a lighted candle. Carols were sung interspersed with readings. The President gave Seasons Greetings to all members and everyone received a present from the gift box.



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## From the Registers...



### Funerals

8 December	Frederick (Fred) John Lonnon	Chilterns Crematorium
15 December	Daisy Wootten	Chilterns Crematorium
19 December	Keith James	St Peter's (Chilterns Crematorium)
20 December	Arthur Ernest Eddon	Chilterns Crematorium
28 December	Maria Adriana Noordenbos Newton	Chilterns Crematorium
		(28 December - Memorial service at St Peter's)
5 January	Lucy Edith Willoughby	St Peter's (Chilterns Crematorium)
10 January	Nora Dixon	St Peter's (Chilterns Crematorium)

### REGISTRAR SERVICE

An appointment only service for registration of births and deaths is offered at a part-time Registration Office, located at The Court House, Church Lane, Berkhamsted.

A Registrar will attend the part time office on Tuesdays (3:00-4:00pm) and Thursdays (9:15-10:15am) by **prior appointment only**.

To book an appointment please telephone the Registrar of Births and Deaths at the Dacorum Register Office on 01442 228600.

# reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

February / March 1996

## FEBRUARY

4	10:30am	UNITED (with the Methodists) Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
4		Cowper Society Meeting	
4	11:15am	Choral Matins	<i>St Peter's</i>
9		PCC Meeting	
11	9:15am	Family Service with Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
16		Standing Committee	
17	7:00pm	Showtime at Shrovetide	<i>Town Hall</i>
18	8:00am & 9:15am	Normal services taken by the Venerable Philip Davies, Archdeacon of St Albans	<i>All Saints'</i>
21	2:00pm	Parish Staff Meeting	
21	8:00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY - Family Sung Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
22		DEADLINE for receipt of applications for inclusion on Electoral Roll	
28	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>

## MARCH

6	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>
8		APC Meeting	
10	6:00pm	Choral Evensong	<i>St Peter's</i>
13	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>
15		Standing Committee	
17	9:15am	Mothering Sunday - Family Service / Area Committee Election	<i>All Saints'</i>
17	9:30am	Mothering Sunday Service / Area Committee Election	<i>St Peter's</i>
20	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>
27		Bishop Christopher's 5:00pm Tea	<i>All Saints'</i>
27		Deanery visit: 6:30pm Choral Evensong	<i>St Peter's</i>
27	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>
29		PCC Meeting	

From the Registers appears on page 25.



## WAY INN - A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Come through the **Post Office** to our **shop** which sells greetings cards, Christian books, stationery and many gifts. **Upstairs** you will find our **coffee shop** serving lunches, teas, snacks or just a cup of coffee.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BERKHAMSTED

### Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

1.	Northchurch Baptist	Rev Peter Swaffield	Berk. 866685
		Mrs H Blundell	Berk. 875021
2.	St Mary's Northchurch	Rev J Tabor	Berk. 865312
		Mr W Frew	Berk. 864368
3.	All Saints' Anglican		
4.	Methodist All Saints'	Mr John Malcolm	Berk. 874993
		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 (Quakers)	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	Mrs Jean Green	Berk. 863241
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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Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

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

## Contacts

### Parochial Church Council

Secretary: Alan Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798

Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

Director of Music: Vaughan Meakins. :01494 837412; Assistant: Mrs Jean Wild. 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

## St Peter's

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

(All Saints' is shared with the Berkhamsted Methodist Church)

## All Saints'

## Western Insurance

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TELEPHONE 866670 or 865877

\* ESTABLISHED 1959 \*

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