

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

March 1996

**Return to the
Light of Day**

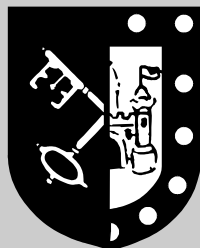
Scouting for All

**Thunderbirds in
Berkhamsted**

**Clearing the
Paths**

**Mother Knows
Best - a Duck's
Tale!**

**This month's
Music & Events**



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

Welcome to the March issue of the *Review*. The revised format seems to be settling down, and once again the editorial team appreciates the many comments we've received.

We are particularly pleased to welcome back David Woodward into 'active service' on the magazine. As many of you will know, David recently underwent a major operation and naturally has not been able to be involved in the production of the last two issues. The good news is that David is making a full recovery and this month marks his return to the editorial team. Sincere thanks are due to Barbara Belchamber who has been doing the work of two for the past two or three months.

Can I repeat our continuing need for articles, letters, illustrations and photographs for forthcoming issues of the *Review*. We are lucky in having a number of regular contributors who without fail produce interesting articles for the magazine. But we always need more! The *Review* is only as interesting as *you* make it - so come on, get writing - we include church to secular subjects, serious or light-hearted. Are you holding an event? Then tell us what happens - and let us have photographs!

Chris Smalley

In this month's issue...

A Return to the Light of Day

Rev. John Tabor points a way out of the gloom, both spiritual and meteorological.

Scouting for All

Stephen Halliday tells of exciting things happening in our local scout groups.

The Hamster Age

The pitfalls of hamster ownership - **Liz Baxendale** enlightens us.

Mother Knows Best

Sheila Newland recounts a moving tale.

Clearing the Paths

Ian McCalla reports on progress in reopening paths for walking and riding.

Around the Town with John Cook

John considers the merits of beating the bounds of the parish.

... plus our regular features, advance details of Easter arrangements, March musical events and your letters.

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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): 8 March 5 April 3 May



***Bring forth fruit
with patience, says
Christopher Green.***

review leader

Attracting a new Rector to the parish of Great Berkhamsted is taking longer than any of those involved ever suspected it might do. We started as long ago as April to discuss what sort of person we hoped would come to be our parish priest. We hoped for someone young and dynamic, and we felt that it would be good to have a young family again at the Rectory.

Now in the sixth month of the vacancy it is time to reflect on the fact that three prospective incumbents, following up their expressions of interest in the living, have visited the parish, but we are still without a Rector. Are we really such a forbidding prospect? No, of course not. We remain a parish full of opportunity, with vigorous and varied traditions of worship, a strong team of non-stipendiary clergy and lay readers, and able and enthusiastic lay commitment, but with scope for the development of new directions in ministry. What we need is a candidate of ability with the vision to recognise all that the parish has to offer.

So why have three people turned away from what we believe is an exciting opportunity? Times change - clergy families now often expect to play a part in decisions that affect them. Housing, schooling, the career of the incumbents wife: all are increasingly weighty considerations. A ministerial calling alone is not enough, it would seem, to draw a clergy family into pastures new.

So what now for us? The Diocese has already identified further possible candidates and is putting them in touch with the parish, and if need be will advertise the benefice again. For our part, we must be sure that in our stewardship during the vacancy we continue to support and cherish our non-stipendiary clergy and in due course bring to a new incumbent a Christian family joyfully prepared to explore new opportunities without fear or prejudice.❖



The Court House

Photo: Chris Smalley

CoverAll Saints' church.

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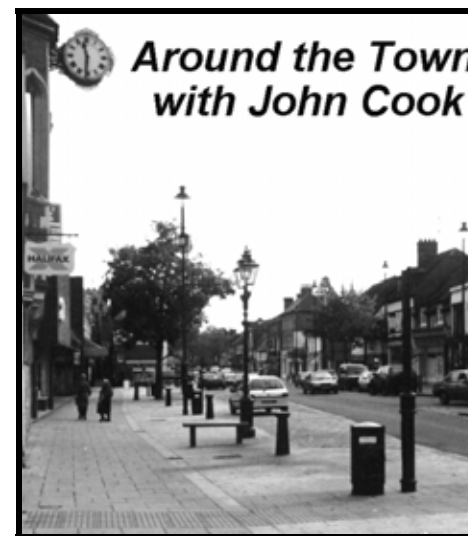
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Berkhamsted's Department Store

We had just got used to calling it McIlroys instead of Sharlands, and now it is to be called MacKays. The Town's only department store is to be re-fitted in the next two or three months, the *Gazette* was told by Mr Deas, the new owner's *total quality manager*. How many times, one wonders, has the shop changed its name since it was Wards up until a century ago (Drapers, silk mercers, hosiers and hatters, French stays etc; established 1790).

This is one of the shops along the High Street that you may not give a second thought to as a building as you bustle about your shopping, but it is worth a closer look. If you raise your eyes above the fascia of the shop you can see that it is in fact three separate old buildings. On the front of the middle one is a fire marker dated 1762. Inside at the rear of the shop on the right through the ladies' department (French stays no longer stocked) the ancient timber framed roof of an early building can be clearly seen.

It was in one of these original buildings that our great local poet William Cowper had his schooling as a small boy. Many years after he had left Berkhamsted Cowper was sent a portrait of his mother who had died many years earlier (her

grave and monument are in St Peter's), and this inspired him to write one of his most moving poems. In this he reminisces nostalgically on his early youth, and recalls being taken to this school from Berkhamsted Rectory:

'...And where the gard'ner Robin every day,

*Drew me to school along the public way,
Delighted with my baubled coach, and wrapped*

In scarlet mantle warm, and velvet capped.

*'Tis now become a history little known,
That once we called the pastoral house
our own.'*

Beating the Bounds

The revival of the ancient custom of beating the bounds of the parish has been suggested, possibly as a sponsored event. As far as I know the ancient ceremony was last performed in 1903, so perhaps now that it has been so long we might as well wait until 2003. The purpose was to instil into the minds of youngsters at an early age where their parish boundary actually was. At strategic points along it boys would be bounced or flogged in the sound belief that people remember best those places where they have suffered pain.

The problem these days would be to decide which boundary to beat as the church parish and the 'political' parish now cover quite different areas. For example, the parish of St Peter's extends as far as Ashridge House, while that of Berkhamsted Town finishes at the Golf Club house. Most of Berkhamsted Common is not in Berkhamsted at all. On the other hand the jurisdiction of the Town Council extends as far as Bourne End to the east; so in either case it would be a good day's walk to go all the way round.

Thunderbird

The photograph of the totem pole on the cover of last month's *Review* has prompted questions about the origin of such an alien object in a Hertfordshire market town.



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There was a succession of timber merchants on the site of the new flats which are now called Alsford Wharf after the last of them. There seems little doubt that the totem pole was brought to Berkhamsted from Vancouver in British Columbia either by Alsford or their predecessors, Keys

Colin Davies who lived in Vancouver for nearly a year tells me he saw quite a lot of totem poles then. He understands that those used in the northern part of British Columbia serve as family and clan emblems and sometimes record hierarchies of gods and animals, and he believes the same goes for those round Vancouver. They trace the history of individual families and clans much like a family crest or family tree. Each 'totem' on the pole is a symbolic representation of each family. Colin suspects that the Berkhamsted pole is a traditional design of the Nootka Amerindians of Vancouver Island.

Most of the tourist memorabilia from Vancouver Island employ images of the thunderbird, and our totem pole has one on the top. It has a long beak and looks straight up Castle Street. During thunderstorms the thunderbird winks occasionally; his eye flashes and that creates the lightning, Colin says.

Apples and Meadows

May I say thank you very much to all the people in Berkhamsted who stop me in the street or write to tell me interesting things about what is happening in the Town, or bits of its history. For example, at least 20 individuals have now told me that they have a Lane's Prince Albert apple tree, and all about how well it fruits. I am rapidly becoming the world authority on this species.

Tompkins butchers and Tompkins Meadow also keep me busy. Bill Cooper reports that in the new Heritage Store behind our Civic Centre is a carefully preserved item of clothing belonging to one (or more!) of the Tompkins family.



It is a highly decorated waistcoat made for a gentleman of ample girth which probably belonged to a 'Tommy' Tompkins (1834-87), who probably inherited it from his father Francis Tompkins (1795-1851). It was donated to the Heritage Trust last year by Mrs F. Tompkins. Incidentally, although the Heritage Store is not a museum it is possible for individuals or small parties to view this and other items by appointment. Ring Berkhamsted 879525.

Via Helen Spittle there is more from Flossie Tompkins, widow of Emily and Thomas Tompkins' grandson, about Tompkins Meadow behind the Girls' School. The family grazed their horses there as meat delivery was done by horse and cart, and later Madge Tompkins used it for the horses of her riding school. They were, Mrs Tompkins adds, *a very respected family*.

Do please keep the letters coming in, but I would ask to be excused from replying personally to all of them. ❖

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MOTHER KNOWS BEST

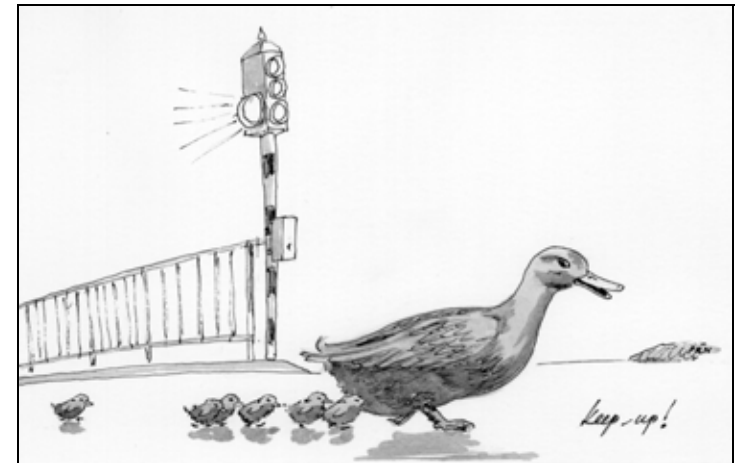
Sheila Newland recounts a tale of maternal dedication from which we could learn a thing or two.

I WAS AMAZED that so many tunnel-visioned politicians could not understand why Harriet Harman should put her child before her politics and risk the rain of abuse which came down upon her from all sides. Surely those of the meanest intelligence are aware of the basic nature and strength of parental instinct. Which parents, with hand on heart, can say that they would not steal to feed their starving children (if this was the only option) - or would not kill if their children were being physically threatened by an aggressor? Perhaps I am getting carried away but all the recent discussions about a parent's right to choose reminded me of a small miracle which happened in Berkhamsted last spring.

One day a duck flew into the garden / car park at the surgery where I work in Doctors Commons Road. (She obviously felt that this was an appropriate place in which to lay her eggs in spite of the hazard of the constantly manoeuvring cars.) So, the gardener was called in to fence off 'her' area to protect her as much as possible. A large plastic bowl was dug into the ground and filled with water and she was kept supplied with pellets and scraps of food to keep her strength up at this important time. (I

hasten to add that none of the expense incurred came out of NHS funds!) We named her Doris and watched her from a respectful distance to make sure all was well. A friendly ornithologist said that as soon as the brood had hatched they could be put in a box and taken down to the water. Kind though the suggestion was, Doris had other plans for her family.

Alas, the day dawned when the receptionist on duty glanced through the window and noticed some activity. Doris, followed by her fluttering brood of tiny feathered 'ping-pong balls' was waddling across the car park. No doubt it was the 'Call of the Canal'! It took the said receptionist no more than five seconds to decide where her duty lay. Leaving the patients and the doctor to their own devices, she charged outside in an effort to persuade Doris not to cross the busy road - but to no avail! At that very moment one of our off-duty nurses screeched to a halt



in her car as Doris and brood crossed over Doctors Commons Road towards the Bay Court flats on the corner. Penny (the nurse) leapt out of her car enabling Pam (the receptionist) to resume her duties at the surgery. She rushed after Doris who

(continued on page 15)

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Trails & Trains

In two articles, **Ian McCalla** updates us on bridleways in Northchurch and then describes a journey using rather faster transport.

Now for important matters - footpaths and bridleways in Northchurch. Pretty well all the bridleways (and that includes Northchurch Common and almost all of Berkhamsted Common) are now open for traffic and in reasonably good condition. On National Trust land most of the work has been done by Graeme Cannon and his National Trust team; we are very grateful to them. Work in the rest of Northchurch has been done by Sunnyside Rural Training (SRT), at the behest of Tom Home (the borough rights of way officer) and the borough council. They too have done a splendid job.

In the future, Northchurch Parish Council will take over much of the responsibility for rights of way maintenance and will receive a grant from Hertfordshire County Council to cover this. We have already started on a comprehensive waymarking scheme, so that all rights of way will be clearly signposted with yellow arrows for footpaths, blue arrows for bridleways, and special route-specific arrows for the Ashridge Estate boundary trail and the various British Waterways sponsored routes. It would be too much to hope that no-one will then get lost.

Another priority job is to clear and re-open the footpath along the northern boundary of Well Farm. It was a popular and attractive path before it became blocked by trees being blown down. We hope to clear it by the spring.

All the stiles are useable; most have recently been rebuilt. A lot have been rebuilt by the borough council, some by the National Trust as part of the Ashridge Estate boundary trail, and some by local farmers. Our farmers are more kindly

disposed to walkers than some people give them credit for. There are still a few stiles that need renewing or improving, so that, too, is being budgeted for.

In the January edition of the *Review* I wrote a letter expressing my anger at the treatment of Sunnyside Rural Training by the town council over the allotments maintenance contract. You may remember that SRT were refused the contract even though their bid was the lowest. I have since received a letter from Councillor Andrew Barrett complaining about my 'invective', and asking me to acknowledge in these pages that the town council were acting in what they considered to be the best interests of the town. Well, I am afraid I can't; instead it's some more invective, Mr Barrett.

I have been doing some fact finding. It seems that:

- Although SRT is well known (and trusted) by many local councillors and council officials, Councillor Lundberg and his committee had not heard of it.
- They (SRT) were a bit slow in sending accounts for Councillor Lundberg's liking, but they did produce them on the night of the crucial meeting.
- Councillor Lundberg was still not satisfied and threatened to resign from the committee and the town council if the SRT bid was accepted.
- We, the council tax payers, are now paying more than we need to for allotment maintenance.

In view of his behaviour, it seems a pity that the councillor didn't resign.



Changing subject completely, to another of my favourite interests - trains.



Northampton Line

I set off for a day trip to Birmingham in January. It had snowed the day before, and there were still a few flakes falling in the morning. However, the trains were running all right from Berkhamsted, even to and from Birmingham. So, off I went. The train left seven minutes late; not bad in view of the weather. But we slowed and stopped at signals in one or two unusual places. In spite of all this, we arrived in Birmingham dead on time! Things were surprisingly good, I thought.

When I got to the concourse and looked at the indicator, a different picture emerged. Most trains were very late. Some were 'whereabouts not known'; the rest were cancelled. When I returned to New Street Station at about 3pm, things seemed to be even worse, and deteriorating. Intercity trains to Milton Keynes, Watford and London were running, but late. I thought, "I'm a coward, I am going on the next train towards London, wherever it stops" - I wouldn't want to be stranded in the frozen north!

However, I thought I would just stroll in the direction of Platform 2 and see if the through train to Berkhamsted had

appeared. Surprise, surprise, there it was - and this only ten minutes or so after its official arrival time! So on I got, and sharp at 15.36 we left. We were early at Coventry, Rugby and three minutes early at Northampton. And on time everywhere else. And no 'Intercitys' overtook us.

All very remarkable. But I have noticed before that on the frequent occasions when things go haywire at Birmingham that the Northampton Line trains come and go on time. I think we fare a lot better than most other lines for speed and reliability. Certainly, on days of snow and ice, only the foolhardy and the desperate to get home venture onto lines with conductor rails (*ie* everything south of the Thames). I travelled daily on such trains in the winter of 1963, so I know! And in such weather, one avoids any means of transport to the frozen north. I won't get into any arguments about where the frozen north begins!



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HAVE YOU, I WONDER, noticed that at every car boot sale, flea market or jumble sale, there is a hamster cage? This leads me to believe that, in future years, archaeologists excavating Great Britain will come across 'the hamster layer', that area below ground which contains the bones of all the thousands of demised pet hamsters kept by families and schools over past years.

I must confess that I have added to the layer. I suppose that it was while at teacher training college that I was led to believe that hamsters make good pets. It's taken a few years, but I know now that they don't! Presumably, seeing the inevitable hamster homes littering our second-hand sales, thousands of others agree with me!

Hamsters live about two years, but they can be two very difficult years. I think they may all contain just one gene from Houdini. If the escape committee of Colditz had had a hamster as leader, the place would have been emptied overnight!

I have known many hamsters over the years. One of the most memorable was Dandy, a handsome golden fellow who, though given a luxury steel-barred-two-



THE HAMSTER AGE?

The trials and tribulations of a furry friend, explored by
Liz Baxendale.

storied home, with wheel, nest box, toys and treats, lived most of his life on the second shelf of a book case, lying in the middle of a triangle composed of three minute bits of pink cardboard, like a small witch doctor surrounded by a magic circle. If

removed from here, he would chunter furiously and was not averse to nipping the fingers that bore him back to the cage.

Another, Harold Wilson, (he had a gerbil friend by the name of George Brown... so you see how far back I can go!) not only left his cage, but also made a half mile journey to a local hostelry and was nearly battered to death by Mine Host who mistook him for a rat! He went on to live for another two years and now lies somewhere under the foundations of the hall at Victoria School.

Neither Rota-Stak nor steel bars could contain Timmy Windows... (fawn with



four white square patches on his back - hence the name). He would make off each night from the 'nature table' sustained by the corners of a few exercise books as he went, and a pencil shaving or two. However, he wasn't as bright as some, and inevitably climbed the plank (rubbed with a cut carrot to make it appealing) and fell into the wastepaper bin at the end, to spend his time munching the goodies left there until rescued and returned to cage in

the morning - to repeat the performance next night!

Mind you, school hamsters have quite a lot to put up with! They get a good deal of handling, fit neatly into Wendy House teapots (sorry - Home Corner!) and dolls' prams, can be encouraged to climb up Lego towers and run about in sandpits. They can even be taught to swim in water tanks and sinks. Faced by some classes I've known, I can fully understand their urge to escape!

They never know, of course, how sadly they are missed and what grief their ultimate demise

causes. Thirty-four children weeping is not a pretty, or quiet, sight. Some find it takes at least three days of unmitigated mourning to get over the loss of their furry friend.

However, a good funeral helps. This can be planned during 'English' lessons. "Write a prayer/hymn/oration for the hamster's service", makes a relevant exercise. Maths time can be used to measure the little stiff and find a suitable box in which to put him. If a fully cross



'A suitable box'...

curricula approach is required, Geography can come into play, as the most suitable site for internment is found. The ceremony should be carried out with dignity; no flippant remarks from adults, as these can delay the recovery process by a further 48 hours at least.

In the end, I gave up hamsters for goldfish - a sad mistake. As I rushed out of a school one lunchtime to replace a fish that had been found silver side up that very morning, a child said woefully, "Don't get one that keeps dying". It seemed inappropriate to tell him then that it would only die the once!

I think if a hamster had to have a motto, it would be *Now you see me - now you don't!* ... and most of the time - you don't!



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T. J. CUMMINS

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Lane's Price Albert

Bill Frew writes:

In *Around the Town* this month John Cook asks whether it is still possible to buy a *Lane's Prince Albert* apple tree. The answer is a very simple yes.

Although it was introduced in 1857 this cooking apple is still very known and widely grown, and not just in Berkhamsted! I have several nursery catalogues all of which offer it. Notcutt's, whose nearest place is at St Alban's, stock it in their many Garden Centres, container grown, all year round and it is one of their basic varieties of late ripening culinary apples. I am sure, though I have not checked, that Wood's Garden Centre, more or less on the site of what was

Lane's Nursery, will also stock it from time to time, or if not could certainly get it for anyone who wished to keep the Lane flag flying in Berkhamsted.

While they are planting a *Lane's Prince Albert* they might also like to acquire a specimen of a very attractive golden variety of the Lawson Cypress, *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana Lanei*. This was another of Lane's cultivars and leads one to wonder what other varieties of trees were developed here in Berkhamsted. Do any of our readers know of any others?

31, Shrublands Road
Berkhamsted
HP4 3HX

Mother Knows Best (continued from page 9)

knew exactly which route to take to get her babies to the stretch of water of her choice! She crossed Charles Street, turned left and then right, down Cowper Road. By this time interested passers-by joined the scene - reminiscent of the Pied Piper - giving advice and help here and there and all bemoaning the fact that there was no camera on hand to record this important and newsworthy event.

At the busy A41 Doris and family crossed diagonally towards the betting shop while Penny manfully held up the traffic. They proceeded along the turning by the funeral directors, by which time the

babies were exhausted but bravely continued to follow their determined mother. She knew what was necessary and right for them!

At last they could smell the water. Their goal was in sight! With encouraging noises from Doris and helping hands from her entourage they were all safely delivered and swam off to find a haven of rest under the banks of the river. The canal (which runs parallel to the river) would be the next stop.

So, take heart Harriet Harman: follow Doris's example and do what *you* feel is right for your children against all odds. ❖

Editor's Apology:

In the February *Review* we included a poetic contribution from Sidney Dollimore entitled *An Uncertain Sound*. Unfortunately a few typographic errors crept in, including the substitution for what should have been **deprecate** by *depreciate* in the first verse. Apologies for this slip of the keyboard!

THE SCOUT MOVE-MENT is by far the largest organisation for young people in the world. With over half a million members in Great Britain and a further 25 million in 137 other countries it is possibly the only organisation which could have taken on the Red Army in its

heyday, though I hasten to add that it never sought to do so. The movement was founded by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. During the siege of Mafeking, a critical episode in the Boer War, he had made use of children to carry messages and provisions to the defenders of the town and had come to realise that children enjoyed such tasks and could be trained to carry them out very effectively,

There are several Scout groups in the Berkhamsted area and two in Berkhamsted itself. Each has its own purpose built headquarters. First Gossoms End Scouts has a large, well-equipped building on the corner of Queens Road and the High Street and First Berkhamsted Scouts

SCOUTING FOR ALL

Scout groups in Berkhamsted are thriving. **Stephen Halliday** tells of his involvement.

occupy the spacious Old Granary in Chapel Street. At present, both groups are dealing with the consequences of success. Far more children want to join than the groups can accommodate. The facilities are all in place. Both are well provided with buildings and equipment.

Voluntary organisations always find plenty of people who want to make use of their services but it is much harder to find people to help out. Ten years ago I was asked if I would be prepared to become treasurer of First Gossoms End Scouts. I was never a cub or scout myself but I have always admired the organisation so, with some trepidation, I took the job on. I have never regretted it. I have been deeply impressed not only by what the boys gain from scouting but also by the dedication of the twelve leaders who organise the activities and the fun that they get out of it themselves. Here are some of the things they have done recently.

(continued on page 17)

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Beavers: the Beavers' (6-8years) motto is *fun and friendship* and by playing games, making things and by listening and talking to others the boys learn about themselves, the world about them, and how to get on with others. The leaders help by planning and organising a lively and stimulating programme of activities.

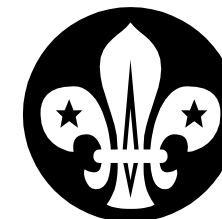
Cubs: (8-10 years): our boys recently visited *Hazard Alley* in Milton Keynes to learn in a practical way about safety in the home and on the roads. The highlight of the year is always our weekend summer camp at one of the many well-equipped local sites owned by the Scout Association: for example the huge campus at Fazells Wood, near Kings Langley. This gives the boys a real taste of independence and responsibility and is a great confidence builder, as well as being tremendous fun for all concerned.

Scouts: the Scouts (11-15 years) spend a lot of time away from headquarters on night hikes, map reading and learning climbing, sailing and shooting at local centres. They run regular expeditions (mostly at weekends) to mid-Wales and Derbyshire where the older boys can practice their skills in a more challenging environment. They have also attended camps at Lochearnhead, Perthshire, where Hertfordshire Scouts owns a disused Loch-side railway station which has been converted into a residential centre for climbing, sailing and other outdoor activities during the summer months.

We would like to be able to make these opportunities available to many more children, whose names are on the waiting

list, and who would rather spend their time with the Scouts than watching the television. Just imagine that! And experience suggests that adults who become involved in Scouting get at least as much out of it as do the boys themselves. You don't have to spend your time learning exotic knots or rubbing sticks together. And a little fresh air and warm sunshine in the summer months is much more stimulating than attending weight watchers or falling asleep in the armchair after dinner! So if you like children and want to help them to learn that there is more to life than watching videos and hanging around the streets then join our lively and committed team of people. Our youngest helper is 19 and our oldest is 75 going on 25! We would like to recruit people of all ages and backgrounds. Younger people who enjoy outdoor activities would be a valuable addition to our team of five scout leaders in organising camps, hikes and similar enterprises. We would also like to recruit more mature people, especially for our Beavers and Cubs. Many people nowadays retire in their fifties and have a great deal of experience which would be invaluable for our boys and our existing team of leaders.

If you want to know more about us, or come along and see what we do before deciding whether to join in the fun, please contact Stephen Halliday at 6, Cloister Garth, Berkhamsted (870194) or contact the Group Scout Leader, Howard Roscoe at 6, Park View Road, Berkhamsted (865436).



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**The Cowper Society
presents**

**The Chiltern Chamber Choir
and Orchestra
Directed by Adrian Davis**



**REQUIEM
W.A.MOZART**

**St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted
Saturday, March 9th 1996
at 7.30 p.m.**

Admission £6.00 (children and students £4.00)



***The Rev John Tabor,
Rector of
St Mary's, returning
to the light of day.***

The cold and gloom of January will long be remembered, since it seemed to get through to all of us; not only was there the numbing effect of the biting east wind, but also the seemingly unending succession of sunless days. What a change the sunshine brought with its hope and promise of spring! It was on the first sunny day that my spirits were lifted by the sight of the first snowdrops out in our garden.

On two occasions, however, in January I was reminded that the cold that most of us experience is insignificant compared with that of others. Once was when I was watching a news item on television about the plight of the families of Russian miners in Siberia, many of whom have not been paid since last September. To be cold and hungry in the temperatures of the Siberian winter must be extremely depressing and unpleasant. The other occasion was when a homeless traveller called on us one evening for a meal. Throughout the cold weather he had been sleeping rough with but one blanket and a coat to cover him. Fortunately we were able to send him on his way the next day after a warm and comfortable night, and with an extra blanket.

Unfortunately there are many, who, for one reason or another, live in almost constant gloom and depression as a result of the circumstances of their lives. Unless one has lived through the experience oneself, it is hard to imagine what it must be like to have one's home repossessed by the building society, to be made redundant with very little hope of finding another job, or to lose one's family for whatever reason. These, of course, are not the only

things in life which can cast us into the depths of despair. What is the answer?

I don't think for one moment that there is one easy answer in these situations, or that the answer necessarily comes quickly or as soon as we would like. Over the years I have met and talked to many people who have been in a 'dark tunnel' without light and hope. Some have been there as a result of the buffeting life has given them, others as a result of the foolish and wrong things they have done. What is interesting is the different ways in which some of them have found their way (or been helped) out of the tunnel back into the light of day.

I think of a head teacher who had contemplated suicide many times and had been barely able to keep her job. Healing came for her in two stages: the first was through the honesty of a young curate, who listened to her story with patience and compassion, and said to her as she finished, "I don't know what to say." She herself told me how, after being told so often 'to- pull herself together', or being burdened with well intentioned advice, she suddenly found his sympathetic honesty very refreshing and liberating. Her 'healing' was completed later as she received the ministry of the laying on of hands at a Communion service, when she felt her burden finally lifted from her. I met her a year later when she returned to give thanks to God for having been liberated from something which had once threatened to destroy her.

Another instance comes to mind of a woman doctor, who was rescued by a friendly policeman as she was about to jump off one of the bridges over the Thames in London. He took her home, and later she went to see a friend of mine. While he was able to give her some support, 'healing' came to her one evening



***Berkhamsted
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*Easter Music***

including the

Durufle - Requiem

St Peter's Church

Saturday 23rd March 1996

at 8 pm

*Tickets - £4 (No Concessions)
from Society Members or at the door*

A Modern Phenomenon?

Vera Pullen questions the growing need for professional ‘counsellors’.

Have you noticed how many ‘counsellors’ there are around these days? Suddenly it seems as if everyone is either in training to become a counsellor or is in need of one. What on earth did we do before?

The dictionary definition is given as ‘adviser’ and I can understand that in moments of stress it may be helpful to get some professional advice, but what worries me is just what training is really given and how much experience have the counsellors had.

Is there some special degree in counselling I wonder, and if so how wide is it? How can one person profess to be able to advise others on all subjects, and whatever happened to common-sense? After some traumatic experience it may be

helpful to talk it over with a friend or close relative, but I would personally find it impossible to discuss it with a complete stranger. But it is very much the ‘in’ thing whatever you may have experienced

Even in these days of family break-up, loss of jobs, and the general trauma of facing up to life surely we don’t need to rush out and find a ‘counsellor’? Or are we all so locked up in our little boxes that we cannot talk things over with our nearest and dearest. I have always understood that counselling is really being available to listen to what someone has to say and I find it a dreadful sign of the times that all these no doubt well intentioned ‘professional’ counsellors are suddenly needed. ❖

Northchurch Review *(continued from 19)*

not long afterwards as she opened her bible and began to pray. She suddenly knew beyond all shadow of doubt that God loved her and that all would be well. I think also of a young man in his twenties who had a similar experience. He had been driven to despair as his life fell apart and he became homeless. Suddenly he found himself ‘bathed in the love of God’, as he described it, and was restored to a right frame of mind.

For some the return to the ‘light of day’ is a much more gradual process. But in the case of the three people I have

mentioned there was a common factor: they all turned to God in their desperation and placed their lives in His hands. There remains the mystery of those who find no hope or deliverance in this life, but I am convinced that the surest way ‘out of the tunnel’ is to heed the words of St Peter, who himself had plumbed the depths of despair and failure - *Cast all your anxiety upon God because he cares for you. (1 Peter. 5:7).*

❖

EDITORIAL COPY FOR THE REVIEW

We can handle contributions in any format: 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 PC-compatible electronic format (CorelDRAW! V3 .CDR, MAC PICT, bmp, pcx, tif, cgm, gif formats for the technical). If you provide a disk, then a paper copy would also be appreciated to help the editorial process.



Top Left:
You need hands making pancakes! (l-r) Georgina & Richard Tregoning, Jane Bartholomew & Eric Brown.

Top Right:
Christopher Green tells a Moral Tale.

Above:
The three Blind Date contestants - (l-r) Barbara Northcott, Hilary Elliot and Linda Bisset.

Right:
Sublime Songsters Jean Green and Rev Basil Jones.

MOTHERS' UNION

This year we have taken as our Theme *To Live and Work*. Our January meeting was entitled *Women, Language and the Church* when we considered whether there was a need for the New Inclusive Bible. Our February meeting fell on St Valentine's Day so we discovered more about the saint and sampled some appropriate food. The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

13 March	Compline/Slides/Communion
10 April	Fund Raising evening
8 May	A.G.M.
12 June	A Topical Discussion
10 July	Visit to St Albans Abbey 7.30pm
August	No meeting
11 September	The Changing Role of Women (led by Mrs Ruth Pyke)
9 October	To Live and Work
13 November	I'll Never Get Through the Washing Up (led by Mrs Barbara Stratton)
11 December	Advent Workshop

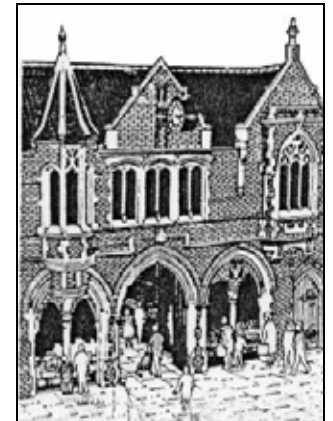
The venues for the meetings and more details will be published in the pew leaflet on the Sunday preceding the meeting and on the notice boards at St Peter's and All Saints'. If you would like to know more or if you have any queries please ring Linda Bisset (862115) or Judy Clegg (875818). Newcomers and visitors are always most welcome.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SILENT AUCTION

Spring cleaning? Clearing out the loft? Turning out the cupboards? The Berkhamsted Children's Society committee is holding another of their famous *Silent Auctions* later this year and would appreciate donations of items you think are too good for a jumble sale. Please contact Kathie Lally on Berkhamsted 863526.

A big thankyou is due to all the box holders at St Peter's and All Saints' for your generosity in 1995 which has resulted in a total of £249 for The Children's Society.

FRIENDS OF BERKHAMSTED TOWN HALL FORTHCOMING CONCERTS



Sunday 10th March 1996

DACORUM SINFONIE'ITA

Director Thomas Loten; Soloist Wendy Lewis (flute), Paul Luke (viola), Christine Watson (viola)

Programme:

BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 6; BACH Suite No. 2;
HAYDN Symphony No. 49, ('La Passione');
JANACEK Mladi
£6 (£4 concessions)

Sunday 31st March 1996

CONCERT FOR FLUTE AND PLANO

Soloists Wendy Lewis (flute),
Vincent Shaw (piano)

Programme:

BACH Sonata in E Flat;
DUTILLEUX Sonatine;
DEBUSSY Syrinx;
PROKOFIEV Flute Sonata No. 2 in D;
DEBUSSY *Estampes*
£5 (£3.50 concessions)

In the Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall, 196 High Street at 8.00pm. Tickets one week in advance from the Britannia Building Society, or at the door.

THE MAKING OF BERKHAMSTED



THE COWPER SOCIETY

The Cowper Society will present an illustrated history of the ordinary buildings and ordinary people of Berkhamsted at 8pm on Friday, 22nd March in the Town Hall. This is *not* another account of the well-known buildings, past and present - the Castle, the School, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted Place, Egerton House and so on. This is the story of the ordinary houses of the town, the houses where you and I live. When were they built? Why were they built? Who built them? What sort of people lived in them in the past? The Cowper Society explores the answers to these questions. Admission £2.00.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.



On a cold afternoon our president, Mrs. Joan Griffiths, welcomed 29 members to our February meeting. During business matters, anxious eyes were door-watching and wondering where the speaker was. He did not appear!

Not to despair, as we were fortunate to have our member, Liz Baxendale, sitting in the audience. She readily gave us a most interesting talk which she often used for school assemblies. Her subject was on the lives of Saint Elizabeth, Saint Margaret and Saint Wilfred who all dedicated their lives to the poor and needy.

Our speaker next month on 1st March at The Court House, Berkhamsted at 2pm will be Mr. Hugh Granger. His talk is entitled *I've always wondered why we say that*. New members and visitors welcome. *We care - We share - Be there*.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.

Members heard about a Spring Clean Par Excellence in January when Mr. Keating from Waddesden Manor spoke and showed slides of the restoration that has taken place over three

and a half years at a cost of almost £17 million. It took 1½ years to remove the priceless treasures of pictures, mirrors, French furniture, carpets, porcelain and wooden carved panels, not to mention stonework from the roof and the windows - all to places of total security or to workshops in France and the UK for restoration. After all the rooms had been emptied, cleaned and redecorated it took a further year to replace it all.

The quarry that made the original tiles for the roof was still in existence but had to be enlarged to cope with supplying sufficient tiles to re-roof the whole building. The house had been centrally heated when built, but now has computer-controlled humidity as well so that furniture and pictures are kept in ideal conditions. Additionally halogen lighting has enhanced the viewing of the English 18th century portraits and earlier Dutch and Flemish masters. For the restoration the whole building was covered in a free frame form of scaffolding and enveloped in a tent like structure.

Waddesden Manor was mentioned in passing in the Domesday Book in 1068. The present manor, built in 1874 for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, was intended as a comfortable 40 roomed dwelling house in which to accommodate most of the great works of art he collected. It must now be a magnificent setting for seeing such incomparable treasures. The house and its contents were bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957 with an endowment to ensure their maintenance.

As well as all these slides of imposing splendour, members also enjoyed seeing the handiwork in the county federation loan collection of craft.

It was a wonderful way to spend a foggy, damp evening.

The next meeting, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th March includes a talk by Mrs. E Fellows on *Chinese Cookery*. There will be a competition for a far-east memento.

TUESDAY CLUB

The annual general meeting of Tuesday Club will take place at 8.15pm on 5th March. A glass of sherry will get proceedings off to a good start!

Further information about our friendly group may be obtained from Thelma Harris (865785) or Rene Dunford (862420).

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

A Holy Land Christian tour is being organised locally for the period 1st-10th May this year. Among the places to be visited are Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Jericho, the Sea of Galilee and Nazareth. The cost will be about £889. The tour is being led by the Rev. John Kirkby, vicar of Potten End. Mr. Kirkby led a successful similar tour in 1994, having spent a sabbatical in Jerusalem in 1991. A good number have already booked but there are still some vacancies. Details can be obtained from Rev. John Kirkby, The Vicarage, Potten End, Berkhamsted HP4 2QY or by phoning 865217.



Cinderella, as performed by Nicky Evans, Val Atkinson, Victoria Macdonald, Joan Cook, June Haile and Lois Orchard at Showtime at Shrovetide. More pictures are on page 22.

please ring Helen Cloke on Berkhamsted 865205.

ABBNEYFIELD SOCIETY

The Abbeyfield Society offers sheltered accommodation and companionship to elderly people. There are at present some vacancies in the society's house in Shrublands Road. The residents each have their own accommodation but they are assisted by a resident housekeeper. If you would like any further information

THANK YOU!

The February *Review* invited readers to support a fund raising evening in aid of raising the roof of Berkhamsted Baptist church. Liz Baxendale, who presented an evening of dolls, toys and nostalgia for all the family, tells us that around £80 was raised. Thanks are due to all who supported the event. ❖

NEWS FROM THE

P • C • C

At the February meeting of the PCC members agreed that, following the recent Quinquennial Inspection by the Church Architect, and as part of the continuing stewardship of the buildings entrusted to it, a repair programme for St Peter's should be put in hand which would be implemented over the next two years. Plans are also being finalised to establish a Parish Office in the Court House. Looking ahead, three forthcoming events were highlighted:

- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Friday 8th March;

- John Malcolm's licensing as a Reader at 4.30pm on 16th March at St Mary's Rickmansworth (support welcomed);
- the new Bishop of St Albans will be attending Choral Evensong in St Peter's at 6.30pm on 27th March.

Finally, Eric Brown reported on a very lively meeting of the Deanery Synod, where matters for discussion had ranged from the implications of the Turnbull Report on the reorganisation of the of the Church of England to the possibility of 'surfing the Internet' for alternative services! The new Deanery is beginning to play an increasing role as a focus for local churches.

Georgina Tregoning

reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

March / April 1996

MARCH

1	10:30am	Women's World Day of Prayer	<i>Kings Rd Evangelical Church</i>
1	2:00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	<i>Berkhamsted Baptist Church</i>
6	8:00pm	Lenten Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	<i>St Peter's</i>
8		Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Election of Church Wardens	<i>The Court House</i>
9	7:30pm	<i>Requiem</i> W.A.Mozart: The Chiltern Chamber Choir	<i>St Peter's</i>
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	
16	4.00pm	John Malcolm licensed as Reader	<i>St Mary's, Rickmansworth</i>
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>
22	8:00pm	The Making of Berkhamsted (Cowper Society)	<i>The Town Hall</i>
25	8:00pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Lady Day Service	<i>St Mary's HH</i>
27		Bishop Christopher's 5:00pm Tea	<i>All Saints'</i>
		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	

APRIL

For Holy Week and Easter services see the *Review Factfile* panel opposite.

8 Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans

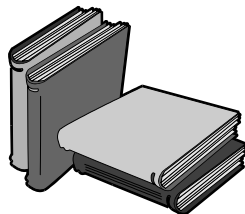
From the Registers...

Baptisms

21 January Victoria Ann Pisani, Alexandra Kate Rogers,
Elliot Oscar Fletcher

Funerals

17 January	Patricia Margaret Alexander	St Peter's (The Chilterns Crematorium)
19 January	John William Williams	The Chilterns Crematorium



SundaySchool

Churches

Easter 1996

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

APRIL

1-3	8:00pm	Each evening - United Devotion	All Saints'
3	8:00pm	Address & Compline (Canon Harry Hill)	St Peter's
4	8:00pm	Maundy Thursday - United Eucharist	All Saints'
4	8:15pm	Maundy Thursday - Eucharist of the Last Supper	St Peter's
5	10:00am	Good Friday - United Service of Witness (20 mins) followed by silent Procession of Witness to	Market Place All Saints'
5	12:00-3:00pm	Good Friday The Devotions before the Cross (Canon Harry Hill)	St Peter's
6	9:00pm	Easter Eve - The Liturgy of the Easter Vigil	St Peter's
7	9:15am	Easter Day - Family Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
7	9:30am	Easter Day - Procession and Family Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
7	11:15am	Easter Day - Choral Matins and Sermon	St Peter's
7	6:30pm	Easter Day - Sung Evensong and Sermon	St Peter's

LEAFLET: *Services Ash Wednesday to Easter - St Peter's and All Saints' available in both churches.*



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Contacts

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: 8635

St Peter's

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

Sundays

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

All Saints'

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)

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