

In this issue

August 1996

**Getting
Priorities Right**

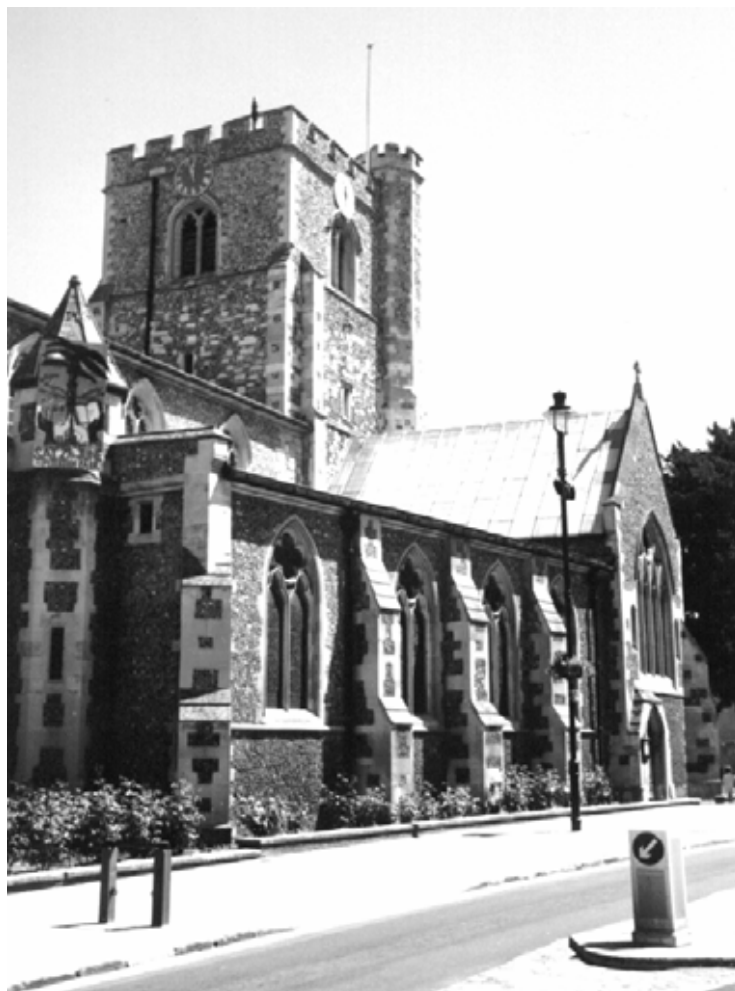
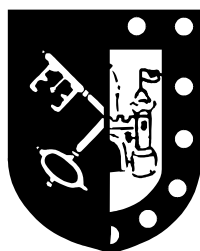
**Institution and
Induction**

Nuns' Stories

**The Swan
Rescued**

**Why choose
Berkhamsted?**

**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the August issue of the Review.

We never quite know how any issue of the magazine is going to turn out. Each month we try to identify important events which must be discussed and significant services or other happenings where practical details need to be explained.

Then there are continuing activities in the life of the church and the time which we can try to pick up and illuminate. There is always something worth talking about happening in Berkhamsted.

But the elusive factor which often determines the flavour of each issue is the arrival, each month without fail, of a varying number of interesting, diverse, well written and totally unexpected and unsolicited items. These allow us to complete the mosaic which makes up the pattern of our magazine. We would like to thank those readers who let us have their contributions out of the blue. Not every item is published immediately; some are husbanded carefully until the best moment for publication arrives. But sooner or later it is used. So keep writing! And, as Chris Smalley said last month, tell your friends that the *Review* is a good read - because you make it so!

David Woodward

In this month's issue...

Getting Priorities Right

Stephen Wells says get the priorities right, especially now.

Institution and Induction

A question of terminology, details of what will happen on 5th September and what it all means.

Nuns' Stories

Liz Baxendale contemplates the contemplative.

The Swan Rescued

Stephen Halliday looks at the challenges ahead for the Swan Project.

Sponsor a Biker - or yourself!

The annual challenge to reach as many churches as possible in a day approaches. **Neil Bisset** tells us more..

Why Chose Berkhamsted?

John Cook asks why newcomers choose to settle here.

... plus much more, including our regular features, notes & notices.

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 2 August 6 September 4 October



***Stephen Wells
asks us to get our
priorities right as
we welcome our
new rector.***

Mark Bonney will come to us as our new rector on 5th September. We will give him a great welcome. We have waited long enough!

It was said of another parish expecting a new rector that Jesus Christ would not have been good enough; He could not fulfil all their conflicting demands. Mark will be expected to give first place to the children, the parents, the choirs, the youth groups, the house groups, the Alpha groups, and of course the Sunday worship, morning and evening, and All Saints', and the town council, our commitments to the church overseas, our involvement in other worthy causes, and..... but I had better not go on.

Some of us will be expecting him to stir new life by his preaching of the gospel in church and in print. Of course, we all expect him to bring Berkhamsted alive by doing his own thing; to conjure up a large congregation of new people; to pray for us and with us, and to teach us how to pray; to show that he cares about people and not just about the services; to speak to people in language we understand about real problems and real opportunities. And I'm sure you all expect him to make full use of the challenge of these excellent schools in Berkhamsted.

You may simply say that you look forward to him bringing us up to date, whatever that may mean, to prepare for the millennium. Or, you may say, we've been

review leader

trying to do all these things all along. Let us wait for the Holy Spirit to breathe his new life into us.

If this crazy summer of sport has taught us nothing else, I hope it has taught us that little is achieved by clever individuals. It is the team which does it. Leadership is important but it is the team which does the work. I preached recently from the text "This Jesus is the stone rejected by the builders which has become the keystone - and you are the builders".

But remember: Mark Bonney is to be 'Rector of Great Berkhamsted', not rector of St Peter's or All Saints'. He will be responsible for the people of this town whether they worship with us, or believe in God, or care about the church, or not. He must pray for all and work for all. He has a great task. It is our job as the church family to be concerned about the mission and the domestic concerns of St Peter's and All Saints'. ❖



*Right: the intricate carving at the top of the Smith-Dorrien monument in St Peter's churchyard.
(photo: Chris Smalley)*

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St Peter's is to have a new rector and we are looking forward to 8pm on Thursday, 5th September when the Revd Mark Bonney will be presented with much ceremony and tradition and joy.

The observant will have noticed that 'The Collation and induction...' was announced in the July *Review*. Your parish secretary, knowing a collation to be a light repast, was bemused to be told by the diocese that St Peter's would be needed on 5th September for a collation. Tentative enquiry revealed that where she would be expected to describe the service as *The Institution* this would not be correct because in our case the patron is the bishop of St Albans himself and 'collation' is *institution by the ordinary*

COLLATION OR INSTITUTION?

Our parish secretary, **Jean Green**, confesses to bemusement over terminology.

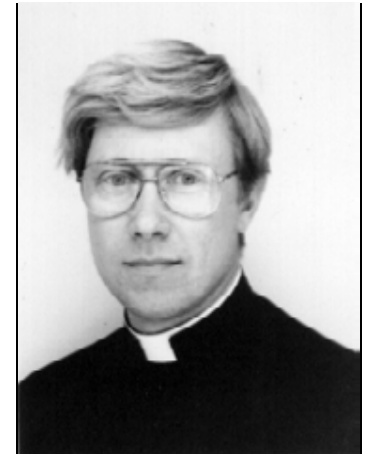
to a living which is in his own gift (Shorter Oxford Dictionary) or *institution to an ecclesiastical benefice when the ordinary is himself the patron (ie when presentation and institution are one and the same act)* (the Oxford Dictionary

of the Christian Church).

It now emerges however that as 'there was no bishop [of St Albans] when the benefice became vacant it [the patronage] lapsed to the Crown' (David Cheetham, Diocesan Registrar). Robin, Bishop of Hertford, has been acting on behalf of the Crown and will be officiating at the service which it now emerges should be described as 'The Institution and Induction'. Perhaps the refreshments afterwards in the Town Hall could be described as the collation? ❖

Fr Mark Bonney The new rector of Berkhamsted

Our new rector, Father Mark Bonney (*pictured right*) has visited the parish several times since accepting the living. He met members of the PCC as they gathered for their June meeting, and even stayed on to listen to some of the business. He has also been active in dealing with the urgent need to find a priest-in-charge for All Saints', and the vacancy has now been advertised both in the diocese and nationally. Work has been going forward for the past two months at the rectory. Both the parish and diocese are involved in maintenance and improvement, and Mark and Katy have been putting house and garden in order as they prepare to move from Eaton Bray in the first week of August.



The Institution and induction of Father Mark will take place on Thursday 5th September at 8pm at St Peter's Church, followed by refreshments in the Town Hall. Robin, Bishop of Hertford, together with The Archdeacon of St Albans, The Venerable Philip Davies and the Diocesan Registrar, David Cheetham will be present to conduct the service and complete the legal formalities.



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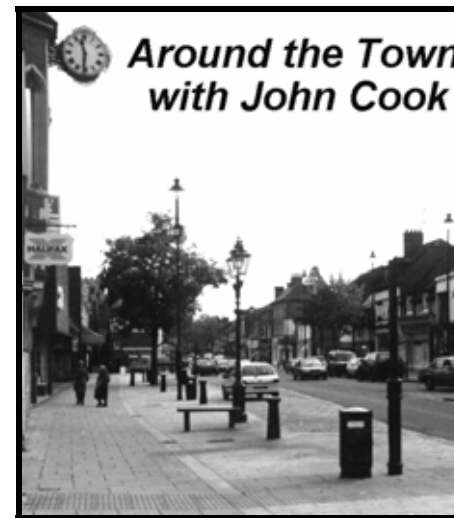
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Cinema Days

The exhibition of photographs of art deco cinemas at the Heinz Gallery in London had closed by the time I got to it so I missed seeing the photographs of the inside of our Rex which were on show in the exhibition. These were included as illustrations of a good example of a particular architectural style that blossomed and died all within a decade or two.

But if you want an idea of what the interior of the Rex looked like in its heyday you can get it from a book called *The Cinemas of Hertfordshire*, a copy of which is in our public reference library. There are some pretty good photographs of the Rex, but of equal interest to me in this book are the photographs of the Court Theatre, which was nearly as big as the Rex. It stood on the site of Tesco, could seat about 1,000 people and had all the trappings of the best cinemas of its day, including a fine theatre organ - one of those that rose magically up out of the floor.

There are plenty of people in the Town who can remember going to the Court before it finally shut in 1961 and was ignominiously converted into our first Tesco's. But there can be very few residents left who can remember

Berkhamsted's other commercial cinemas: the Gem in Cowper Road and the Picture Playhouse behind the King's Arms. They both finally closed their doors during the First World War, although the King's Hall was used by the Film Society for their productions until the 70's. Looking now at the site of the Gem I marvel how it could have been squeezed into what seems such a little site.

Today cinema-going is on the increase, and if you are prepared to travel to Hemel Hempstead you find a selection of new cinemas in the Jarman's Field complex. These are reasonably comfortable, not too expensive and the selection of films is good; but the architecture is pretty minimal and there is none of the sense of splendour that the cinemas of the golden age offered their customers.

Why Choose Berkhamsted?

The recent long obituary in the Times to the late Ursula Churchill-Dawes described her adventurous lifestyle in the Far East. When she was young she was said to be the most beautiful woman in Hong Kong. She did not really want to return to England after all her exciting escapades in the Orient but eventually she did, and ended up in Berkhamsted. Disappointingly, the only thing her obituarist had to say about Berkhamsted was that it is close to the golf course at Ashridge.

I suppose many people do come to live here because it is near something or other: near beautiful countryside; near London; near two good golf courses. But the obituary did lead me to reflect on why other newcomers chose to come to settle here. After all, houses are pretty well as expensive in Berkhamsted as in any other similar town, if not more so, and the climate is less good - colder and less sunny - than other places not far away.

What attracted me to the Town in the first place was simply the impression got of the place in a few seconds speeding through on the train. Coming towards London from

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the north there was first the distant view of the great Ashridge Park stretched out along the Chilterns escarpment towards Whipsnade. Then came the castle on the up side and on the other the canal and the moor, with Berkhamsted School buildings and St Peter's Church tower behind, and the elegant Castle Inn standing up above the canal at the bottom of Castle Street.

That was over 30 years ago. Now that the restoration of the Castle Inn is nearly complete (but no longer a pub) all those features are still there to be seen, I am happy to say. The difference now is that the express trains that 30 years ago slowed to 80mph to negotiate the curves through Berkhamsted today speed through at 100mph, so that there is even less time for passengers to get an impression of our town.

Ashridge Story

I confess a particular weakness for picture books, and as a birthday present I was given a copy of a newly published illustrated book called *Ashridge - A Living History*. It is by Kay Sanecki who is the archivist at Ashridge where she has amassed a great deal of material including many photographs and drawings which were quite new to me. It is much more than a coffee table book, and I recommend it to anyone who is at all interested in this fascinating great house and its history.

Ashridge was built in 1283 as a college - a monastery of monks called Bonshommes - and over 700 years later it is again a college, now of the adult educational variety. Between those dates it had a history of religiosity, royal associations and owners of great wealth which must rival that of many of the greatest houses in the land. This story is concisely told in the book, and the pictures greatly help.

One reference of particular interest to me is that soon after Henry VIII had suppressed the monasteries, the last Rector (abbot) of Ashridge, Thomas Waterhouse,



A seductive view of Berkhamsted?

took a pension and in 1535 moved to live here in Castle Street.

Kay Sanecki has discovered a work by the greatest poet of his day, John Skelton, who visited Ashridge in 1520 and clearly warmed to the place. The poem starts:

*Of the bonshommes of Ashridge beside
Barcanstede
The goodly place to Skelton most
kind....,*

So yet another way of spelling the name of our town has been unearthed.

War Cry

One of the most disheartening bits of news I have heard recently is that the local Salvation Army has abandoned trying to sell the War Cry in the pubs in Berkhamsted. This they say is because hardly anyone was buying the paper and not much was being given in the way of donations.

(Continued on page 11)

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The annual Sponsored Bike Ride in aid of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust will be taking place on Saturday 14th September between 10am and 6pm.

The aim of the ride is to raise money, not only for the Trust, but for your local church, since half of each rider's sponsorship goes to their nominated church. The ride is open to everyone, and if you wish to wander beyond the Beds/Herts boundary, there is ample opportunity to visit churches in all the surrounding counties except London. Many may want to at least venture across into Bucks.

I first took part in the ride last year, with my son, since it was a good opportunity to wear some of the newness off my recently purchased bike and give him some exercise. It was also a good opportunity to visit some churches that although I had frequently passed, I had never ventured into. We had a very pleasant ride round Berkhamsted, down to Bourne End, and then back up the valley through Northchurch, to stop in Aldbury for a late lunch in the churchyard. After Aldbury, we soon realised how far Tring

Going for a Ride?

Neil Bisset looks forward to this year's sponsored bike ride for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Station is from Tring itself. By this time any ambitions of hitting the Vale of Aylesbury were being dampened by aching limbs, and the climb to Wigginton was frowned on by a tired eight year old! The line of least resistance beckoned the way

back to Berkhamsted over Pendley Hill to complete the day.

The Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust is one of a family of non-denominational, county based trusts. The Trust was formed to raise funds and make grants for the repair of churches and chapels which are open for worship in the two counties. The event started in 1992, and since then has distributed £150,000 in grants. This year some 527 churches will be open on the day, which gives plenty of scope for route planning. Last year the event raised £53,000, but with 57 more churches available to visit this year, I am sure this will be improved on.

Sponsorship forms are available at the back of St Peter's and All Saints', or contact the local organisers, Neil Bisset at St Peter's (862115) or Mick Smallwood at All Saints' (877208).



Around the Town with John Cook (continued from page 9)

The Saturday night drinkers in the old days would often give the bonneted collector a bit of good-humoured ribbing and more often than not decline the War Cry, but usually put a coin or two into the tin. I suspect the main reason for the drastic fall-off in donations is that the average pub-goers nowadays are in their

20's and have only the faintest idea of what the Salvation Army is all about. Ex-servicemen remember the benefits that the Sally Ann brought to them when they were in the forces, and perhaps that is why a Saturday night collection is still worth doing in Berkhamsted's Royal British Legion Club.



The following comes from the introduction to the order of service for institutions and collations used in this diocese.

The service marks both a new sphere of work in the life of your new minister and a new chapter in the worship and life of this parish. It is right therefore that we come together with the bishop to offer ourselves afresh to God for the work of the gospel.

The first part of the service is an act of dedication when the people of the parish rededicate themselves in God's service. This is led by the rural dean and deanery lay chairman with lay members of the congregation, who also bring forward symbols reflecting the worship and life of the parish.

The Bible is the book in which God's word is uniquely revealed to us in Jesus, the Word of God. The bible is carried through the congregation and is placed on the lectern.

Water represents our baptism when we set foot on the Christian way, led by Jesus the Light of the World, and are given the power of God's Spirit to follow him. Water is carried through the congregation and is poured into the font.

What is an Institution and Induction?

An explanation of the ceremony on 5th September is called for.

Bread and wine represent the Holy Communion. Jesus is the Bread of Life who, in the communion service, makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread. Bread and wine are carried through the congregation and are

placed on the holy table.

The second part of the service is the institution and induction of your new minister when he is given the spiritual and legal authority to minister in the parish.

The **institution** is the grant to the incumbent of the 'cure of souls', the spiritual care and leadership of the parish - a care which is both the incumbent's and the bishop's. Where the bishop is also the patron, it is called a collation.

The **induction** is the putting of the incumbent into possession of the church buildings and the privileges of the benefice in order to carry out his ministry.

The **declaration and oaths** are required by law. They assure the congregation that the minister speaks and acts as a Christian minister should; so they can trust his ministry.

The service concludes with the Peace, and the prayers for the life of the community are led by your new minister as his first duty in the parish. ❖

Calling all journalists!

Do you have a contribution for the *Review*? Our subject areas are diverse - from church matters to the secular, serious and light-hearted. Don't wait for someone else to write about your pet subject! Illustrations - photographs and drawings are always welcome, both for inside the magazine and for the cover. And let us know if you're planning an event - and tell us about it afterwards!

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)

I have been fascinated by nuns since the time, when seeing two dark figures crossing the road in Bolton town centre, I asked my mum 'what' they were. She replied, "Nuns" and, being a bright four year old, I said, "Oh, they must be nothings at all then!". Later, as a teenager, I watched the *Nun's Story* at our local Odeon. What romance! What a wonderful life! But shortly after, I read a book called *I leap over the Wall* by a nun who had 'escaped'. Her life had not been at all romantic... made to eat the gristle left by other nuns as a penance; lying prostrate for hours on a cold flagstone floor for some small misdemeanour; rising at 5am to break the ice on her jug of water before washing... not much romance there, that's for sure!

In my year at college we had two nuns from a local convent. They wore long black habits, veils and sandals. In winter their toes were *blue*. They found tennis difficult in their long attire, so eventually got special dispensation from their Mother Superior to hitch their habits up *above the ankle* and to wear plimsolls for physical education - most bold!

I once went on a visit to a nursery school with them. A child approached as we arrived and said, "Hello, Jesus-ladies"! At the end of the day another child came to Sister Agnes and asked, "Excuse me, but have you got feet, or are you on wheels?" (yes, well, nuns *do* glide, and I felt he had a point!).

A previous neighbour of mine had a sister who was a Sister. I used to listen amazed to tales of her using her status to get to the front of queues... usually for gin and tonics, it seemed, and to get a good table in a restaurant! (I knew there had to be *some* advantages to convent life!). But

NUNS' STORIES

Liz Baxendale contemplates
the contemplative.

my awe of these ladies reached its zenith when I visited Minster Abbey in Kent.

This enclosed order had been rocked by a fire which had broken out on the night of the Great Gales. It had burnt down their little cedar wood chapel (though the Mother Superior had found,

and saved, the blessed sacrament unharmed in the midst of the inferno).

The sister who was showing us around the 'visitable' part of their ancient house said, matter-of-factly, "We stood out here in our nighties, amid the howling wind, watching the flames, and *wondering what God wanted us to do!*". Imagine the scene! I am sure that in similar circumstances I should be thinking, 'is the insurance paid up, and where do I go next?' - I doubt whether God would have got a look in!

I always find Sister Lavinia Byrne's *Thought for the Day* uplifting, and that Sister Wendy, who leads us through the cultural high spots of Europe so knowledgeably and amusingly, must have done for nuns what Pavarotti did for football! However, I am sorry that so many now wear ordinary clothes, usually with an apology for a veil hanging limply behind. I liked the wonderful stiff white scapulars and the carefully pleated black floor-length veils of earlier models.

It is quite a thought that when we are all rushing about, busy with the daily round and common tasks, there is that army of unseen women, tucked away in houses old and new, large and small, praying for us all. If you are lying awake at 3am, you can be sure that somewhere some nun is awake too, praying, chanting or meditating on your behalf. It may seem odd, but it's true!

(continued on page 15)

Sing Good News



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*SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER*

The joint congregations of All Saints' (Anglican and Methodist) are presenting a lively retelling of the message of the Bible in the run-up to the season of Advent and Christmas. Don't miss it - put the date in your diary now!

With ages ranging from 5 months upwards, a fifty-three seater coach left All Saints' at 12.45 on Sunday 23rd June bound for St Alban's Abbey.

The Sunday School children, Pathfinders and their leaders had spent the preceding four Sundays working towards this afternoon, learning many different ways of 'Telling the Story'.

We had constructed a huge collage banner of the abbey, learned (or tried to learn) a lengthy 'Rose Service Rap', practised sign language, investigated secret codes, looked at how inks used to be made plus many more things and learned that other groups throughout the diocese were doing the same as us.

We were all blest with a lovely afternoon as we picnicked on the grass, prior to drawing closer together around the band where the service was to start.

The children, now very familiar with who St Alban was and his story, watched a

The Rose Service



mime and listened as his story was told for us by Bishop Christopher. We then processed into the Abbey, putting our roses around the shrine of St Alban before coming down into the nave to find a seat. The banners were hanging on each pillar and a large screen had been erected to help us all with the 'Rap'.

The whole service was 'signed' for the deaf and the rap, the prayers, and the whole atmosphere was a splendid culmination of our four weeks' work. We asked a steward how many people he thought had come - it was obvious that there were more than expected! He said "Well, the nave holds a thousand and it's full!"

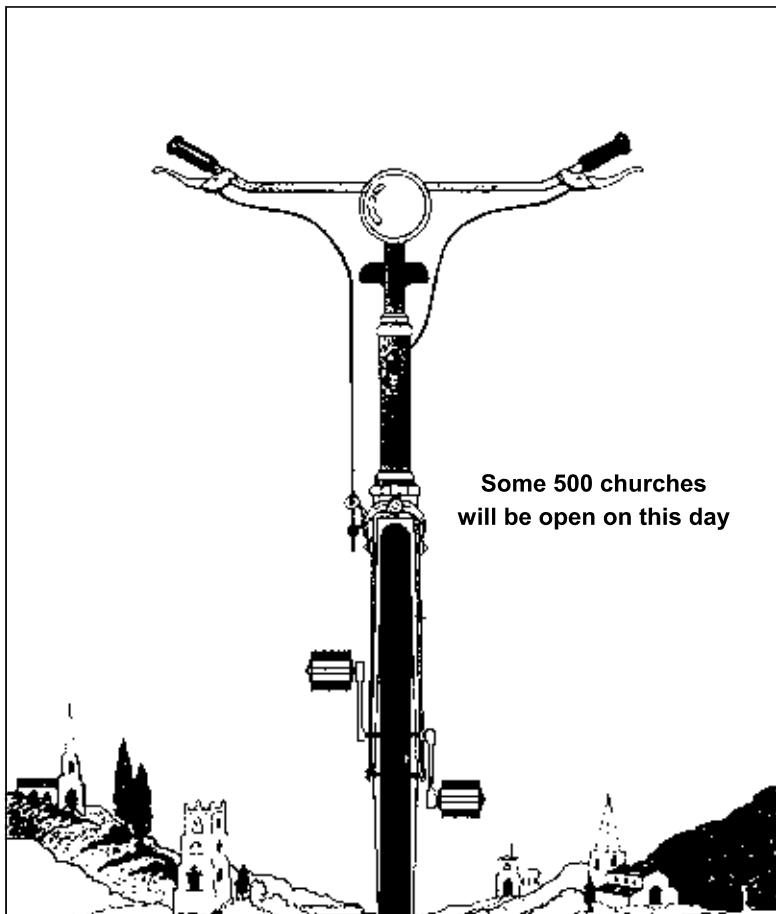
It has certainly provided a focus for our summer term teaching and to have such a large group from All Saints' who wanted to go made coach travel not only worthwhile, but an occasion to remember. ❖

Nuns' Stories *(continued from page 13)*

Incidentally, that insurance *was* paid up at Minster Abbey, and with help from the RC church and the gift of stone from a nearby Anglican church which had just (conveniently) been demolished, the nuns got a permanent stone-built chapel just in time for the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Kent. They had come there from Germany in 1939. Only two letters had arrived on Mother Superior's desk on that auspicious morning: one was from the

German authorities saying that they had a week to get out of their convent building; the other was from an English priest who had just heard that the house in Minster was up for sale. He wrote to tell them, because it had belonged to their Order a couple of hundred years before. And so the nuns of Minster came 'home'. Do you believe in miracles? I am sure that the nuns of Minster Abbey certainly do! ❖

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Moving On

Vaughan Meakins, Director of Music at St Peter's, writes:

I have recently written to Christopher Green to explain that I shall be retiring from the post of Director of Music of St Peter's Church Choir as from Easter 1997.

For the last couple of years I have been under some pressure to fit in all my professional commitments and to maintain the standards I desire. Some time ago, the daily timetable at The Arts Educational School - where I am Head of Music - changed to end later (6.15pm) and, with all the evening performances that are part of the school's life, there has been less and less time to fit in other preparatory work and the ever present paperwork. I would have given notice before now but was 'pipped to the post' by Roger's announcement and I felt it unfair to leave in the interregnum. Now we are all able to look forward to welcoming Mark Bonney in September I feel the time is right to make my decision known.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my seven years as Director of Music at St Peter's.

It is interesting to think back and to consider the way in which my family and I found St Peter's originally (as we do not reside in the parish). Having enjoyed being a chorister myself and when we realised that our son Matthew was interested in following suit, I contacted my old friend at the Royal School of Church Music, Martin How, to ask whether he knew of any good church choirs within travelling distance, which would provide a sound training for Matthew. He recommended St Peter's and Matthew duly joined the choir under Peter Payne. Some time later I took over when Peter retired through ill health.... and now it is seven years later!

My early training as a chorister provided me with a strong foundation to music and has stood me in good stead throughout my life and career. As a boy I felt extremely fortunate to be a chorister and to be part of the life of an active church where music was appreciated, high standards sought and where individual contributions were nurtured. During the years I have been at St Peter's I have enjoyed my time immensely and have greatly appreciated the efforts of those with whom I have worked and, in particular, Jean Wild, Jean Cooper and Marjorie Bowden.

(continued overleaf)

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review letters

(continued from page 17)

The choir has had some excellent peaks of performance and many youngsters have gained an appreciation of choral singing which, hopefully, will remain with them always. The adult members of the choir too have displayed loyalty and good humour and we have enjoyed an excellent team spirit over the years.

As a family, we will of course continue to worship at St Peter's and look forward to our continuing friendship with everyone.

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)

To a Fat Lady seen from a Train

Jean Green Writes:

In reference to the somewhat incorrect quotation at the start of Sheila Newland's article *A Walk along the Canal* in the July Review, it is from Frances Cornford's *To a Fat Lady seen from a Train*:

*O why do you walk through the fields in
gloves*

Missing so much and much?

O fat white woman whom nobody loves.

Many years ago I was inspired to quote lines one and three (I'm not sure that I ever knew line two) when my kind and generous grandmother donned white gloves as we set out on some lovely treat of her providing. I don't recall the treat but I recall her displeasure!

17 Cowper Road
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St Peter's Day - Saturday, 29th June - dawned with rather uncertain weather in prospect for the Petertide Fair. This didn't however dissuade the many people who

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enthusiastically threw themselves into setting up the Fair in time for the opening at 11 o'clock. We had promised several new features in the Fair this year - one being the central marquee and arena. Soon the marquee was full of tables heaving with food and drink - particularly impressive as it was a rather bigger marquee than we'd actually

planned! In the meantime, the Court House had been turned into the Petertide Market, with a huge range of bric-a-brac and books filling both floors of the building. An encouraging queue had formed before the doors opened at 11am - perhaps next year we'll have people camping in queues overnight!

We were particularly pleased to welcome back to St Peter's Father John and Pam Macpherson to open the Fair this year. Fortunately the crowd of visitors to the Fair weren't put off by the brisk wind and rather unseasonal temperatures. They were rewarded by excellent dancing displays from Thomas Coram and Victoria schools, live music from *Mr Kite Unplugged*, and Mary Hamilton with her juggling act (including knives in a strong wind!).

The Fair has always enjoyed a wide range of stalls and this was certainly true again this year. The Berkhamsted Art Society, Northchurch Lacemakers and Berkhamsted Quilters provided examples and demonstrations of their work in the church and outside the many games on offer drew enthusiastic support.

Refreshments this year surpassed previous fairs with full lunches on offer, a huge range of cakes and cookies and even strawberries and cream (well, it

Looking back on the Petertide Fair

Chris Smalley reflects on this year's Fair, the tropical theme contrasting markedly with the English summer weather.

was supposed to be summer!). Rumours that Egon Ronay had been seen surreptitiously tasting a quiche were probably unfounded, but you never know. The special Petertide Cocktail, with lashings of kiwi fruit, pineapple and mango, complemented the occasion and the Fair's tropical theme.

The afternoon drew to a close with

the *Parish Limbo Dancing Competition*, which uncovered some surprising talents as the pole was lowered! No doubt the aforementioned cocktail had some beneficial effect here.

While one of the aims of the Fair is to entertain, perhaps the most important aspect is the money the event raises for the chosen cause each year. This year we had selected two overseas causes with strong links to the parish - helping to equip a school library in the Gambia and contributing to the repair of churches damaged by hurricane in the Caribbean (full details are in the June issue of the *Review*). We are extremely pleased to say that the Fair has raised £5,000 for these two causes.

The organising committee would like to say a very big *Thank You* to everyone who helped in any way with the Fair this year - in the preparation in the weeks leading up to the day, and on the day itself. Thank you also to firms who supported the Fair through advertising in the programme and with publicity. And thank you if you came on the day and enjoyed the occasion with us. See you the same time next year!



The Swan is at last beginning to emerge from the scaffolding in which it has been cocooned for the last several months. From the outside it looks much the same as it always did though the windows seem to have been painted and the ochre covering looks cleaner and fresher than it has for many

years. Most of the work is no doubt hidden from view in the form of new timberwork and other structural features. I have some idea of the tasks that must have faced the restorers since, a few years ago, Jane and I considered moving our shop, *Spinning Jenny*, into the adjacent building which is, in effect, a continuation of *The Swan*. At that time it was Sanderson's shoe shop. It has since become an estate agent. We had the building surveyed and the advice we received was unequivocal. We would have had to spend about twenty thousand pounds on the building to make sure it stayed upright. The roof was in a particularly alarming state as could be seen from its irregular shape. We decided to go elsewhere since the prospect of

The Swan Rescued

The Swan in the High Street is getting its feathers. **Stephen Halliday** considers its future.

would otherwise be homeless and prey to the dangers and temptations that beset such vulnerable fellow citizens. Last week on Radio Four I heard Margaret Thatcher talking about inequality and she gave her opinion that the worst inequality encountered in our society is between those children who are brought up in loving homes and those who are not. It was difficult to disagree with her. No doubt many of those who find homes at *The Swan* will come from homes of the latter kind - homes which have been afflicted by broken relationships, drink, drugs and violence. The young people living there will therefore need a special kind of care: warm but not overwhelming or patronising. The organisers will have to

spending that sort of money on someone else's property did not attract us. The scale of operations at *The Swan* must have been much greater and this no doubt accounts for the time that has been spent on it.

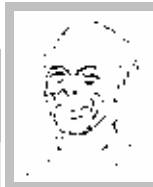
I understand that the purpose of the project is to house young people who

walk a narrow path between allowing these people to live their own lives and make their own decisions while protecting them from the seductive predators who wish to 'befriend' them for their own ends: drug pushers, pimps and others who wish to make a dishonest living from the vulnerability of others.

(con't on page 22)



The Swan emerges from its wraps



***Jim Lawrenson on
the opportunities
presented by the
interregnum at
Northchurch.***

beyond, during vacancies, in some cases more than once over the years. One of the most important aspects of this ministry has been to meet so many people and to see at first-hand the splendid work that the lay people do during an interregnum. I have always emphasised that the parish belongs to the people and this has been demonstrated in practical ways again and again. St Mary's is no exception, for the parish is endowed with a wealth of talent, and opportunities to exercise it are always there.

A much neglected book of the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes, in the King James' version, sub-titled The Preacher, for that is what the name means, has a striking passage, which, during an interregnum, always comes to mind, beginning: *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven*, and goes on later, *a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted: A time to break down and a time to build up; A time to keep and a time to cast away*, words always appropriate personally, and especially at this time, corporately (the whole passage is well-worth reading - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15.)

Recently, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev. David Stancliffe, delivered a paper to a group of church people in which he

review northchurch

outlined four hallmarks that should offer a way of transforming society, the third of which links up with what I have been thinking and saying. He stated, "The third goal was the social and moral vision to rebuild a community that could reject the trend towards liberal individualism without commitment to civic values". This surely, in an interregnum, should be our aim. Not just to keep things 'ticking over', but to strengthen and build on the foundations that John has laid over the past twenty years. By the time this note appears in print the Church fete will be over. I know how hard so many of you will have worked to make this a success. It is a corporate effort, undertaken not just for internal consumption, but for the wider community in which St. Mary's plays an important and essential part.

When John Donne wrote, "No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a



piece of the continent, a part of the main”,
Northchurch Review (continued)

he was certainly thinking of the individual's place in society, and the part he or she must play in the life of the community. We must extend his vision into the part the parish must play in the society in which we live.

Michael Quoist, in his book *The Christian Response*, uses a very apt illustration, bringing out this point. He uses the individual as an illustration, but I would like to extend it to the parish. The parish 'bus' travels along the same route every week. Some people are waiting, expectantly, but the 'bus' passes by, and the people are left stranded, unable to get on. The parish 'bus' passes too quickly. We know where we are going, but often fail to recognise that people need time to

get on. If we really want to establish contact with others, we have to make our way a bit more slowly. We have to take the trouble to stop, to encourage those who may want to get on, but who are uncertain of their destination. In other words, as a Church we must learn to be less introspective, more genuinely interested in other people, their families, their difficulties, their hopes. We have to make sure that there is always room on the 'bus'. We are fortunate that the parish 'bus' is well manned by Gareth and Malcolm and so many willing conductors and conductresses. Its destination must be marked clearly (no prizes for originality!). A new incumbent will find it in good shape and running order. ❖

The Swan Rescued (continued from page 20)

Obviously there will have to be some rules governing matters such as drugs, the use of alcohol and behaviour towards others but if the regime is regarded as excessively patronising or authoritarian it will be seen as an obstacle to be circumvented rather than a helping hand. Presumably some committee involving the young residents themselves will be established to help set the tone of the place and it would be particularly welcome if *The Swan* could become a social centre for other young people from the town so that there is an attractive venue for those who don't want to go to more organised activities such as the youth club but who want somewhere they can sit and chat with their friends. I believe it is the intention that no alcohol should be available on the premises. I wonder if this is wise. It may simply encourage the residents, and their visitors,

to go elsewhere for refreshment, to places which may not be so scrupulous in distinguishing between those who are and those who are not old enough to drink.

One of the most valuable lessons that a place like *The Swan* can teach young people is that it is not only possible, but perfectly normal, for people to enjoy themselves with a glass of beer without having to prove anything or get into fights or wreck the saplings in the High Street. They are more likely to learn this in a place like *The Swan* which has their interests at heart than they are in the more frantic and competitive atmosphere of a pub or disco. I believe that other institutions like *The Swan* already exist elsewhere. If any readers know of their experience in these matters perhaps they would write to *The Review* and let us know. ❖

NATIONAL TRUST ASHRIDGE

Two children's guided walks will be held on Tuesday, 6th August at 2:30pm from Monument Drive. One is for 5-8 year olds and the other for 9-13 year olds. There is no charge but places must be booked.

Advance Notice

Fungus Forays

Saturday 5th October at 10:00am

Sunday 6th October at 10:00am

The Deer in Rut

Sunday 13th October at 7:00am

Sunday 20th October at 7:00am

All the above are from Monument Drive. Places must be booked and the charge is £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. Please apply to Barbara Brookfield, 19 Mortimer Hill, Tring, HP23 5JB. Further information is available from Janet Stupples on 866153.

At the time of writing we have had very little rain at Ashridge this summer so the rides, which have been harrowed and rolled for ease of walking, have not yet grassed over but will, no doubt, do so over the season, if we get rain.

Work has continued on trimming the oak trees on Monument Drive for public safety, as oaks tend to shed branches in August and September and it is not wise to park cars directly under them.

Volunteer helpers are always needed at Ashridge to help in the tea shop, the National Trust shop, with battery cars for the disabled and so on. If you have a few hours to spare on a monthly or annual basis and would like to help, please telephone Stuart Downhill, initially, on 865821.

BEWARE THIEVES

We greatly regret that it is necessary to warn you, especially those ladies who bring purses or handbags to church, that two disgraceful incidents have been reported. In the past few days one worshipper lost a significant sum of cash taken from her purse at the Petertide Fair. Another had her handbag stolen in church while at the altar receiving communion. Even in that situation, it seems, we are not safe from evil fingers. Please take care not to leave valuables unattended in future.

(notices continued overleaf)

The June meeting of the PCC considered a busy agenda of matters. Many of the PCC members enjoyed their

first opportunity to meet Father Mark Bonney, attending his first PCC meeting in an informal capacity. It is hoped it wasn't too daunting an experience for Father Mark!

Much activity was noted on the part of the All Saints' Anglican and Methodist congregations, with one of the objectives being to draw the three congregations (with St Peter's) further together.

Good progress was noted in setting up the new parish office in the upstairs room in the Court House.

The meeting considered at some length the *Youth in our Care* initiative, which ad-

NEWS FROM THE

P • C • C



resses the church's role in caring for children, in handling sensitive issues such as abuse, and other related aspects. The PCC recognises its responsibility conveyed in the guidelines issued by the Diocese.

David Burbidge and Chris Dipper were unanimously re-appointed Governors of Victoria School.

The meeting discussed detailed arrangements for the Institution and Induction of Father Mark Bonney on 5th September. This takes place at 8pm in St Peter's and is to be followed by refreshments in the Town Hall.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SILENT AUCTION

The Berkhamsted fund raising committee of the Children's Society is holding another of their famous *Silent Auctions* in the Court House on Saturday, 5th October starting at 9:30am. Lots will be on display for written bids until 12 noon when each item will then go to the highest bidder.

We are appealing for good quality items suitable for auction - unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, small antiques and so on. If you have anything suitable you would like to donate please contact Val Atkinson (866792) or Kathie Lally (863526).

Kathie Lally, secretary

LIONS YOUTH AWARD 1996/97

The Berkhamsted Lions Club is seeking candidates to take part in their youth award scheme, the aim of which is to recognise and encourage young people who are involved in the welfare of the local community.

The scheme will take the form of a selection process with successful candidates progressing through various levels (club, region

and district) up to the national final to be held in February 1997.

The successful candidate selected at club level will be sponsored by the Berkhamsted Lions Club which will accompany and encourage that candidate at all levels and cover any expenses incurred.

The scheme is organised in association with Lloyds Bank who award bursaries of £500 for each district winner (there are 13 districts), plus an additional bursary of £1,000 being awarded to the ultimate winner. The bursaries are not for personal use but for work in the community.

The scheme is open to candidates of either sex but to be eligible, candidates must have reached their 15th birthday but not their 19th birthday on or before 1st March 1997.

This is a golden opportunity to be able to publicise some of the good that is done by our young people and to encourage them further. Berkhamsted Lions would be most grateful if any reader who knows of a young person currently involved in community work could bring the Lions Youth Award Scheme to their attention. Further information can be obtained by phoning Lions Youth Chairman Doug Callen on 864731.

*Peter Block
President, Lions Club of Berkhamsted*

Erratum

We are sorry that the surnames of several councillors were omitted in the list on page 20 of last month's *Review*. The missing details are as follows:

Berkhamsted and Northchurch Councillors

BERKHAMSTED WARD

Sunnyside (East)

Terence LUNDBERG Castle House, 89 High Street, HP4 2DF

NORTHCHURCH

Northchurch

Jennifer RIDGEWAY Meadowside, Boswick La, Dudswell, N'chrch, HP4 3TE
Raymond WILLIAMS 20 Lyme Avenue, Northchurch, HP4 3SG

Central

Kenneth COLEMAN Kenslea House, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, HP4 2RG
Janette DUNBAVAND Little Oaks, Darrs Lane, Northchurch, HP4 3TT

YOUTH GROUP RECESS

Please note that the St Peter's and All Saints' youth group will be in recess during August. The new session starts in September; details from Carole Dell (864706) or Doug Billington (866038).

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



Mrs. M. Langley, our speaker in June, was born and bred in a village near Hampton Court and it was obvious from her talk on *Hidden Messages in Fashion* that she had a love of all things Tudor. She talked fascinatingly of the clothes of Henry VIII and some of his wives, Drake and Raleigh, some men of science and philosophy and Queen Elizabeth I. Clothes were often made to express political and economic points - cuts were made in the sleeves of Henry VIII as a 'joke' when the King of France was presented at Court - supposedly to remind him of a recent defeat in battle by the Swiss when a French uniform was slashed by the victors. Both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I wore clothes which were designed to make them look like 'conquerors' - standing square and upright with their feet planted firmly on the ground, indicating they were masters of the situation.

Children were dressed as miniature adults and even from the age of two wore expensive jewels. Most portraits painted had a motive other than to portray the sitter exactly as they were - to show off their potential for marriage or as strong and tough leaders- hence Raleigh and Drake in heavily padded sleeves and tunics.

Red was the colour used to ward off evil, so lips were painted red (forerunner of lipstick?) and heels were red to prevent the devil from following your footsteps.

All these fashions were for about three percent of the population. There was a wide divide between the haves and the have nots. Mrs. Langley reminded us that however beautiful the costumes looked, the pervading odour of the times due to lack of hygiene and

sanitation meant that they were probably only worn once by the owner and then passed on to people of lower rank. The whole talk was extremely well presented with slides of the various costumes and the speaker gave us a new slant to Tudor times.

Mrs. Molly Pratt was presented with a competition spoon. Three waistcoats made by members for the Herts Show Competition were on display.

A report from our representative at the IGM at Cardiff on 5th June was read and all three resolutions (on student grants, skills for living and NHS dentistry) were passed.

Arrangements were made for strawberry tea on 4th July, the proceeds to augment the bursary fund, and members were asked to support an ACWW project for refugees in a camp in Croatia. They were in need of embroidery threads, crochet cotton, pieces of fabric suitable for embroidery and embroidery transfers.

Our next meeting is on 21st August at 7:30pm in Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street when Mrs. M. Sole will talk about the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

Our president, Joan Griffiths welcomed 25 members and 2 visitors to our July meeting. After business matters we were introduced to an excellent speaker, Mrs. B.M. Hubert who gave us an illustrated talk on *Islands around Britain*. Not only did we see the scenic beauty of these islands, but her slides also included the flora, fauna and birds that live on and visit them.

A copy of the report on the 76th AGM (the first to be held in Wales) on 5th June was handed to all members from Mrs. Daphne Millett, delegate to the IGM. Several members are looking forward to a guided walk around the Ivinghoe hills at Ashridge later this month.

Next month our speaker is Mr. J. Cuming, talking to us about *Landmines to Landgirls* on Friday 2nd August at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm.

New members and visitors most welcome. We laugh - we learn - we care - we share.

reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

August / September 1996

AUGUST

There are some changes in St Peter's & All Saints' usual pattern of services.

The following **will** take place:

4	8.00am	Holy Communion Rite B	<i>St Peter's</i>
4	9.15am	Family Sung Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
*4	9.30am	Matins & Sermon	<i>St Peter's</i>
4	6.30pm	Evensong & Sermon	<i>All Saints'</i>
11	8.00am	Holy Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
*11	9.15am	Family Sung Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
11	9.30am	Family Sung Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
11	6.00pm	Evensong & Sermon	<i>St Peter's</i>
18	8.00am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
*18	9.30am	Family Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism	<i>St Peter's</i>
*18	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist United Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
*18	12 noon	Holy Baptism	<i>St Peter's</i>
18	6.00pm	Evensong & Sermon	<i>St Peter's</i>
25	8.00am	Holy Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
25	9.15am	A Service of the Word	<i>All Saints'</i>
25	9.30am	Family Sung Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
25	6.00pm	Evensong & Sermon	<i>St Peter's</i>

* indicates change of time or service since publication of the July *Review*; new details are shown in **bold**.

SEPTEMBER

5	8:00pm	The Institution and Induction of The Revd Mark Bonney to the benefice of Great Berkhamsted	<i>St Peter's</i>
14	All day	Beds & Herts Historic Churches sponsored Bike Ride	

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR OCTOBER

12/13	Anglican/Methodist Harvest of Talents	<i>All Saints'</i>
13	Harvest Festival services	<i>St Peter's / All Saints'</i>
18	St Peter's & All Saints' Harvest Supper	<i>Town Hall</i>



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review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

8 June Anna Louise Doyle
16 June Charlotte Elizabeth Booth,
Madeleine Agnes Anne Allan

Baptisms (All Saints')

2 June Hannah Louise Cochrane, Richard James Hargreaves

Weddings (St Peter's)

8 June Emma Jane Ballard & Neil David Allum
22 June Alice Catherine Dyson & Philip Colin Spence

Correction

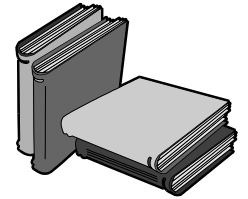
11 May Rebecca Jane Lloyd & Nicholas John Wellsted

Wedding (All Saints')

29 June Sarah Virginia Picco & Ian Philip Barnes

Funerals

5 June	Gordon Gilmour Farrington	St Peter's (Chilterns Crematorium)
24 June	Joseph Frank Augustus Winter	The Chilterns Crematorium
25 June	Gordon Middleton Chaffey (Chaff)	The Chilterns Crematorium
5 July	Ernest Hillsdon	The Chilterns Crematorium



(due to lack of space in this month's issue we have had to omit the FactFile page. It will be back next month).



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 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
 John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway. Tel: 874993
 Tom Montague (Reader), 27 Hill View. Tel: 875320
 Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241
 Churchwardens: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241;
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195

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

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

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

Organist and choir: Mrs Valerie McCalla. Tel: 384574
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday - Methodist rite)
 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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