

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

November 1996

The Season of
Remembering

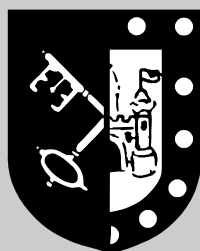
Berkhamsted,
Greene and
Waugh

5000 Years of
Occupation

Eat yer heart
out, Cecil B.
de Mille!

To Bake or
Not to Bake?

This month's
Notes & Events



for Town and Parish **25p**



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

Welcome to the November issue of the Review.

We have been very encouraged by the response we have had from our readers in the form of contributions of all kinds for the magazine. Thank you to all who have written. I should point out that we always use contributions; even if they cannot be fitted into the current issue, we *do* use them. Some items are of course topical and we give them priority before they become time expired, but many others remain interesting for a long time and so can be carried over until space permits. Please bear with us if your piece waits a little! If you have not yet written anything but would like to, please do come forward!

We could do with a greater number of suppliers of photographs. There are many talented photographers in Berkhamsted. So, if you have a picture which you think would make an interesting illustration, we should be glad to consider it for the *Review*. We do of course return all originals in due course if required. It doesn't matter whether pictures are landscape or townscape, with or without people, or possibly of a local event - we'll be interested to have them!

David Woodward

In this month's issue...

Remembering

Revd Mark Bonney recalls that November is the month for remembering saints, souls and tragic events.

Berkhamsted, Greene and Waugh

Literary links abound in Berkhamsted. **Stephen Halliday** looks at two well known writers with ties to the town.

Eat yer heart out, Cecil B.!

Liz Baxendale reveals the secrets of the most popular show of the year.

To Bake or Not to Bake?

Sheila Newland addresses an annual conundrum..

5000 Years of Occupation

John Cook reflects on the popularity of living in Berkhamsted over five millennia.

... plus much more, including our regular features, your letters, dairy dates, notes & notices and contact lists.

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 1 November* 6 December 3 January

(note early date)*



***Fr Mark Bonney,
considers the value
of remembrance
in our own lives
today.***

review leader

November is the month of remembering. November 1st is All Saints' Day when we rejoice in the fellowship of that great multitude of people who have borne witness to Christ, but who are not celebrated by a special day to themselves. The saints are not inaccessible plaster figures, but our friends. They are real men and women who in every age have led lives that have showed a little bit of heaven to others, and are our friends in heaven supporting us with their prayers as we run the race set before us.

On 2nd November we celebrate All Souls Day, when we commemorate and pray for the souls of the faithful departed. While we are called to be saints, we know ourselves to be sinners, and on this day we recognise that. In our remembering we need to acknowledge human grief and fragility in a way that is not possible when we celebrate the triumphs of All Saints' Day, and All Souls Day allows us to do just that.

The second Sunday of November is always Remembrance Sunday, the day when we remember those who have died in the two world wars and other armed conflicts of this century and it rightly has a significant place in our national and parochial life. To forget the two world wars would be an act of terrible amnesia and must never be allowed to happen.

Remembering is a very important human and spiritual activity and needs to be properly directed. Remembering can lead to anger and bitterness and continued resentment, and such things do none of us any good. Such feelings need to be

acknowledged and then the path to acceptance and forgiveness can be started upon. Forgiveness is not about forgetting, but about healing between peoples, between ourselves and God, and within ourselves (sometimes the most difficult person to forgive is oneself).

Remembering can be an escapist trip down memory lane, rather like when we pick an old box of photos and wallow in the past. Every Eucharist has the words *Do this in remembrance of me*; this isn't to do with thinking nice thoughts about the past but about making the past a present reality now. The Jewish people remember the great saving acts of God in the past every time they celebrate Passover because the God who acted powerfully then can act powerfully now. The same thinking lies at the heart of real Christian remembering. None of the Eucharists we celebrate, and especially those on All Saints and All Souls Days, are memorial services thinking about dead heroes. We remember a God who is active and alive through all of time and beyond it. By remembering and reflecting upon our own lives we can be enabled to see his presence within them and be given the grace to forgive and to live joyfully now.

Father Mark

Cover: Georgina Tregoning and Alan Conway ceremoniously dispose of the first piece of litter at the start of the autumn clear-up in the Three Close Lane cemetery. A large number of enthusiastic parishioners took part and enjoyed a sumptuous picnic afterwards.

Photo: Chris Smalley

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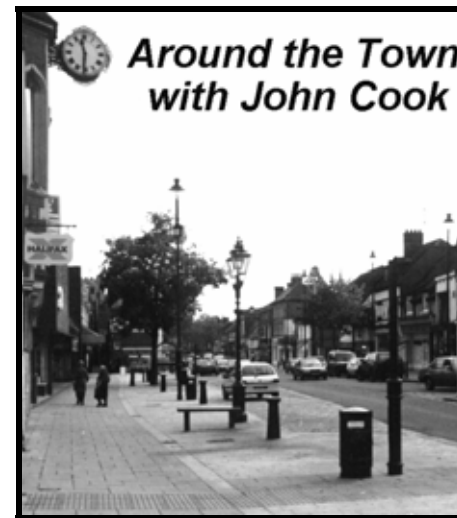
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Butterflies, Birds and Rectors

The last batch of houses on the Chiltern Park Estate is rather tucked away at the far south east corner of this large development. The streets where they are to be found have been named after species of butterflies which used to flutter over the gentle chalk slopes and meadow land on which the houses have been built. You can find Tortoiseshell Way, Peacocks Close, Brimstone Way and Admiral Way; but those entrusted with selecting names discretely decided not to call any street after the species of butterfly which has been seen in unprecedented numbers this year. *Painted Lady Way* might have given the wrong idea.

Over 30 years ago the old Urban District Council decided to name most of the streets of the newly built Ashlyns Estate after birds: Falcon Ridge, Robin Hill and four closes - Curlew, Pheasant, Kestrel and Plover. In earlier years and at different times several former rectors of Berkhamsted were immortalised in street names: Cobb Road, Curtis Way, Seymour Road, Birch Road and Cowper Road (more after the son of a rector rather than the rector himself).

Former residents of Ashridge are remembered in Bridgewater Road,

Brownlow Road, Ellesmere Road and Egerton Road. Residents of Berkhamsted Place are recorded in Finch Road and Murray Road.

Regicide

Another famous - or infamous - inhabitant of Berkhamsted Place, Daniel Axtell, is not so marked, perhaps because he was thought to have brought no credit to the Town from the crucial role he played in the execution of Charles I. We were reminded of this episode in a recent lecture on Hertfordshire in the Civil War given to the Local History Society. For the crime of regicide Axtell was publicly hanged, drawn and quartered. Incidentally, exactly the same fate was wished on me at a public meeting when I was Town Mayor and the Kingsgate controversy was at its height.

The problem of what to call new streets may not arise in Berkhamsted much in the future. It is difficult to foresee what opportunities there will be for any more to be built here. We are surrounded by Green Belt which we want to preserve so the boundaries of the built up area are not elastic; and there is not at present much prospect of building being allowed on any of the remaining open spaces in the Town.

Butterfield

'Many architectural historians place William Butterfield as the most perfect architect in the Anglican field, and put All Saint's in Margaret Street in London as his most perfect church.' So a learned article in the latest newsletter of the Ecclesiological Society claims.

One of the other commissions which Butterfield took on was of course the major restoration of St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, in the 1880's. There could hardly be a greater contrast than that between these two buildings. In the Margaret Street church there is barely a square inch, inside and out, which is not richly decorated, while Butterfield left St Peter's fairly plain - rather plainer than in fact he had found it. Why the difference?



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I suspect it was for a number of reasons. Butterfield was allowed only a limited budget at Berkhamsted, and in any case he would not have been prepared to spend anything like as much of his precious personal time on designing the decoration of the parish church of a small market town as on his wonderfully ornate buildings at Margaret Street, Keble College Chapel at Oxford and Rugby School.

Perhaps also Berkhamsted was not then ready for the extravagant high gothic revival architecture and its associated bells and smells that were so fashionable at that time in avant-garde parishes of London. Even so, it is still a surprise that Butterfield left St Peter's without any of his decorative designs at all.

If you want to see All Saints, Margaret Street, it is only a short walk from Oxford Circus and usually open. During services, though, it can be difficult to admire the interior because of the dense fog of incense smoke.

5000 Years of Occupation

The Exhibition recently put on in Berkhamsted Civic Centre by the Dacorum Heritage Trust was well worth a visit. It concentrated on the outcome of the major project that was mounted in 1991 to record the archaeology along the route of our bypass before all was destroyed by the roadworks. It has taken since then to analyse the work. There were ten main excavated sites, including Pea Lane, Oakwood, Chesham Road and the place just west of Northchurch where Grims Ditch crosses the line of the bypass.

To the eye of a layman the finds were not at all spectacular, but hundreds of little bits of evidence of human occupation of the area, of great significance to the archaeologists, were unearthed. They go back to the Neolithic Period (4,500 - 2500 BC), through the Bronze and Iron Ages as well as the Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval Periods. According to the published report of the work they give



Graemesdyke Road - one of the last remaining signs of Grims Ditch.

‘conclusive evidence that the heavy clay lands were inhabited intensively through these early periods’.

The report makes a lot of the discovery of the prehistoric site at Bottom House Lane (close to where the Berkhamsted bypass joins the Tring bypass). It says its importance cannot be over-emphasised. Nationally that particular site is unique.

Grims Ditch

The mystery of the purpose for which one of our most famous local archaeological remains - Grims Ditch - was dug in the Iron Age (700 BC - 43 AD) may have come nearer to being solved. From the evidence of their detailed analysis the archaeologists conclude that it is highly likely that the purpose of Grims Ditch was, rather unexcitingly, ‘purely for demarcation of a pastoral landscape’.

Anyway, its nice to know that the town where we have chosen to live is in an area which has been a popular residential area for 5000 years. Among the rather blurred illustrations in the booklet on the project produced by the Dacorum Heritage Trust is a drawing of an Iron Age man working at his bowl furnace behind what is now the Cow Roast. What changes have taken place in the 2500 years since then! But some things don't alter much: the bellows he is using look remarkably like those in my own late 20th century hearth. ❖

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All too soon it is time to think about the annual Christmas cake problem. Shall I bother this year? Is it really worth it? Shall I buy a fruitcake and plonk some icing on the top? But no, I mustn't weaken. My mother was famous for her Christmas

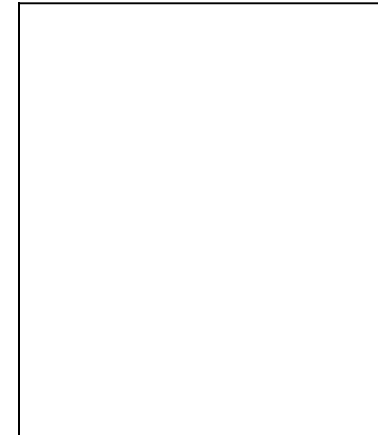
cakes - she made about six every year for various members of the family - and her recipe is somewhere in my cookery book waiting for its annual outing.

My cookery book - what a mess! It started off as a useful book with ruled pages and coloured sections for easy reference. It must be about thirty years old judging by my daughters' childish handwriting - I allowed them to write on the first few pages when it was new. Sometimes the recipes have been stuck onto the pages with headings such as *Brenda's chocolate cake*, *Jan's sweet corn flan* and *Fruit cake - easy (music teacher)*.

Then, on the back of a rich, savoury omelette recipe I saw, to my surprise, 'Parish of Berkhamsted A pastoral letter from the rector: Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ...'

To Bake or Not to Bake?

Sheila Newland considers that perennial problem - the Christmas cake.



This led me to explore further and I found on the back of my much-used recipe for cheese scones and rock cakes a letter I received many years ago from a member of my family quoting the words of St Theresa (the Great) about 'Christ has no body now on earth but

but yours...' and finished with these wise words, 'Burial is the reverent disposal of that vehicle through which man, created in the image of God, expressed himself during his lifetime' (no doubt we had been having one of our deep and interesting discussions at that time on religion and the meaning of life!). On the next page one of my daughters had written, '...bake for 20 *muinits*.

Cut *tomartos* in half and mix with *lettuce*'. No, she isn't dyslexic. She is a teacher now and, hopefully, her spelling has improved.

Who would have thought that a tattered old recipe book, with its messy, greasy pages, could provide such a trip down memory lane? Now, I really must make that decision - to bake or not to bake?



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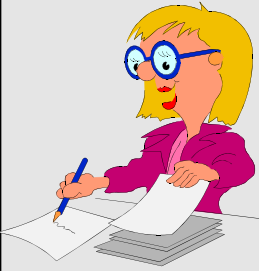
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The Thomas Coram Middle School



At the end of last year we were very pleased that so many people were able to visit the exhibition in the Civic Centre produced by all the ten schools in Berkhamsted.

The new academic year has begun very positively, with 110 new pupils joining the school - including 90 admitted into Year 5.

Preparations are in hand for our annual celebration of the man whose name the school proudly bears. We are delighted that Father Mark has agreed to give the address at our Thomas Coram service.

We are continuing with our support of the Hertfordshire/Gambia initiative. Pupils have now raised more than £1,000. The first shipment of goods purchased with this money is currently on its way to Tujering. During October half term Sylvie Ridgway, of our teaching staff, will be joining the working party visiting Gambia and labouring for this most worthy cause.

*Colin Stevens
Headteacher*

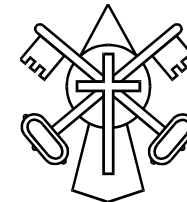
The October meeting of the PCC considered the usual wide and varied range of subjects, under the chairmanship of Father Mark Bonney for the first time.

The subject of next year's Petertide Fair was raised, with the Council universally agreeing that the Fair was an important local event well worthy of continuing. As planning starts in November each year, the need to identify an organising committee was identified.

Two important aspects of the parish finances were discussed at some length. The Charities Act 1993 makes some important changes to the way in which the accounts of PCCs are maintained. Michael Robinson, our Honorary Treasurer, described the effect these would have and circulated an analysis of them. This was followed by a discussion of the 'parish share' system and how the calculation of the parish share affects our parish. The

NEWS FROM THE

P • C • C



burden of buildings maintenance was highlighted, which particularly affects a parish like ours with two large churches to

maintain (did you know that, in today's money, the parish has spent more than £600,000 on building maintenance in the past fifteen years?).

Recent developments in recruiting a parish Youth Worker were noted, as was the continuing activity in appointing a Priest-in-Charge for All Saints' with the post being re-advertised.

There was some discussion on the proposed changes to the Liturgy from the year 2000, with the introduction of new and changed services and some changes to the Rite A Holy Communion service with the introduction of the revised ASB. An article on this subject will appear in a forthcoming edition of the *Review*.

CJS



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I am happy to say that all of the Ashlyns School Venezuela expedition team returned safely. The expedition was fantastic and although, in parts, it was not what we had been expecting, it was an amazing experience that lived

up to our expectations and was worth the twelve months of planning, preparation and fundraising that went into it.

In the last few days before we were to set off on the expedition tension and excitement were running high. Then, just five days before, we learned that Terry, who was to be our expedition leader, had been in a car crash. Fortunately he was not seriously hurt but was badly enough injured to mean that he would not be able to accompany us on the expedition. This came as a shock and we were all quite upset. World Challenge had found a replacement but we would be unable to see him before we left. I think it was at this stage that many of us realised the scale of what we were letting ourselves in for. We were disappearing off to a very different country on the other side of the world, to undertake some very difficult tasks and experiences. We would be away from all that was familiar for a month, and

The Wanderers Return

Helen Appleyard and her fellow travellers survived their expedition to Venezuela.

now with an added problem to overcome. We were to be going away with somebody whom we had never met and with whom we had not had the opportunity to build up any kind of relationship. Yet we had to put our trust in

him for our safety and the smooth running of the expedition. For the first time, I was beginning to find the whole thing rather daunting.

Goodbyes before leaving were a mixture of apprehension and anticipation. However once we had arrived at Ashlyns just after lunchtime on Sunday 7th July we knew this was it. No turning back. The expedition had begun!

It was a month of many new and varied experiences. Each bizarre activity followed several others, so that soon we just got on with things. In fact, it's only since getting home that we have really had a chance to look back in wonder and appreciate many of those experiences.

We learnt a lot about working as a team, coping with disappointment, making difficult decisions, surviving in a different culture and, above all, tackling unfamiliar situations with confidence. ❖

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A cross the land, from the end of October onwards, thousands of 'Misses', 'Mrses' and 'Sirs' will be engaged in some of the greatest productions in theatrical history - school nativity plays.

Luckily the storyline stays much the same from year

to year. There is a goodly number of lead roles so plenty of children can be 'used up' - in fact, in your small village school everyone can have a star part, or you can add a flock of six or so sheep. Larger numbers, however stretch the imagination somewhat, but one need not be hidebound by convention.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say the wisemen numbered but three (though their gifts may have been detailed), so it is possible to have six, or eight; to these, add a dozen servants each and perhaps a handmaiden or two, and you can use up a whole class with great effect!

The star of Bethlehem presumably did *not* shine in an otherwise darkened sky, and I feel that twenty four stars, twinkling with tinsel and prancing about makes a jolly addition to any production. Likewise a good crowd of shepherds is acceptable (providing you exclude the one with the 'souvenir of Clacton' tea towel on his/her head). There is nothing to say they were all masculine either!

It is essential to make sure that the players know the story. Disaster strikes if the inn keeper suddenly says, "Yes, come

Eat yer heart out, Cecil B. de Mille!

Budding luvvies are lining up for their theatrical big breaks.

Liz Baxendale shares her experiences of the Nativity Play.

garage till we need it", said Mary without looking up!

One year the dressing-up box yielded precious little. Our third king, a gangling gingerhead of seven summers, ended up in a blue brocade evening dress and a short fur jacket, crowned in cardboard and fruit gums (they make marvellous gems and shine luverly in the lights!). During rehearsal a kerfuffle broke out in the king's department. I demanded to know what was going on. "Please Miss", drawled Third King, "They keep interfering with me!". "With him in that

on in!" Historical accuracy isn't easy with infants. On one occasion, having been visited by a suitably blonde Gabriel, Mary was doing a little light dusting when Joseph walked on and said, "I've finished this cradle, what shall I do with it?". "Put it in the

The third king was a gangling seven year old gingerhead dressed in a blue brocade evening dress and short fur jacket...



get-up, is it any wonder?" muttered a colleague under her breath.

At least *my* kings had a place in the hall. I remember another rehearsal at one school, where the Head (she of the thyroid and organstop eyes) bellowed from time to time, "Three kings, COME OUT of the bottom toilets NOW!". Many school halls are short on staging and wings, so it's not unusual to find the heavenly host lurking in a stock cupboard or shepherds behind the piano.

Music is important of course. This is the time for the beginners' recorder group to pipe its way to Bethlehem, making a row to waken any sleeping babe. And that's always a thorny problem. How do you 'deliver' the baby? Personally I liked it secreted beneath the hay in the manger to be produced by Mary at the appropriate moment. Others favour arrival by angel bearers. Whatever - but it helps if Mary gets the child the right way up from the start.

Getting the shepherds to 'quake with fear' is a bit of a problem too. After all, the class know-all in a nightie is nothing compared with Spiderman, Doctor Who or the Masters of the Universe. However, religious significance aside, it is



It's not unusual to find the heavenly host lurking in a stock cupboard.

a good story, having many modern day parallels ... teenage pregnancy, red tape and authority, refugeeism, housing problems, royalty, astrology and supernatural beings. What more could the average six year old want?

Casting is tricky. We all have stereotypical views on angels (blonde), kings (tall), shepherds (unimaginative), Joseph (tall and reliable) and Mary (sweet natured and pretty). It is a bold Miss that casts the Mary *taller* than Joseph, a black-haired angel and the

school 'handful' as Joseph.

On The Day, every child is a star. There will not be a dry eye in the house, as the final tableau is accompanied by *Away in a Manger*. Nobody will have minded that the shepherds came in from the *left* instead of the right; that Joseph dropped his lantern and nearly knocked out the second king; that the baby was feet uppermost for the best part of the show; or that Gabriel had to leave early because he was sick.

It is Christmas again and even the most hardened 'Scrooges' amongst us cannot fail to be won over as a six year old Mary and her baby doll tell us again the most wonderful story *ever* told. ❖

The Christmas issue of the *Review*

Available on 23rd November

*Your usual features, notes and notices
plus Christmas events and diary dates.*

It's surprising how much your town council has got up to over the past year or so. I, like many others felt that the council just, well, 'happened', or, in the words of John Cook, that it had very little power but does have a little influence. I'm sure that over the early months we must

have made so many errors that the town's residents started to wonder if the promises and aspirations of the new council were going to fall by the wayside and whether anyone would take us seriously. However, we have gained experience, started to pick ourselves up and even the borough is beginning to realise that we are different and believe the town expects (and should get) more from this council than previous ones.

In this article I will bring you up to date with the Environment, Finance and Policy Committees. The Environment Committee is responsible for the town's main asset - namely, the allotments. The chairman, Cllr. Kenneth Duvall, hopes that action by both the borough and town councils will make our town a more attractive place to live and work in.

We are hoping to have a large input to the joint English Heritage and borough council conservation action plan. This is a three year partnership scheme to protect the conservation area and has received funding approval by the borough council. The broad plan was approved by English Heritage earlier this year and, as a start, Herts County Council have agreed to pay for the design work connected with 'Phase IV' of the 'highway enhancement' scheme from the bottom of Swing Gate Lane to the Rex Cinema.

The allotments take up at least half the time of this committee, and at the time of

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local Councillor Norman Cutting
continues his tour through council
committee life.

writing, both Butts Meadow and Dellfield have waiting lists but both Sunnyside old and new have plots available at silly monies if you are keen on gardening. Remember the old saying: use it or lose it!

The allotment holders expressed an interest in the

formation of an Allotments Association. A meeting was held in February to discuss the matter and I believe around fifty people turned up. I also understand that the idea was rejected after one councillor, who had nothing to do with the environment committee, does not have an allotment or even live in the town, spoke on the matter. A member of Berkhamsted Gardening Club told me that a number of years ago a similar scheme was mooted, only to flounder through lack of interest though the end result was the Gardening Club. Perhaps readers can throw more light on this matter!

The Finance and Policy Committee is led ably by the deputy mayor, Cllr. Terry Lundberg. The new council is proactive, and at the first of the regular public meetings, it was made clear by those who attended that change must take place. It was made clear that being pro-active meant more resources being made available one way or the other. We have found out that funds are available for all sorts of things from the borough and officers have indicated that they have often wondered why the town council did not take advantage of this money. Not a lot of it has been asked for as yet, but I'm sure Terry is working on schemes to take advantage of funds available from other sources.

The Committee is also looking to bring back as many of the functions of the

borough that it can. The majority of the council is taking the view that it was elected to take control back for the town from the county and borough councils. The self appointed chairman's committee wandered off to visit Ware Town Council earlier this year to find out how we can improve matters in our town. I have every confidence that this committee will be promoting ideas to match those of Ware. These could include increasing the precept to over £180,000, and raising funds for capital projects such as new offices, visitor centre, tennis courts/lido and community centre.

Starting from an idea put forward by Ken Sherwood, the chairman has decided to kick-start the Graham Green Birthplace Trust into action. Although originally not interested in allowing the council to be involved, his latest proposal is for the council to form a company limited by guarantee called The Graham Greene Arts Centre Trust. Cllr. T. Lundberg and Cllr. P. Such would be the initial directors/trustees appointed by the town council. He is proposing that the Rex Cinema is used as the centre with funds raised from outside bodies such as the National Lottery, borough and county councils and any one else interested. The figure could be as high as £2 million (Cllr. Lundberg's figure), which could mean over £140 added to the precept for each £1 million raised if the council wished to finance the project itself. The one advantage the town council has over the borough is that the precept is not capped, and you could be prosecuted for not paying it!! I wish my business had the advantages of being able to prosecute customers who did not want to pay. May I suggest that you make your opinions known to the council. ❖

CAUX Fifty Years On

Vera Pullen revisits the Moral
Rearmament centre at Caux on its 50th
anniversary.

This year Jim and I were privileged to visit Caux again on the 50th anniversary of the opening of this remarkable Moral Rearmament centre, to meet people from all over the world in a spirit of friendship and reconciliation. It is very difficult to describe the feeling of hope, enthusiasm and love engendered there.

The subject for this year's conference was *Healing the Past, Forging the Future*. The programme included meetings, seminars, jubilee lectures, plays and films, with simultaneous translation. We were divided up into 'communities' which met each morning after breakfast to discuss various items which had been raised the day before.

We were with a group of Germans and German-speaking Russians, but luckily one lady translated for us. Our visit wasn't long after the English/German international football match and we felt we had to apologise for the way some of the papers here had jumped on the bandwagon. You would have thought we were at war once more.

MRA is a way of life. Its goal is global transformation carried forward by people of different convictions and faiths who seek God's inspiration for individual and common action. Every individual is encouraged to accept absolute moral standards - in particular, love, honesty, purity and selflessness - as guides to personal liberation and the moral and spiritual renewal of society. This is open to everyone who wants to engage in it, listening and responding to 'the inner voice' - God's spirit illuminating the human mind. ❖

First, can I thank the numerous readers of last month's *Review* who contacted me in response to my request for information about Cooper's Animal Feeds and its long association with the town. I will be writing about this in a future issue but for the next two months I want to concentrate

on some writers whose association with Berkhamsted is unaccountably overlooked in the leaflet on *Dacorum Literary Links* which has been published by the local authority: W.W. Jacobs and George Macaulay Trevelyan, both of them briefly mentioned last month in John Cook's *Around the Town*.

William Wymark Jacobs (1863-1943) was a very popular and successful short story writer around the turn of the century. One of the visitors to his house, *Beechcroft*, in Chesham Road, was the schoolboy Evelyn Waugh (1903-66) who, in his engaging autobiography, *A Little Learning*, gives an amusing account of the disputes that raged between Jacobs and his wife about the education of their children. Mrs. Jacobs, a suffragette who had been jailed for breaking windows and was an early advocate of the more equal treatment of women, would occasionally kidnap their children from a school selected by her husband because, in her view, it was insufficiently progressive. She would secrete the child in a more enlightened establishment before returning home to a furious row with the father whom Waugh describes as 'wan, skinny, sharp-faced, with watery eyes. Like many humorists he gave scant evidence of humour in private intercourse.'

One of the Jacobs' daughters, Barbara, married Evelyn Waugh's older brother, Alec (1898-1981). The marriage did not

BERKHAMSTED, GRAHAM GREENE AND EVELYN WAUGH

Stephen Halliday examines
the links between two
successful writers with ties
to Berkhamsted.

last but the connection with the Jacobs family was the reason for Evelyn Waugh's numerous visits to Berkhamsted at about this time, shortly after the end of World War I. He refers to Barbara's habit of 'adorning herself with crude jewellery of beaten silver and copper, enamel, semi-precious stones and amber, that was made by a bearded crank in Berkhamsted'. I

wonder who that was.

Waugh also makes some interesting comments on an incident which, he believes, may have influenced Graham Greene, a contemporary of Waugh, who describes Greene as 'an honoured friend'. Waugh explains how, during a visit to Berkhamsted, he put on some airs before one of the Jacobs boys, 'contrasting the severe life of a boarding school [Waugh was then at Lancing] with his softness as a day-boy. Somehow these boastings must have spread at Berkhamsted School. Graham Greene himself is unaware of the process. But again and again in his novels, when he wishes to portray a seedy character who nurtures a pathetic loyalty to a minor public school, he attributes this emotion to Lancing. I am the only old boy of Lancing whom he has known well. Neither he nor I see any likeness between myself and these sad fictions. Something young Jacobs said must at second or third hand engendered them'.

Graham Greene had a very high opinion of Evelyn Waugh whom he described as 'Incomparably the greatest writer of our generation. When I heard of his death I felt as though my commanding officer had died'. How strange that, through the Jacobs connection, one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century should have influenced another, even though Greene and Waugh did not meet until they were at Oxford four years later. ❖

Music in Churches

Clifford Gossling writes:

I have been very interested in reading quite a number of readers' comments appearing in *The Times* recently referring to 'Music in Church'.

I though fellow readers of the *Review* might be particularly interested to read part of a letter from The Rev. K.W. Clark of Battle, East Sussex from which I quote:

Music can be, and is, in many churches, used to 'set the scene'.

In the days when I was a parish priest I often told my people what I was taught at Sunday school many years ago: 'Before the service, talk to God. During the service, let God talk to you. After the service, talk with your friends'.

Too many congregations ignore this these days, but a sensitive organist with appropriate music can encourage a prayerful silence on the part of the congregation before the service.

It would be interesting to learn the view of some Berkhamsted readers on the subject.

*16 St Johns Well Court
Berkhamsted HP4 1JQ*

Welcome, Father Mark

Stuart Kibble writes:

May I say thank you to everyone who has been involved in the long search to fill the vacancy at St Peter's.

I would like to say welcome to Father Mark, his wife and family and hope they have settled into the Rectory. I hope that their stay with us at St Peter's will be a long and happy one.

*23 Douglas Gardens
Berkhamsted HP4 3PE*

What Do They Mean?

Ted Lewis writes:

I must confess that I have been spreading a totally false rumour in the town. So, for the record, would you please note that the piles of earth and rubble, the holes and barricades, the long slowly moving lines of overheated vehicles and weary people, the noises of heavy machinery and the machine-gun like sounds of road drills are not, repeat not an exhibition commemorating the 80th anniversary of the battle of the Somme. They are, so we are informed, the latest enhancement to our town.

I became bewildered by the variety of lines painted on the roads at the approaches to the new roundabouts. There are double narrow broken lines, single narrow broken lines and single wide broken lines. There are also single broken medium width lines but I think that these must be inaccurate attempts at painting one of the others, rather like 'The largest dwarf in the world' or 'The smallest giant in England'.

But what do they all mean? 'Do not use between 8:30am and 6:30pm?'; 'circle for 3 minutes before leaving?'. I asked friends. Nobody knew. I searched a modern copy of the Highway Code. No help. Eventually I went to the top and called at the police station and there an amused constable explained all. The marks on the roads have to relate to the traffic signs at the side of the road. All of our road markings at the mini-roundabouts mean exactly the same thing : *give way to -traffic approaching from the right.*

*9 Shrublands Avenue
Berkhamsted HP4 3JH*



***Denis Roberts
proclaims the
Assurance
of God.***

One of the highlights of the church fete is a visit to the top of the church tower and when peering down on the people coming along the church path, it is fascinating to ponder on the multitude that have trod before right back to the Saxon times. The earliest inhabitants of the hamlet of Northchurch, whose church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, were followed by those led by the earliest recorded Rector, Hugh de London, in 1221 and then by a host on through the reformation, the dissolution of religious houses, the Cromwellian commonwealth and onto the recent times of two world wars. At this time of interregnum, we are again reminded of our history as our patron is the Duke of Cornwall - the first being the Black Prince created Duke in 1337. The gift of the living has been in royal hands from early times - Queen Elizabeth I departed from custom for some years but soon reverted to the norm. Why have so

reviewnorthchurch

many come to St Mary's? They have been seeking and finding the assurance of God and staying to worship him. Anyone needing insurance, and we all do from time to time, will quickly discover the difference between assurance and insurance. Assurance deals with a certainty, an event which is bound to happen and so we have life assurance policies to help out when we die. On the other hand, there are insurance policies to help when something happens which may not (and we hope does not) happen, such as a car accident. This distinction between what will be and what may be the case is at the heart of our experience of life and fundamental to the life of our church and parish. In these moving and turbulent times, it is not always easy to tell and we may get swept along by the conflicting sources of information: government sponsored campaigns, free information packs, advertisements and the ever growing pile of junk mail! We need help. Is there anyone who has been this way before that we can ask?

During the summer I went on a journey to the Isle of Skye where it was said there

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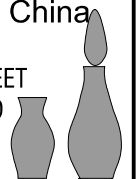
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COWPER SOCIETY



The Cowper Society is again presenting *The Making of Berkhamsted* - a look at housing in Berkhamsted and at the lives of some of the people who have lived there.

Maps, slides, drama and music all combine to give a historical perspective to the growth of the town.

The presentation will take place on Friday, 1st November in the Town Hall at 8:00pm. Tickets, at £2, are available at the door, or you can phone in advance on 877089.

TUESDAY CLUB

On 5th November we look forward to welcoming P.C. Andy Rolls who will tell us

how to protect ourselves and others. The meeting commences at 8:15pm and new members are welcome. Please contact Thelma Harris (865785) or Rene Dunford (862420) if you need more details.

LEPROSY MISSION

On Saturday, 9th November in All Saints' Church Hall from 10:00am to 12 noon there will be a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale. Cakes, Christmas gifts, cards and calendars will be sold in aid of the Leprosy Mission's *Countdown to Cure* campaign. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Please will all box holders who would like their boxes to be emptied bring them to the coffee morning or contact May Kempster (863037) or Meg Harper (865443).

Northchurch Review (continued)

were the Cullin mountains, indeed red ones and black ones. On arrival there was not a Cullin to be seen. What to believe - the travel brochure or my own eyes? The next day we set off on a tour of the island. Various banks of mist were declared to be hiding the mountains; by the afternoon the sun had melted the clouds and the scenery was magnificent. Those who had been before were right and to be believed in spite of the early evidence of my own eyes.

The Bible is crammed full of accounts by people who have gone before, not only of physical things, like mountains, which given time it is easy to prove exist, but of things that cannot be seen. The writer of Hebrews points to faith as the entry to this second category, *'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the continuation of things not seen, indeed by faith our ancestors received approval. By*

faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God so that which is seen was made from things that are not visible'.

Once we accept that God is creator of heaven and earth and of each one of us individually, how different our world becomes. No longer are we an accidental pack of genes but part of a planned purpose which we can join or reject. Yes, there are mysteries aplenty beyond our limited wits to understand but God has sent his prophets and the greatest of them all, his Son, to help and reassure us.

It is up to everyone of us, from our experience, to show that God is real and can be relied upon. All we need to do is accept the gift of faith and trust his word.



Denis Roberts is a former churchwarden and current parish treasurer.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS



Charity Christmas cards will be on sale at the Court House on the following dates:

Friday & Saturday, 8th & 9th November
Friday & Saturday, 22nd & 23rd November
from 10:00am to 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Many will recall that remarkable, evocative performance by the Chiltern Chamber Choir of Praetorius' *Christmas Mass* last December, which involved robust audience participation for the various chorales. This year the Chiltern Chamber Choir will be performing (in English this time!) Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* on Monday, 23rd December at 7:30pm in St Peter's Church. Once again, audience participation is invited. A limited number of 'Singers Tickets' is available to able and willing singers, who should attend the 'warm-up' rehearsal beforehand at 7:00pm. Music and tickets (at £4.00) are available from the Choir's director, Adrian Davis (864722) or from the Choir's secretary, Jean Green (863241). Normal tickets are available from *The Bookstack* at £6.00 each (concessions for children at £4.00).

A BIG THANK-YOU FROM MAVIS AND JUNE HAILE

You may remember, some months ago, Mavis and June Haile appealed for books and other items for schools in Guyana. The response was magnificent and six boxes of books and other things such as sheets and so on were sent off. Mavis and June thank everyone for all that was given.

You can imagine the delight of pupils and teachers on receiving books of all kinds, in a land where there is a severe shortage of books. The 'library' consists of a few bookcases on the way up the stairs. Each class has 50 to 60 children, and due to the problem of space most chairs have two children sitting, or rather perched on each one. The classes are not separated from each other, the floors are simply one large space. Children from different classes are sitting next to each other. Can you imagine the noise? The children are desperate to learn. The teachers are so positive, they

want to teach, despite all the adversities they face every day. Maybe we here in Britain have a lesson to learn from that!

The books were distributed to various schools and some even to Kamarang and Jawalia in the bush.

Thank you again for your generous donations from those in Guyana and from Mavis and June.

THE OXFAM FAIR TRADE COMPANY

The Oxfam Fair Trade Company was launched - or rather re-launched - in October. Its aims are:

- to help people to earn a living from their skills,
- to pay them a fair price,
- to bring their products to the customer direct,
- to help them towards a better future though direct support and training.

Fairly trading with people helps them to help themselves. Fair trade means a better deal for Oxfam's producers and customers.

For producers in the Third World it means that they are not exploited, they work in decent conditions and they receive a fair price for their skills and time. Most importantly, with a helping hand through fair trade our producers achieve independence.

For you as a customer, fair trade means that you can choose from an exclusive range of hand-made products from around the world. Many designs and materials have been passed down from generation to generation, helping to preserve age-old traditions and skills. Each of the handmade items is unique, reflecting the touch of the individual craftsman.

Visit the Oxfam shop to see examples of many fine artefacts or to pick up a catalogue for the full range. So buy Fair Trade Christmas presents this year and your goodwill will go twice as far.

OXFAM EVENING WEAR PREVIEW

The Oxfam shop will remain open from 5:00pm to 7:00pm for a preview of evening and party wear for both men and women on Tuesday, 5th November.

Friends of Ashridge

The season is nearly over at Ashridge: the centre, tea shop, shop and battery cars close at the end of October and will reopen at Easter 1997. The National Trust Shop will however be open for Christmas shopping from late November to early December.

It has been a successful season, particularly for the education centre with some 2,000 children taking part and hopefully learning something of the countryside environment. The battery cars for the disabled have been well used and an appeal is currently in hand to provide another hard surface route through the forest for their use.

Repairs to the Bridgewater Monument have now been completed, paid for partly by grants from various conservation bodies. Unfortunately its closure through the summer has meant a loss of income for the Ashridge Estate.

It has been a wonderful year for butterflies with many varieties appearing and, in particular, the Silver-winged Fritillary after many years absence was seen on the Beacon. Also the rabbit population appears to have quadrupled but so far we have managed to keep them out of the garden!

A Reminder! The annual lecture will be given on Friday, 15th November at 8:00pm in the Welcome Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall by Anthony Hopkins, the well known broadcaster, musician and resident of Ashridge. Tickets, at £3 each, may be obtained from Barbara Brookfield.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



Our September meeting was unusual in that our speaker hopefully expected some audience participation and help during her musical entertainment. Mrs. Elton Barratt sang her way, with guitar accompaniment, through episodes in her

W.I. life and her many interests. These included cookery and basket making. She is obviously an expert at the latter craft and soon will be going to Canada to teach how to make a coracle. Amusing anecdotes interspersed the musical items and the evening finished with a cacophony of sound as members played drums, cymbals, triangles, maraccas, bells, tambourines and so on. Mrs. Blumson thanked her for an entertaining and amusing evening.

Two members had joined a party of W.I. visitors to the Imperial War Museum exhibition on evacuees and Mrs. Evans reported on a nostalgic, humbling and somewhat humiliating exhibition of the effects of war on young people.

A coffee morning had raised over £50 for our bursary fund. The draw for a bursary on a course at Denman College took place in October.

Our crime prevention representative, Mrs. Elphinstone, gave a report on her visit to the CCTV centre in Hemel Hempstead.

Our next meeting is on 20th November at 7:30pm in the Gable Hall, Price Edward Street. This will be our annual meeting. All are welcome to come and join and meet with friendly W.I. members.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

At our October meeting, our president, Joan Griffiths, welcomed 25 members and one visitor. After we had dealt with business matters, we were pleased to be introduced to our speaker, Mrs. Jean Archer, paying us a welcome return visit. She gave us a most interesting and amusing talk on the *History of the Chilterns*. We viewed beautiful slides of local villages ranging from flint-built cottages to the grand country houses including Chequers at Wendover.

A Group 7 Craft meeting at Little Gaddesden last month was a great success with four speakers talking to a packed hall.

On 1st November we hold our annual meeting attended by June Smith, county visitor, at the Court House in Berkhamsted at 2:00pm.



Let People Know What's Happening!

Are you planning an event? Or is there something you'd like to bring to people's attention? Then let us know and we'll include an item in the Review's Notes & Notices section. See the inside front cover for copy dates and contact details.

review registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

15 September	Jacob Henry Lewame
22 September	Isabel Bryony Davies

Blessing (*St Peter's*)

13 September	Elizabeth Charlton-Taylor and Richard Kent
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Funerals

2 September	Sydney Knight Duff	The Chilterns Crematorium
5 September	Margaret Elizabeth Lambert	The Chilterns Crematorium
6 September	Paul Jay	The Chilterns Crematorium
12 September	Olive Winifred Barlow	The Chilterns Crematorium
12 September	Kathleen Violet Fincham	All Saints' Church (Chilterns Crematorium)
18 September	Joyce da Cunha	St Peter's Church (Kingshill Cemetery)
20 September	Michael Lansdell Cotter	The Chilterns Crematorium
24 September	Gwyn Gibbons	The Chilterns Crematorium
25 September	Ronald John Walker	The Chilterns Crematorium
3 October	Elizabeth Margaret Bayliss	St Peter's Church (Chilterns Crematorium)

review diary

DECEMBER				
December 1996	1	1:15am	Choral Matins	<i>St Peter's</i>
	1	6:30pm	Advent Carol Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
	1	8:00pm	Concert - The London Concertante	<i>St Peter's</i>
	4	7:30pm	Alpha Course	<i>All Saints'</i>
	4	8-9pm	Advent Talk	<i>St Peter's, Lady Chapel</i>
	6	8:00am	Anglican/Methodist Joint prayers followed by breakfast	<i>All Saints'</i>
	10	10:00am	Coffee & goodies in the Lower Hall before...	
		10:30am	Pram Service with Travelling Crib	<i>All Saints'</i>
	10		Bishop Christopher's deanery visit followed by tea	<i>All Saints'</i>
	10		Choral Evensong to mark Bishop Christopher's Deanery visit	<i>St Peter's</i>
	12	8:00pm	Ecumenical Carol Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
	15	7:30pm	Berkhamsted School Carol Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
	16	9:15am	Victoria School Eucharist	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>

Diary dates for November appear on page 26.

reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

November 1996

NOVEMBER

1	8:00pm	All Saints' Day Patronal Festival: United Eucharistic Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
1	8:00pm	<i>The Making of Berkhamsted</i> - A Cowper Society production	<i>The Town Hall</i>
2	8:00am	Anglican/Methodist Joint prayers followed by breakfast	<i>All Saints'</i>
2	9:30am	All Souls' Day Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
6	7:30pm	Alpha Course	<i>All Saints'</i>
7		All Saints' Area Committee	
8		St Peter's Area Committee	
10	3:00pm	Royal British Legion Remembrance Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
12	10-11:30am	Anglican/Methodist women's coffee morning	<i>Lower Hall, All Saints'</i>
13	7:30pm	Alpha Course	<i>All Saints'</i>
16	8:00am	Ecumenical Breakfast followed by prayers	<i>Kings Rd Evangelical</i>
18	8:00pm	Cowper Society presents <i>Brief Lives</i> - an illustrated monologue	<i>The Court House</i>
19	8:00pm	Cowper Society presents <i>Brief Lives</i> - an illustrated monologue	<i>The Court House</i>
20	7:30pm	Alpha Course	<i>All Saints'</i>
20	8:00pm	Cowper Society presents <i>Brief Lives</i> - an illustrated monologue	<i>The Court House</i>
20	8-9pm	Advent Talk	<i>St Peter's, Lady Chapel</i>
23	7:30pm	<i>Sing Good News</i> -A Musical	<i>All Saints'</i>
24	6:30pm	<i>Sing Good News</i> -A Musical	<i>All Saints'</i>
26	10:00am	Coffee in the Lower Hall before...	<i>All Saints'</i>
	10:30am	Pram Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
27	7:30pm	Alpha Course	<i>All Saints'</i>
27	8-9pm	Advent Talk	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>

Advance diary dates for December appear on page 25.

SundaySchool

Churches

PCC 1996/7

Contacts

CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc. see back page). Parish Office in the Court House (sec: Jean Green, 878227) is usually open 9:30-5:30 Tues/Wed, 9:30-1pm Friday (ansaphone other times).

	<i>St Peters</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
Altar service	Keith Middleditch (862423)	Doug Billington (866038)
Chalice rota	Martin Macdonald (872002)	Doug Billington (866038)
Sunday school	Julie Kemp (872576)	Vivienne Bull (870921)
Youth activities	Carole Dell (864706)	Doug Billington (866038)
Church maintenance	John Cook (866278)	Mike Limbrick (863008)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (863241)	Jean Meyer (862648)
Flower arrangements	Gwen Beddall (862845)	John Banks (871195)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	Pam Rushton (864467)
Service recordings	Tony Blair (864660)	Ian McCalla (384574)
Intercessions	Rev. Mark Bonney (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	Joan Cook (866278)	John Banks (871195)
Electoral Roll	June Haile (873087)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	John Malcolm (874993)
Sidesmen	Christopher Green (863241)	John Banks (871195)
Social events	Angela Morris (866992)	Pam Rushton (864467)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Pam Rushton (864467)
Hospice contact	Beryl Langley (863692)	May Kempster (863037)



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Contacts

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Monday)
 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
 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, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227
 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

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 (1st Sun Rite B)
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with
 Sunday Schools (in the Court
 House) followed by coffee in
 the Court House.
 11.15am Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only)
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints')
Weekdays
 Holy Communion
 Wednesday 6.45am
 Thursday 11.00am
 Friday 9.15am
 Morning Prayer: Tues-Sat 7:30am
 Evening Prayer: Tues-Fri 5:30pm
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices
 Matins & Evensong said daily
Confessions: After Saturday Evening Prayer (5.00pm) or at other times by appointment.
Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals
 Please contact Father Mark Bonney.
Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 9 Kings Road. Tel: 863804

All Saints'

Organist: Mrs Valerie McCalla Tel: 384574 Choirmaster: Peter McMunn Tel: 874894
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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