

Berkhamsted *review*

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A Very Material
Fact

A Tour of
Rothschildshire

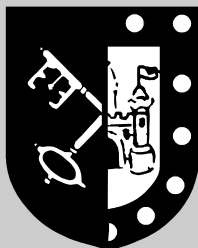
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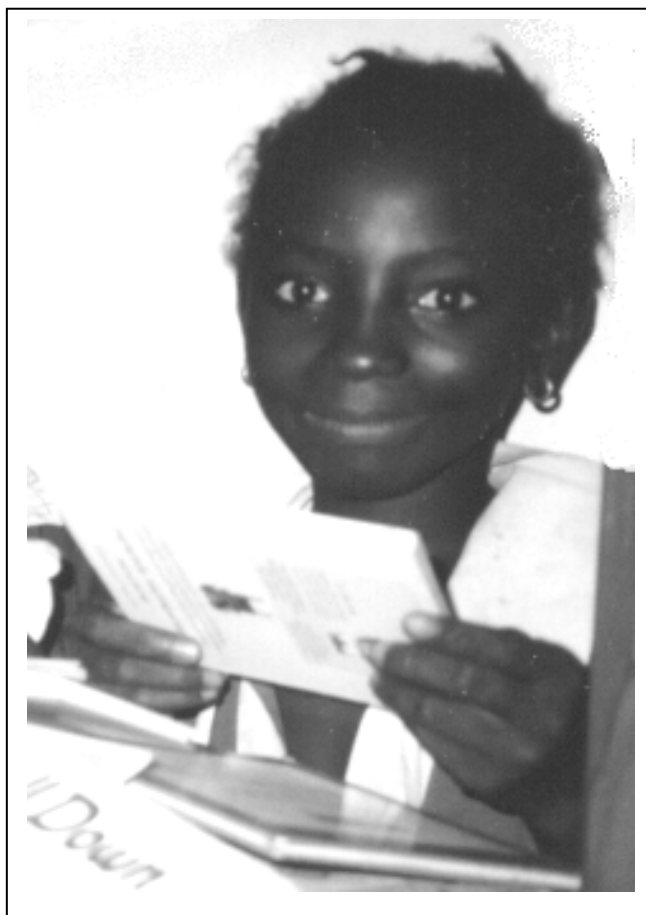
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Success

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December 1997



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the December issue of the *Review*.

For *your* magazine 1997 has been a bit like the curate's egg - good in parts. Indeed in some parts it has been very good: new contributors and new advertisers have come forward in encouraging numbers. The (slightly!) less good part is that we could do with *even more* of an increase in readers and more picture contributions.

The good news is that we shall be able to hold the price of the *Review* stable for yet another year. An annual subscription of £2.50 (a discount of one sixth on the full price of 25p per issue) represents unbeatable value. Just glance at the prices of all sorts of magazines in the newsagents.

The bad news is that subscriptions are now due. Please renew your subscription if you can - and if you don't have one already please take one out right away. Of course, if any of your friends and neighbours would like a regular copy then just let us know. Please give your money to your local distributor: if you don't know who that is, Daphne Montague (875320) will be able to tell you. Cheques should be made payable to the *Berkhamsted Review*.

Very many thanks for your support in the past year.
David Woodward

In this month's issue...

A very material fact

Fr Mark Bonney reminds us of a very material fact - in flesh and blood like ourselves God became a human being.

A tour of Rothschildshire

The impact of the famous Jewish family comes under the scrutiny of **John Cook**.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Liz Baxendale's illustrated poem tells an old story in a new way.

Berkhamsted on the Web

Local councillor **Norman Cutting** considers the benefits of putting Berkhamsted's attractions on the Web.

Advent waiting

Revd Peter Hart urges to 'do nothing' during Advent - the essence of 'waiting'.

Petertide success!

Good news from Tujereng in the Gambia brought by **Libby Grundy**.

... plus our regular features, readers' letters, notes & notices and diary dates.

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(1 December is a Monday; note copy date for March issue due to short month of

February)



***Fr Mark Bonney
reminds us of a
very material fact:
God became a
human being.***

To a degree I concur with that, but we have to be very careful exactly what we're saying. As we approach Christmas rampant materialism seduces most of us to a greater or lesser degree. We must beware before we start bewailing wicked materialism, because at the heart of Christmas lies a very material fact - in flesh and blood like ourselves God became a human being.

Therefore we have to be careful about using language that suggests that material things are wicked and evil. There is a danger of seeing 'spirituality' as somehow otherworldly and disconnected from material things. God becoming a human being, the Incarnation, shouts to us that the material world is a vehicle by which God reveals himself to us. In the Incarnation the spiritual and the material are without division - they are perfectly united. A proper view of God's word in creation and his word made flesh in Jesus Christ cannot allow us to see material things as spiritually insignificant. A separation of the material and the spiritual is easily done; it is the mistake of those who say the church should keep out of politics; it is the imbalance that has sometimes been seen in Christianity when the importance of art, music and beauty in buildings and worship has been denied.

The celebration of Christmas is about a God who is utterly and completely with us - with us in mind, body and spirit; with us in pain and sorrow as well as joy and

review leader

happiness, with us at work, at home and at play. He is a God who yearns for the coming to completeness of all that he has created. God became a human being so that human beings might share in the divine life. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem - and he desires to be born again in our hearts today - all he requires is for us to invite him to his own birthday party.

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Father Mark



*A Happy and
Joyous
Christmas
to all our
readers*



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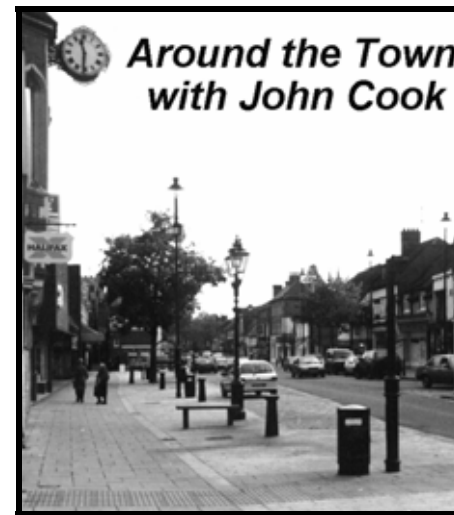
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Oldest Picture

As far as I know the earliest painting of Berkhamsted that still survives is a hunting scene. It is the one reproduced (in black and white) in Percy Birtchnell's book *A Short History of Berkhamsted*.

The picture was painted in the 17th century by Wycke the Younger from a vantage point in what are now the grounds of Ashlyns School. Some readers may remember when the painting was on the market a few years ago and featured in the national papers.

St Peter's Church, the old Rectory (not the present Old Rectory but the one before that), Berkhamsted School, Berkhamsted Place and the ruins of the castle (much more of them than exist today) can be picked out. In the foreground Wycke painted a pack of hounds and a gentleman holding up a hare.

Hunting

If the proposed legislation to abolish hunting were to go through, presumably our local packs of foxhounds and beagles would be destroyed, ending a long history of hunting hereabouts.

Apart from the fox and the hare, right into this century deer were hunted in this area, and the 'Borough' guide for Berkhamsted of 1903, reprints of which are on sale in the *Bookstack*, includes a

photograph of the Berkhamsted Staghounds. Did they come to an end in the First World War?

Deer - Fallow and Red

We still of course have several hundred fallow deer in and around Ashridge Park, but the stag hunt would have pursued the male red deer. Most of the local population of this species were rounded up in the 1920's and carted over to Richmond Park where their descendants still roam. The remainder were shot out in the 1930s and, it was alleged, fed to the Whipsnade lions.

For centuries the hunting of deer round about Berkhamsted was a much valued sport, particularly by royalty and the landed gentry. The Black Prince and many monarchs including Henry VIII right down to Edward VII hunted in Ashridge Park. In 1660 Charles II issued a Royal Warrant to counter the poaching of the deer in the Park and the surrounding country.

Rothschildshire

At a recent series of talks on the immensely rich and influential Rothschild family, the speaker said that the English branch of the family chose the Vale of Aylesbury for their country seats because of the good hunting hereabouts.

If you stand on Ivinghoe Beacon and look out north-westwards, much of what you see was at one time owned by the Rothschilds: great estates, each with a mansion in the middle set up high to give views out over good hunting country. Mentmore Towers is conspicuous; Ascott House can be seen on a clear day - more easily in the winter. Hidden behind trees or undulations are Tring Park and Halton, and somewhere halfway to the horizon the other side of Aylesbury is that fabulous jewel box, Waddesden Manor. Another, Aston Clinton, was demolished before the last war. All this area became nicknamed 'Rothschildshire'.

Berkhamsted was just outside Rothschildshire but Tring was in it. In

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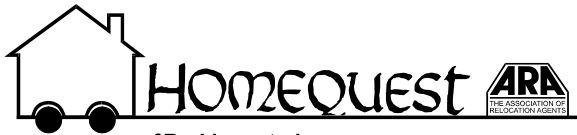
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Tring there is still much evidence of the family including of course the Rothschild Zoological Museum, as well as quite a few other examples of Rothschilds' distinctive architecture. More of this can be seen at Waddesden, a few miles further on along the A41. The principal inns in each of these places is in the Rothschild style, and a number of buildings have the family coat of arms on them.

At Waddesden the main pub is called the *Five Arrows Hotel* and its sign is a bunch of arrows on a red shield. This is the coat of arms adopted by the five German Jewish brothers from Frankfurt, each of whom in the early part of the last century settled in a different European country and who between them set up the international Rothschild banking empire.

The explanation of the design is simple: there is one arrow for each of the five brothers, and a red shield because that's what Rothschild means in German.

Baptist Spire

In last month's *Review* Patrick Lepper mentioned climbing the spire of Berkhamsted Baptist Church, then still clad in scaffolding. Now the scaffolding has been taken down and the spire exposed - restored, scrubbed shining bright and with a glistening weather vane in the shape of a fish on top.

When the church was opened in 1865 the *Hemel Hempstead Gazette* referred to its 'light and graceful stone spire'. A century later the Hertfordshire volume of the Penguin *Buildings of England* series called the spire ugly. I would prefer to say it is interesting. Our High Street would surely be the poorer without it, particularly now it has been so nicely smartened up.

In a way it is surprising to find such an elaborate structure in the gothic style on a Baptists' place of worship. Spurgeon, perhaps the most famous of Baptist preachers, greatly disliked gothic architecture for Baptist churches because

he thought it did not properly reflect the nature of the worship inside. He made sure that his preaching house at the Elephant and Castle which became known as Spurgeon's Tabernacle was not gothic but classical. But Berkhamsted is by no means alone in having a Baptist church with a spire.

Butterfield, the notable architect who restored St Peter's soon after the Baptist church was built, was involved only once himself in the design of a Baptist chapel. Afterwards he said he regretted having built what he called a 'schism shop'. Anyway, I think our Baptist church is more interesting than some of Butterfield's rather dull restorations.

Ex-Berkhamsted Clergy

It is always a pleasant surprise to come across a reference to Berkhamsted somewhere outside the Town. Looking round St Nicholas's Church, Stevenage, in the summer I noticed that in the list of rectors in the 13th century one was called William de Berkhamsted.

About the same time a John de Berkhamsted was Abbot of St Albans Abbey (1290-1302). Over two centuries later another Berkhamsted priest, Johannes de Berkhamsted, became Rector of Ashridge College when it was still a monastery. He resigned in 1521.

I should be interested to hear of any similar references to sons (or daughters) of Berkhamsted.

Home and Colonial

I have lost count of the number of people who have pointed out that, contrary to what I said in last month's *Review*, the antique shop calling itself *The Home and Colonial* is not where the grocer's of the same name used to be, but two shops along. Mrs Beryl Arnot, a life-long resident, writes to say she is really angry with me for the mistake. My carelessness. Sorry about that! ❖

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In June 1996 the Petertide Fair raised £2,500 to set up a library in a Gambian village. In October that year, after lengthy discussions with the elders of the village, a building within the primary school was designated for the library. At that stage the 'room' had four walls and a tin roof, but not much else....

It was truly wonderful when I was in Tujereng in early November to see the library completed, furnished and equipped with books and in full use by both the children of the school and the adults in the village. Most of the books in the library at present are second-hand ones which have been shipped out from England, with the most unlikely titles (from a guide to Windsor Castle to a crumbling copy of *Oliver Twist*!) being handled with a reverential respect. There did seem to be something rather incongruous about barefooted Gambian children leafing through *Henry*

petertide success!

The proceeds of the 1996 Petertide Fair are being put to good use in the Gambia. **Libby Grundy** brings us up to date.



the Green Engine and *Postman Pat*! Perhaps the content mattered less than the great excitement of being able to go home with a book in their hand. It was marvellous, too, to see a steady stream of adults come into the library and use it as a place to sit quietly and read. The teachers of the school also use the room for workshops and meetings.

The villagers are delighted with the success of the project and are keen for it to flourish. They want to be able to send the librarian, currently a dedicated volunteer, on a three month training course and pay him a monthly salary of £30. They are hoping to be able to use solar lamps to enable the library to stay open in the evening.

At the outset, the aim of this Petertide Fair project was to bring books to the people of Tujereng. It was both exciting and rewarding to see how successfully this aim had been met. ❖



Many thanks to everyone who responded to my appeal for second-hand spectacles. If anyone would like to contribute to the Tujereng Hertfordshire link project, there is an ongoing need for basic medicines (paracetamol etc), soap, candles, T-shirts and, of course, books! I would love to hear from you! We are arranging shipments to the Gambia two or three times a year. I can be reached on 875814.

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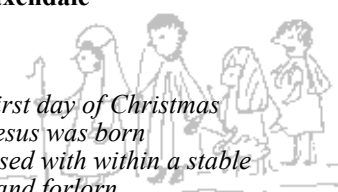
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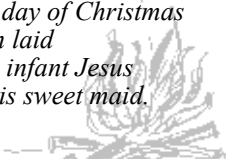


By Liz Baxendale

Legends for The Twelve Days of Christmas




*On the first day of Christmas
Christ Jesus was born
And housed with within a stable
So cold and forlorn.*



*On the third day of Christmas
A fire Joseph laid
To warm the infant Jesus
And Mary, his sweet maid.*


*On the fifth day of Christmas
That bird so dull and brown
Found his own plump little breast
Covered in scarlet down.*



*On the seventh day of Christmas
Those shrubs of dark green hue
Were covered on each spiky stem
With flowers of palest blue.*

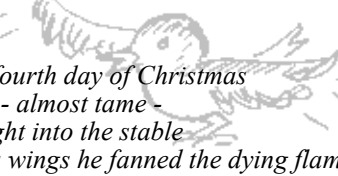
*On the ninth day of Christmas
A poor child crept around,
She had no gift to give him -
Only white flowers she had found.*

*On the eleventh day of Christmas
As twilight closed the day
A silver star appeared, to hang
Over where the Baby lay.*

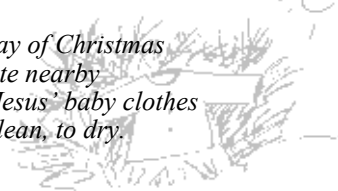


*And so we'll sing of shepherds,
Send cards with robins red,
Bedeck our homes with evergreens,
Lay gifts by children's beds.*

*On the second day of Christmas
Shepherds left flock and fold
To find the tiny baby
Of whom the angels told.*




*On the fourth day of Christmas
A robin - almost tame -
Flew right into the stable
With his wings he fanned the dying flame.*



*On the sixth day of Christmas
On bushes quite nearby
Mary spread Jesus' baby clothes
Washed and clean, to dry.*

*On the eighth day of Christmas
Many smiled to see
Children bringing presents
For the Babe upon her knee.*



*On the tenth day of Christmas
Mary carried Jesus out
To see the Christmas Roses
Which had sprung up round about.*

*On the twelfth day of Christmas
Rich and kinglike strangers
Bearing gold, incense and myrrh
Came to Jesus' manger*

*Hang up the twinkling tinsel,
Greet friends - and like wisemen,
We'll see that shining star of Hope
And find Bethlehem again.*

Illustrations: Liz Baxendale



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I love Christmas. To me it is the culmination of the year - a family time - but I have to admit I don't like all the stress of getting ready for the great occasion. Nowadays it is not only a horribly expensive time, but a time of great anxiety. 'Should I get that?' 'Will he like that?' 'Perhaps this year I should try so-and-so?'

But in the end it is always much the same.

All families have their own traditions which vary over the years as the children grow up and have children of their own. I have noticed that in our family they seem to have similar traditions with slight variations. There is the excitement of wrapping up the presents and getting the Christmas cards off in time. On Christmas Eve we are hectic with the final arrangements. Some of us go to the midnight service, which always seems to have a special magic of its own. I remember taking up the pillow cases for the children, leaving it as late as possible so that they would be, hopefully, fast asleep. Then the door would creak and we'd dissolve into hysterical giggles, hurriedly stifled, before we could put them at the foot of each bed. The yells next morning of 'He's been!' at about 5am, and we,

Christmas comes but once a year...

How do you celebrate Christmas? For **Vera Pullen** nothing but traditional festivity will do.

bleary eyed, trying to sound as enthusiastic as the children.

Nowadays we put all the presents round the Christmas tree and, after breakfast, we retire to the sitting room where the youngsters hand out the presents and we take turns in open them with suitable cries of 'Super', 'Just what I wanted' and so on. A wonderful time

- and we're all so very lucky - and for a moment we think of those who are not lucky enough to have families to celebrate with.

After lunch it is part of the tradition to go for a good walk, suitably clad and whatever the weather. All our family are great walkers and to come home as it is getting dark to a warm house, to see the Christmas tree lit up and the decorations shining is just wonderful. Later, after the Christmas dinner, we are ready for games, an old favourite being charades. Personally I have no histrionic gifts, but many of our family come into their own on such occasions and we really do have an hilarious time.

It is interesting to see that though our grandchildren are now grown up they still want a traditional family Christmas. So we wish you and your families, wherever you may be, a really happy Christmas with every good wish for the New Year.



Our World

Rebecca Gladstone
(aged 11)

*Love and kindness is all a world needs
Why bother with money when we have seeds?*

*Seeds of life
Seeds of growth*

Love and kindness is all a world needs.

*We live on a ball tied onto a string
Like a bead on a necklace to our Lord and King.*

House Martins

Ida and Ron Rance write:

With reference to Richard Mabey and Stuart Downhill's observations regarding house martins or the lack of them in the town this year, we hasten to inform these gentlemen that at least two broods of house martins were raised at 11 Egerton Road this summer!

In the spring of 1988 we decided to encourage house martins to breed by providing them with a ready-made home and erected two artificial nests. To our great joy and delight house martins bred that year and have done so ever since.

We sincerely hope that Stuart Downhill's prediction that this year's birds will be the last to grace our town is proved wrong as it will be a sad day for us when these delightful birds no longer return from Africa to share the summer with us.

We promise to let Mr Downhill know if they return next summer and we are sorry that we did not see his letter in the Gazette this year asking for news of house martin nests in Berkhamsted.

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Christmas Lights

Ron Cowie, chairman of Berkhamsted Chamber of Commerce, writes:

I have seen Norman Cutting's *Cutting Comments* in your October issue, and I must say that his comments on the Christmas lights lived up to the title of the column.

Not only was the article insulting to the Chamber of Commerce and to the many members of the public who helped with the lights, but it was full of inaccuracies, and where it did get the facts right, they were slanted in such a way as to make the Chamber appear in a bad light.

The truth is that, after the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted sustained a loss on the running of the lights a few years ago, the newly reformed Chamber took on the job. The previous town council had made a grant of £1000 towards the costs, which the present council cut to £500 in 1995, and cut again to a derisory £250 last year, despite the fact that the Chamber had made a loss on the event in those years.

Contrary to Cllr Cutting's remarks, the Chamber has had nothing but good relations with Dacorum borough council on this and all other matters. It is the town council who certainly give at least the appearance of being obstructive. They repeatedly asked us to provide them with information we had already given them, and they had all the information necessary to protect the town's money.

These negotiations had been unnecessarily delayed by the town council's nit-picking attitude, and things were not improved by a town councillor publicly shouting abuse at one of our members when he was up a lamp-post erecting the lights.

As a result of the town council's continually wanting to 'consult' about the lights, while at the same time being unwilling to actually *do* anything to help over a period of a year and a half, the Chamber's

committee decided to tell them that we would not organise the lights in future, but would be prepared to continue with the fund raising and publicity.

Cllr Cutting's account of the events leading up to this position is at best one-sided, and at worst insulting to a group of unpaid volunteers, whose only object was to ensure that the town actually *had* some lights at Christmas.

Subsequently, a group of town councillors, of which Cllr Cutting was one, met with the Chamber to discuss how the lights be organised for the future. The meetings took place in an atmosphere of friendliness and co-operation between responsible people, or so we thought. For Cllr Cutting to write as he did, in addition to the actions of certain town councillors, has made it very difficult to persuade busy Chamber members to give up time to help the town.

It is nonsense for Cllr Cutting to claim that the town council is not getting involved because of the tendering process. Had they started when they could have done there would have been plenty of time.

The Chamber of Commerce has an excellent record and reputation for its work for the town, which it fully intends to continue. Whether that includes the lights or not is up to the town council. Despite all of this, we are still fund-raising for the lights this year, as we do not feel it right to penalise the people of Berkhamsted.

*Berkhamsted & District Chamber of
Commerce, 225 High Street,
Berkhamsted HP4 1AB*

The October meeting of the PCC enjoyed a diverse range of subjects tabled for discussion.



The subject of stewardship was aired, with the meeting learning that there had been an increase in stewardship giving of only 2.9% for the current year to date, compared to a target of 7.4% needed to maintain our current financial commitments and outward giving. The council heard that if this did not improve over the remainder of the year we would see a shortfall of some £3,500 at the end of the year. It was noted that while over the past three years we had just kept pace with inflation, we are facing increasing expenses over and above this due to higher diocesan contributions.

On a different theme, the council agreed to co-ordinate host families for a visit in the new year by a group of children from Chernobyl, funded via the Chernobyl Children Life Line by part of the proceeds from the 1997 Petertide Fair.

Christina Billington, the newly appointed parish youth worker, reported and encouraging start with group activities in the parish involving Anglicans and Methodists. Chris gratefully acknowledged that help was coming forward to help in the role. She would be particularly keen to hear from teenagers in the 13+ age group interested in taking part in activities.

Chris Smalley



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Professor Stephen Hawking and I have something in common. We both supervise postgraduate students from many countries - he as the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, a post formerly held by Isaac Newton; I as the manager of the M.A. in Export Mar-

keting Management, at Buckinghamshire College Business School, a post formerly held by someone whose name I can't remember. There the resemblance ends. My responsibilities are different from those of Stephen Hawking, as the following account of a day in the life of a course manager will show.

I arrived to find a message from a young female Greek student who had appeared the previous evening, a week after the programme began. In the meantime we had assumed she had withdrawn from the course and, since accommodation at the Business School is in short supply, her room had quite reasonably been allocated to someone else. She and her mother, who accompanied her, had fled, taking refuge in a London hotel. Our campus manager, whose

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COURSE MANAGER

Only a false moustache
separates regular contributor
Stephen Halliday from
Professor Stephen Hawking.

saintly patience in these trying times is a source of constant wonder to us all, managed to find another room on campus and the girl, with her mother, was induced to return. In the meantime I have found out about another room, which no-one knows about,

which I am keeping up my sleeve.

In the meantime the fax machine has been churning out messages from St Petersburg, explaining that two Russian students who should have joined the course are having difficulty getting visas and aren't sure about how they should pay us the fees or obtain health insurance. A call to our finance section puts me in touch with a nice lady called Helen who explains to me the mysteries of international money transfer. As a contingency I devise my own alternative plan involving brown envelopes, large denomination notes and false moustaches. I also know more about Russian health insurance than I ever wanted to know and I have a fine false moustache. I also despatch a diplomatic message to the British consul in St Petersburg asking him to get a move on. I

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then despatch four identical messages, to four different fax numbers, since I quickly learn that faxes to Russia have about a twenty-five per cent chance of getting through.

A group of students then approach me and explain that, in the building where our postgraduate students are based, the lavatory is blocked and the heating doesn't work. I learn from our much-harassed maintenance department that the boiler will be replaced in about a week's time and in the meantime I put out an e-mail to colleagues asking for the loan of electric heaters. This gets a quick response and I travel around the campus collecting three heaters which return the bungalow to temperate conditions. I draw the line at unblocking the lavatory. Although I am an expert on sewage I only know about the Victorian kind and the blockage appears to be caused by something later than 1900 (though possibly not much later). A plumber appears, equipped with sinister looking poles and plungers and normal service is restored.

The next crisis involves the library. Some delay has occurred in entering something on a computer somewhere, as a result of which none of my students can borrow books. The students are highly motivated and anxious to get stuck into their first assignment and I am equally anxious to maintain this state of mind. I meet the students in the library. They choose the books they need. I go to the desk. The books are taken out by me, in my name, on my ticket. The librarians watch with disbelief as the number of books I am apparently taking out mounts

to an unheard-of level. I stagger out of the library and distribute the books among the students along with explicit threats about what will happen to them if they are returned late. I console myself with the thought that, by the time the head librarian finds out what I have been up to, the computer problem will have been resolved and the students will be able to take out books themselves. As you will have realised, I am by nature an optimist.

During all this I am being followed round the campus by a charming young student from Thailand who wishes to join my course - which is full, with standing room only. Otherwise she may go back to Thailand. She understands and writes English very well but her accent is impenetrable. However with much use of sign-language and benign smiles she eventually wears me down. Finally a very pleasant young French student comes to see me almost in tears. She is in temporary accommodation and can't get any sleep because of the noisy students next door who resist all attempts at persuasion. I ascertain that no other campus accommodation is available so I adopt a most unconventional solution over which discretion obliges me to maintain a veil of secrecy for fear of getting myself and others into trouble.

I started the week with twenty-one students and I now have twenty-three, with two others on the way. They are all housed, warm, working and able to use the lavatory without causing a flood. A successful week, though not, I suspect, much like Stephen Hawking's. I wonder what next week will bring.



*We wish you a happy and
prosperous New Year*

As chairman of the finance and policy committee, a lot of my time is being taken up by balancing the routine needs of the council, the aspirations of various councillors and trying to foretell just how much money we should be spending, or setting aside, to meet the aspirations of townsfolk. I have been on a couple of courses recently to help me help your council help you.

The first was LAUTRAC 97 concerned primarily with waste and recycling although several fringe meetings were going on at the same time. One I attended was concerned with how to promote the activities of local government by making best use of the media including newspapers and the Internet.

The use of the Internet was demonstrated by going on-line to various sites. The speaker, Penny Pitty, showed how a badly designed site could easily put people off (Ashlyns School take note). One of the delegates brought up his own council's web-site to show how they got involved. It seems that the council employed a contractor to produce a publicity leaflet for the re-cycling scheme

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor
Norman Cutting on the merits
of the World Wide Web.

they were about to intro-duce. The contractor said that he was about to expand his business to start publishing on the net, offered to place this publication on the Internet for *free*. This was done. It was found that since going on line at the end of 1996, over 25,000 people had accessed the site, 37% of which were based in the UK, the rest being from all over the world. It was suggested that although the cost was small in actually buying space, it would be money well spent to have the site properly prepared and updated on a regular basis.

As far as Dacorum and Berkhamsted are concerned, the obvious use would be to promote tourism, and make available other already printed material, such as who does what, when and where. Possibly committee agendas and reports could be included; indeed, anything that needs to be communicated to the outside world. Several members of the council consider that a few bob spent on looking into this could be money well spent. We shall see. The most recent course I attended concerned the devolution of power back to local government. On this course was a

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councillor from Tring and during our 'chats' we compared ideas on the subject of attracting visitors to the area. The Internet was seen as a good, cheap way of getting the ball rolling. I did suggest that perhaps we ought to get together with places such as Aldbury and Ashridge and have a visitor area on the web for the Tring, Berkhamsted, Ashridge triangle. I hope this will be investigated further and I will try to keep you posted, unless you want to help, of course, when I would be pleased to hear from you.

Meanwhile, nearer to home, with the weather changing by the week, salt bins are high on the agenda of county, borough and town/parish councils. You will have read in the local press that county have decided to remove the roadside salt bins throughout the county to save £50,000 each year and offered local councils 'the opportunity to take on the provision of this service'. The borough works committee decided that, because it was believed that as a fair amount of the salt was used for residents own private drives and not as intended, county could take their bins away. The cost to the borough council is estimated as between £4,000 and £8,000 for the 70 odd bins concerned. The matter has now been considered by a number of towns/parish councils with some accepting 'one fill' per year and some agreeing with the borough. As usual, Berkhamsted has a meeting to discuss the matter three days after the deadline for this issue. I will gaze into my crystal ball and tell you what I think (after all, that's why you are reading this column, isn't it?). County have

suggested a cost of £100 per year per bin, which includes four refills a year. We have to obtain the salt from the county depot at Kings Langley, cart it back to Berkhamsted and go to the 20 odd bins scattered around the town and refill as necessary. Presumably, we then take the excess back to Kings Langley? I'm not sure it is worth it as borough will continue with the existing highway salting scheme. This ensures we can get about on those few days of the year which the bins are designed for, unless you live in a cul-de-sac or one of the rare flat residential areas not on a bus route. Unless we provide bins to cover every unsalted road, we have to draw a line somewhere.

Perhaps a word or two about the principles connected with this would be in order. Town and parish councils all over the country are looking to take on more responsibility, but we need a level playing field. This is being imposed on us rather than we asking to provide a service that we consider can be provided better locally. It costs you, the ratepayer, more for your town council to provide this sort of service than county. Why? Because national government provides funds which go towards the provision of this service, which are not passed on so the full cost falls on you!

Finally, as my readership has now reached double figures (just), may I wish you all a merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and hope to keep you informed as well as entertained over the coming year by the topics your council discusses.



Make a Resolution...

...for the New Year, and join our regular contributors by writing an article, a poem, or a letter for the *Review*, your magazine. We look for a broad range of items to include each month, ranging from church to secular, serious to light-hearted. And do let us have your interesting photographs, drawings and illustrations - maybe of historical interest, or bang up to date photos of current events and aspects in our town. We'll treat all material carefully and return it to you (an SAE is appreciated). Contact details are inside the front cover - *over to you!*



reviewnorthchurch

Revd Peter Hart
explains why
Advent is a
season of
waiting.

Of all the church's seasons, Advent is frequently the one time of the year when objections are raised to its discipline. 'Why should we take all the flowers out of church?' 'What's wrong with singing the *Gloria* during early December?' 'What's with all this talk of judgement, when we are preparing for the coming of Christ?' The answers that are frequently given in response are equally unhelpful: 'Because that is the church's tradition', or 'A little talk of judgement never did us any harm...', as if a regular dose of hair-shirt religion were a requirement prior to a season of great celebration.

Advent is not a time of waiting for the coming of Christ the baby, but of Christ the king of glory, the judge of all the earth. Judgement is of necessity the major theme of Advent. If we are considering judgement, then we should be solemn, and self-critical, for we are to be judged, just as much as our neighbour. It is from this theme of judgement that all the other components of Advent flow, for the church has been waiting for the coming of Christ in glory since its inception. Indeed, the early church lived in the imminent expectation of Christ's triumphal return, and, in the case of the church at Thessalonica, neglected all other parts of their social and family responsibilities in their eagerness for this promised event. They had to be seriously upbraided for their unbalanced view of God's timetable, which sought to put a human time-scale onto a divine initiative.

Advent is a time to redress the balance which so easily goes in the opposite

direction the studious ignoring of any reference to the second coming of Christ. It is a time to think seriously about what it means to us as individual Christians, and as a church, that this world is not simply going to continue blithely on its way, that God's kingdom will be fully established one day by God's direct intervention, and that judgement for past conduct awaits us all. Our problem is not necessarily with the notion of judgement, but with the waiting process.

In our culture, waiting has been identified as a social wrong, in whatever form it comes. Therefore, the length of NHS waiting lists are a yardstick of performance, the Post Office issues a 'Charter Statement' that it is committed to no-one waiting more than five minutes to be served, and railway operators apologise profusely at the slightest delay of a train. This impatience is curious amongst a nation viewed as instinctive queue-formers by the rest of the world. What has happened?

The major change has been the stigmatisation of idleness, of 'doing nothing'. Our culture has become a culture of movement, of systematic activity, be that work-related or leisure. We have come to look down on inactivity. Advent cuts directly across this mind-set, as it calls for space to be set aside for us to watch and to wait. This can come as a shock to us, especially as other seasonal distractions demand frantic activity and preparation. It would be good, therefore, if in this holy season of Advent, we could at least ask of God's Holy Spirit the grace to watch and wait, so that in the future we can truly do both, even if this Advent we fail ignominiously. Only the Holy Spirit can change our attitudes so that we can be relaxed about waiting on God, whatever the timescale involved. ❖

OUTREACH EVENTS

The Association of Berkhamsted Churches is promoting two evangelistic outreach events. An ecumenical carol service will be held in St Peter's on Thursday, 11th December at 7:45pm at which David Coffey, the president of the Baptist Union, will give addresses. Well-known carols will be sung with the good news of Christmas clearly preached.

Next year the well known evangelist, Luis Palau, is speaking at the Centenary Hall at 8:00pm on Monday, 9th March. In advance of this mission event there are two preparation evenings: Sunday, 11th January at 8:00pm at All Saints' with the Revd Bob Frost, and Sunday, 15th February at 8:00pm at St Peter's with the Bishop of Hertford. Fr Stephen Cottrell of the Archbishop's Group for Evangelism will provide a follow up on Sunday, 15th March at 8:00pm at St Peter's.

All are welcome - and bring a friend to the main mission events.

HELP WANTED

The Christian Aid fair will be held between 9:00am and 12noon on Saturday, 6th December in the Court House. Offers of cakes, groceries, toiletries and suitable gifts are urgently needed. Please contact Muriel Johnson (866447) or Ted

Lewis (864352) if you can help. Collection can be arranged. Please support the fair on 6th December if you can.

THE MOTHERS' UNION



At our October meeting, Fr Stephen presided over an informal communion service. We were able to imagine that we were members of the early Church with all difficulties and dangers of attending the Eucharist during the time of persecution. I think we all appreciated his presentation which added greatly to our understanding of the primitive gospel.

By the time you read this we shall have had a discussion about euthanasia and will be planning to celebrate Advent with the service of light.

Once again we are organising a travelling crib in both churches. This is the first year that Mary, Joseph and the donkey will have left St Peter's and All Saints' churches on Advent Sunday to journey around the parish and return on Christmas Eve for the crib service. A total of 48 families will be visited.

Don't forget that we have a monthly prayer meeting. If you have any family concerns for our prayers do contact any M.U. member or myself.

Jenny Wells



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CAROLS FOR THE HOSPICE

On Monday, 22nd December at 6:30pm in the Old Town Hall in Berkhamsted (next to Boots) there will be a carol service in aid of St Francis' hospice. Tickets are £1.50 from the *Way Inn* or 31 Beech Drive (876024). The Hemel Hempstead Salvation Army band will provide the music and Commissioner Dinsdale Pender of the Army will be the compere. Other guests will take part. Please come and support this popular event. Buy your tickets in advance as seating priority is given to ticket holders and capacity is limited. For further information please ring Lieutenant Stephen Poxon on 876024.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

We would like to thank all who came to support the Leprosy Mission coffee morning on 8th November in All Saints' hall. Our thanks are also due to those who gave their time to help. The money raised was:

Stall & donations	£112
Box opening	£71
TLM goods	£300 approx.

Meg Harper & May Kempster

TUESDAY CLUB

Delve into your wardrobes for your party dresses in readiness for 2nd December when we start the month in high spirits. Please note the earlier time of 7:00pm and bring a brain and pencil duly sharpened. Be prepared to enjoy the evening!

Thelma Harris

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

**Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead
2nd December 1997 6:00-8:00pm**

For many years the Dacorum Volunteer Bureau has co-ordinated this event, arranging help with transport, volunteer wheelchair pushers, and entertainment for the evening.. Last year around 250 special shoppers booked their evening out through the bureau and many others came along to the shops with friends and relatives. They all had a great time! For many elderly people this may be the first time they have been to the shops in months.

Free transport and wheelchairs are available if booked in advance. Please phone the Christmas hotline on 214734.

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MONTEVERDI'S *VESPERS* OF 1610

The Chiltern Chamber Choir, twenty-one years old in the summer, is preparing once again to present the now traditional Christmas concert in St Peter's Church on Tuesday, 23rd December. This will be presented, as usual, by candlelight, which certainly helps to create the expectant, exciting atmosphere associated with Christmas.

This year, the Choir will be presenting the *Vespers of 1610*, written by Claudio Monteverdi. The work is generally regarded as one of the greatest and richest pieces of the late Renaissance / early Baroque period. It comprises choral writing on both a large and small scale, some splendid and some very demanding vocal solo movements and some exciting instrumental writing, which also makes great demands on the players.

The Choir will be accompanied by a 'baroque' orchestra, led by the distinguished violinist, Stuart James, and the exacting tenor solo parts will be sung by Kevin McLean-Mair and Mark Anderson. Other solo parts will be sung by several very accomplished members of the Choir. The performance will be directed by Adrian Davis.

Tickets are available from The Bookstack, members of the Choir and at the door on the night of the performance. Early booking is advised, since the Christmas concerts given by the Chiltern Chamber Choir have proved to be extremely popular.

DACORUM U3A (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a national network of self-help groups offering a wide variety of educational and creative opportunities for retired or semi-retired people from all walks of life. No formal qualifications are required.

Men and women with a lifetime of experience, expertise and know-how in occupations, professions or through hobbies are encouraged to form study groups and share the knowledge with fellow members.

Dacorum U3A was started in 1991 with 40 members and now has over 500. At the present time there are more than 45 interest groups ranging alphabetically from antiques to world religions. A general meeting with lectures by guest speakers is held (during the day) usually on the first Monday of the month in either Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted or Tring.

For further information please contact Hemel Hempstead 211289.

CAN YOU HELP BASE, HOMELESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM?

Base provide a valuable service giving advice, support, advocacy and training to young homeless people in Dacorum and St Albans. We often have offers of furniture, but sadly have to turn these down due to lack of transport and storage. Do you have a van or estate car and would be willing to help move furniture on an occasional basis? Or do you have an empty garage or store room where we could keep items of furniture?

We are also having a street collection in Marlowes, Hemel, on Friday 12th December. Are you able to give one hour to shake a tin between 9:00am and 5:00pm?

We'd love to hear from you, any help would be most appreciated.

Call Ruth Knight, Base Co-ordinator, on 219121.

RNLI GOLDEN JUBILEE APPEAL AUTUMN UPDATE

With the appeal now well into its tenth month we are sure that you would like to know how we are progressing. To date the fund now stands at £14,113, leaving us only £5,867 to reach our target of £20,000. Now that we are within sight of our target we must decide on a name for the boat! Any suggestions please to Courtney Edenborough as soon as possible; all will be very welcome.

In our efforts to equal the boat's weight in small change donations we have so far raised £3,103, equal to 103kg out of 338kg. Thank you for all your small change.

The coffee mornings went well and this helped with selling draw tickets. The final amount raised by the draw was £2,000. The draw was a great success and we raised an additional £410 on the day. All was masterminded by Juliet Rinkel.

The car boot sale brought in £108 (mainly in 20p and 50p pieces). It was hard work by all concerned and was organised by Margaret Hatcher.

The bridge drive held at Berkhamsted Golf Club raised £502. Thank you all very much.

The Raymond Baxter 'Magic Lantern' show was excellent and gave us a very interesting insight into an historical event. We made just over £500 on this event - thank you for your support.

Other big attractions were the auction at Little Gaddesden on 8th November and the barn dance on the same day in the evening at Potten End Village Hall. Figures for funds raised are not yet available

We have been given permission to collect at Waitrose on the weekend of the 5/6th December. Each day we will be there from about 8:30am to closing time so we are looking for volunteers to help us cover those times.

If you can think of anything else that will raise money please let us know *or do it and send us the money.*

Any thoughts, ideas or contributions to Evelyn Ford (864561) or Courtney Edenborough (865545).

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



There was a great deal of laughter at our October meeting when Mrs Rose Bannister's talk on *Did I say that?* was full of hints on how to be good public speaker.

There were amusing anecdotes of incidents that have occurred in her long career of public speaking at institute meetings in Hertfordshire and tutoring courses at Denman College. She also had a wealth of stories from elsewhere in the UK and abroad. One amusing query before she started speaking at a meeting was, 'Would you like to speak

now, or shall I tell them to carry on enjoying themselves?'

Mrs Jill Blumsom and Mrs Joan Goode received spoons having gained 12 points in the monthly competitions. Mrs Nicky Evans reported on visits to the Hertfordshire waste disposal units at Hertingfordbury. Other members have joined with Felden and Little Gaddesden institutes as they celebrated the birthdays. Mrs Daphne Brookes reported on homecraft miscellany day at Hitchin where everyone enjoyed a series of talks, exhibitions of craft and entries from the county in the group challenge cup competition. Mrs Jean Gale told of her recent trip to Paris with her husband, which she had won as first prize in a nationwide competition about herbs.

Nominations for committee members for next year were handed in and arrangements made for our festive fair on 8th November. Our next meeting is on 10th December at 7:30pm in The Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street. This will be a *Celebration of Christmas*.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

At our annual meeting held on 7th November our president Liz Baxendale opened by welcoming members and one visitor. She sadly had to advise us of the deaths of two well loved members, Eunice Willett and Jane Coull. May they rest in peace.

We were pleased to be introduced to Nathalie Farmer, county vice chairman of Hertfordshire Federal W.I. who presided over the election for the branch present at which Liz Baxendale was re-elected for a further year.

During the business part of the meeting reports were given by the treasurer, secretary and president reminding us of the excellent speakers we have had during the year, and other activities and outings in which we joined with other members in Group 7.

On 5th December Janet Naylor will be entertaining us with Verse and Worse at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm.

You are never alone with the W.I. - do pay as a visit and bring a friend.

NORTHCHURCH W.I.

The Northchurch W.I. members enjoyed their outing to Saffron Walden for lunch and thence to Audley End House and garden. The weather was kind and there was much of interest to be explored.

The Revd B Driver was our speaker this month and instructed members in the art of watercolour painting. By drying the paint in

intermediate stages with a hand-held hair dryer he soon had a seascape with cliffs and rocks, and then a winter scene at Rickmansworth Aquadrome. He made it look so easy! He gave advice on what paper and colours to buy to 'have a go'.

Visitors are very welcome to our meeting on the second Monday in the month at 7:45pm in the social centre, Bell Lane.



Christmas and the New Year

SUNDAY

21 Dec 8:00am
8:00am
9:15am

ADVENT 4

Eucharist *St Peter's*
Eucharist *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist with Children's Nativity, Crèche, Sunday School, Pathfinders *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Crèche, Sunday School, Pathfinders *St Peter's*

WEDNESDAY

24 Dec 6:45am
4:00pm
11:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Eucharist *St Peter's*
Crib Services *St Peter's & All Saints'*
The Procession to the Crib & Midnight Mass of Christmas *St Peter's*

THURSDAY

25 Dec 8:00am
8:00am
9:15am
9:30am
11:30am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Eucharist *St Peter's*
Eucharist *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist *St Peter's*
Eucharist (BCP) *St Peter's*

SUNDAY

28 Dec 8:00am
8:00am
9:15am
9:30am
6:00pm

HOLY INNOCENTS

Eucharist *St Peter's*
Eucharist *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist *All Saints'*
Sung Eucharist *St Peter's*
Evensong & Sermon *St Peter's*

WEDNESDAY

31 Dec

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The bells will ring out the old year - and ring in the new year.

reviewdiary®isters

There is Eucharist every Tuesday (9:30am) at All Saint's and every Wednesday (6:45am), Thursday (11:00am) and Friday (9:15am) at St Peter's. At St Peter's there is 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:30pm Evening Prayer every weekday and 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:00pm Evening Prayer on Saturdays.

Advent to Epiphany

NOVEMBER

30	8:00am	Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
	8:00am	Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
	9:15am	Sung Eucharist, Crèche, Sunday School and Pathfinders	<i>All Saints'</i>
	9:30am	Sung Eucharist, Crèche, Sunday School and Pathfinders. Preacher: The Revd Philip Tait	<i>St Peter's</i>
	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service	<i>All Saints'</i>

DECEMBER

5	10:00am	<i>Little Fishes</i> Pram Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
6	7:30pm	Performance of Vaughn Williams <i>Fantasia on Christmas Carols</i> & more - New Purcell Singers	<i>St Peter's</i>
9	10:00am	'Christmas' Pram Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
11	8:00pm	Ecumenical Carol Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
12		P.C.C.	

SEE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PANEL ON PAGE 25

JANUARY

2	10:00am	<i>Little Fishes</i> Pram Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
4	8:00am	Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
	9:15am	Sung Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
	11:15am	Matins & Sermon	<i>St Peter's</i>
	6:00pm	Evensong & Sermon	<i>All Saints'</i>
6	8:00pm	EPIPHANY	
		Solemn Mass for the Epiphany	<i>St Peter's</i>

Registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

19 October	Victoria Jane Plato
26 October	Fern Louise Sayer, Joseph Alexander Sayer, Francesca Anne Arkell Gurdon, Harry John Rogers

Wedding (St Peter's)

18 October	James Anthony George Tickle & Karen Anne Crawley
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Funerals

9 October	Jennifer Clare Nicola Smurthwaite	The Chilterns Crematorium
13 October	Emily May McCord	The Chilterns Crematorium
16 October	Alexander George MacDonald	The Chilterns Crematorium
5 November	Scott Peter Butler	St Peter's (Kingshill Cemetery)

*Lack of space this month means that FactFile has had to take a back seat.
It will be back next month.*



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Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Monday)
 The Revd Robin Figg, All Saints' House, Shrublands Road. Tel: 866161 (day off Monday)
 The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 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), 16 Broadwater. 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

Director of Music: Adrian Davis 864722 Assistant Director of Music: 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, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road. Tel: 863804

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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