

In this issue

April 1998

**The mystery
of Easter**

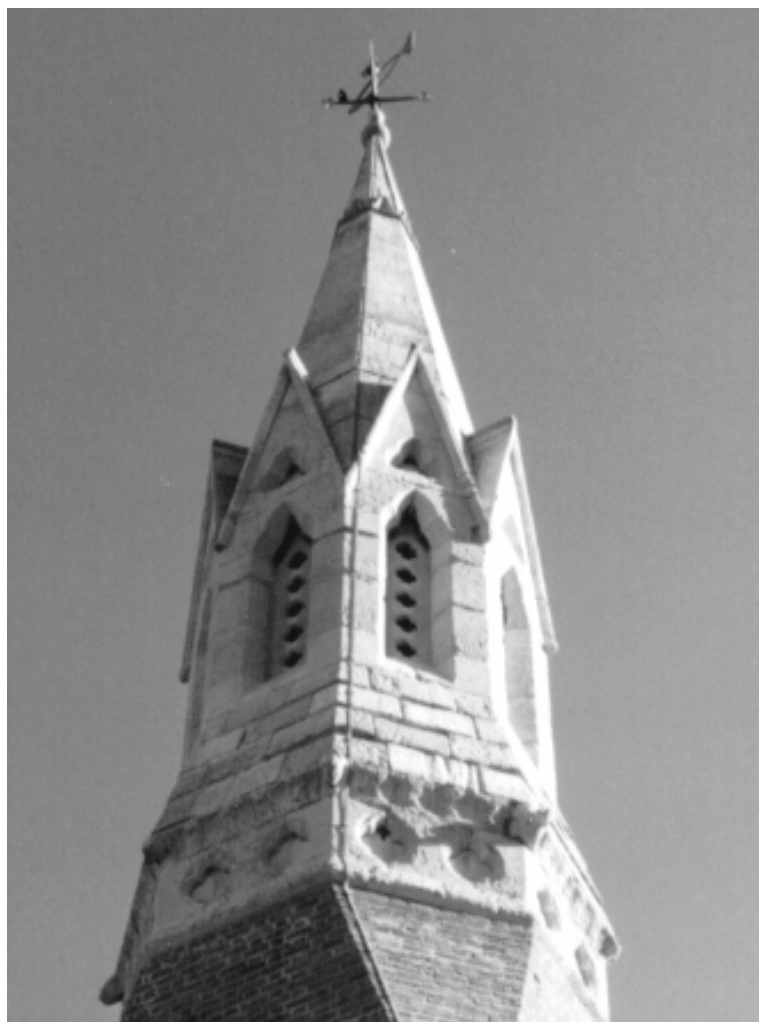
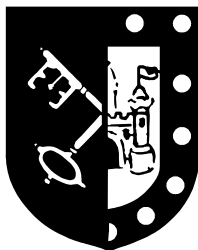
**Save our
trees!**

**A city between
continents**

**Glorious
relief**

**Gypsy
support**

**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the April issue of the *Berkhamsted Review*.

As we go to press the parish is electing those who are to hold office in the church and to serve on the parochial church council and our local area committees. A full list will be published in our next issue. After that there will be only one more set of elections in our parish during the second millennium of the Christian era.

We at the *Review* are slightly red faced about all this. The usual notice announcing the parish's annual meeting to elect churchwardens and the annual parochial church meeting was inadvertently omitted from last month's diary. We hope that not too many readers were inconvenienced by this.

The incident illustrates a general truth that only what has been written can then be printed. We continue our open invitation to our readers to send items for inclusion in your magazine. Don't worry if you think your style is unpolished - it's the facts that count!

David Woodward

Cover: The newly restored spire of Berkhamsted Baptist Church in the High Street.

Photo: Chris Smalley

In this month's issue...

The mystery of Easter

Fr Mark Bonney considers the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Save our trees!

John Cook sounds a warning on the continuing loss of fine old trees from Berkhamsted.

City between continents

The splendours of Istanbul enthuse **Stephen Halliday**.

Meetings to mark

Norman Cutting appeals for active citizens to take part in three important consultative exercises this month.

Glorious relief

Revd Peter Hart welcomes the excitement of Easter after Lent.

Gypsy support

The past and future of the local gypsy support group described by **Diana Allen**.

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

Editorial Team: David Woodward, 3 Murray Road HP4 1JD (862723)
Barbara Belchamber, 38 Gaveston Drive HP4 1JF (864933)
Chris Smalley, 18 Osmington Place, Tring HP23 4EG (826821)
email: review@cavendish.co.uk

Advertising: David Woodward, 3 Murray Road HP4 1JD (862723)

Circulation: Daphne Montague, 27 Hill View HP4 1SA (875320)

Treasurer: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway HP4 2NY (871598)

Committee Sec.: John Cook, The Gardeners' Arms, Castle Street HP4 2DW

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 3 April 8 May 5 June



**Fr Mark Bonney
reflects on the
mystery of
Jesus' death and
resurrection.**

review leader

During the few days recently that I was obliged to sit with my leg up, and walk but brief distances with crutches, following an operation for a torn cartilage, I read a very fine book by Canon Bill Vanstone (formerly of Chester Cathedral) entitled *Fare well in Christ*. Canon Vanstone writes with the simplicity and wisdom of a man of deep spirituality (he was a contemporary of Fr Stephen Wells' at Wescott House theological college - need I say more?). One of the simple truths he talks about and explores in this book is the importance of 'story'. Vanstone enjoys dwelling on the derivation of words and he notes that 'history' and 'story' spring from the same root - Christianity is a historical religion because it happened in time, and its distinctive truth is expressed and conveyed by story.

The gospel writings are essentially stories rather than doctrinal statements. The doctrinal statements of the Church (eg the Creeds) can clarify aspects of the story but they can't adequately distil the true meaning of these stories. The meaning of the story can only be gained from the story itself and by entering into it. As well as the gospel writers themselves telling us the 'Jesus story' as they received it, Jesus himself used stories a great deal - not because his hearers were not clever enough to deal in philosophical concepts, but because 'story' tells more than conceptual statements.

Holy Week and the season of Easter is full of the central stories of our Christian faith. In semi-dramatic and evocative ways we retell these stories in our services during this time. We do so, not because

so-called High Church people have a touch of the theatrical about them, but because so much more is discovered of the story by hearing it and by entering more deeply into it than is by being told what it means. Being in church for an hour after the Maundy Thursday service can be a deeper experience than a sermon about the agony in the garden.

Jesus' death and resurrection is sometimes called a 'mystery'. That doesn't mean it's a problem to be solved like an Agatha Christie mystery; rather, it is something of profound depth whose meaning we can never get to the bottom or end of. A mystery in the religious sense in the end leads to silence before the presence of God. So if you want to enter more deeply into these stories do come to their great telling during Holy Week and Eastertide and allow the Risen Christ to speak to you through them.

The crucial importance of the story being simply told cannot be overestimated. It's so important that we tell our children at home and in school the stories of our faith. In his book Vanstone tells some very moving stories of people deeply affected and healed simply by seeing a cross, or having a palm cross being placed in their hands. These people may not have had much church connection, but they had sufficient knowledge of the story to enable its healing power to work. It's a great challenge to all the churches that fewer and fewer of our children will hear the healing and saving stories of this Holy Week and Easter at home or in school. May we keep telling the story in our words and actions that Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Father Mark

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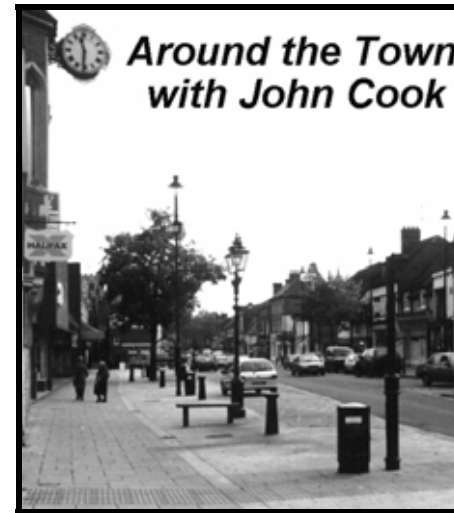
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Our Trees

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough...*

Someone on the radio the other day said that the poem which opens with these lines was his favourite. It could be in my top ten too. When Housman wrote it he was feeling a bit sorry for himself, bemoaning how life was slipping him by. He was 20 at the time.

We are fortunate that lovely wild cherry trees are common round here on our chalky soil, particularly on the edges of woods, and there are some mature ones in the Castle grounds, round the other side. There was a fine specimen too in lower Kings Road overhanging the footway behind Castle Mill - until it was ruthlessly cut down last year.

I wonder if those responsible quite realised what a loss they were inflicting. They have also cut down the trees on the canal side of their car park - some sort of tall willows I think they were - leaving only hideous stumps.

Fated Trees

Are trees in Lower Kings Road fated? The catalpa tree by the entrance to the main car park went, and so did the one that was planted to take its place. The second

replacement, a smaller one, has been put in a different spot, much further back from the road. The large beech tree at the back of the pavement towards the station was felled last year. Further along, past the Brownlow Road turning, one by one the trees which partially screened the high railway wall are being removed and not being replaced. And readers may remember that the weeping willows on the opposite side of the road by the side of the canal all went a few years ago.

Now the trees along the High Street have been put in such good order, is it not time we had a tree preservation and planting plan for the rest of the Town?

More Books

New books by residents of Berkhamsted continue to appear, maintaining our town's reputation for turning them out in remarkable numbers and variety. Dr Priscilla Chadwick, Principal of Berkhamsted Collegiate School, has just published her book on Church and State in English education called *Shifting Alliances*. It was well reviewed in the *Church Times* in February.

Another new one is by Bruce Nixon (who lives in Castle Hill Avenue) which he has called *Making a Difference*. It is about transformation - how to plan for it and manage it - not just in business but in any organisation or social context.

Bruce's book has been written with a personal approach, recognising, he says, the importance of the heart, spirit and body as well as the mind in our working lives. He has learned much from struggling to find his own path and periods of joy and anguish.

The book has received accolades not just from business leaders and academics but also from people like Tim Moulds, Associate Director of Christian Aid. It has even been called poetry in motion - by a poet! Look out for it in the Bookstack at the end of March or early April.

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Our Cicely

Did it cross the minds of anyone who went to see the recent showing in the Civic Centre by the Film Society of *Richard III* that his mother lived in Berkhamsted?

Cicely, Duchess of York, made Berkhamsted Castle her home in the latter stages of the Wars of the Roses. She must have had more royal connections than almost anyone else in the history of England. She was grand-daughter of John of Gaunt who founded the House of Lancaster, yet she married Richard, Duke of York, head of the rival House of York.

During the last 26 years of Cicely's life, most of which she spent in Berkhamsted, there was one tragedy for her after another. Her son Edward IV and grandson Edward V died in the same year. Two years later another of her sons, Richard III, was killed at Boswell Field, after pleading in vain (according to Shakespeare), 'A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse'.

A third son, George, was drowned in a butt of malmsey. Two more grandsons, Edward and Richard (the Princes in the Tower) were suffocated in their beds. But Cicely survived all these horrors, living to see the house of Tudor firmly established when her grand-daughter Elizabeth became Henry VII's queen.

During her long stay Cicely ruled Berkhamsted Castle with firmness, piety and compassion. Shortly after her death there in 1495 the castle was closed and soon began to fall into ruin; and the town which had grown up and prospered outside the Castle gates began to decline too.

Estate Agents

Another new estate agents has opened in premises opposite St Peter's. To local people this building will be remembered as Kennet & Fox's, the ironmongers, which closed I suppose some twelve years ago. Since then it has been a French bakery and a delicatessen.

Do we really need another estate agents? There are now nine in the High

Street between Castle Street and the traffic lights. Presumably market forces will say if we do; and whatever else you may think about them they do take a good deal of trouble about their appearance, vying with one another to project an up-market image.

The best looking shop fronts in the High Street without exception in my view belong to estate agents. Their staff too are a pleasure to look upon, in their smart suits.

Lady Crauford

I did not know the late Ruth Lady Crauford who died in February at the age of 98, but I remember being quite struck by some of her contributions to the *Review* back in the 70's. She was bold enough to take on theological controversy and write interpretations of biblical stories.

In one issue she made some critical remarks about one of the new forms of communion service being introduced then. When two young men replied taking her to task for not being forward-looking she was delighted, and hoped that they would both go on to be bishops.

Lady Crauford wrote one or two small books, one of which was entitled *The Aldbury Double Murders*, which is still in print. In other of her writings she referred to her wartime experiences, one example of which appeared in the January 1973 *Review*.

Pig-keeping

The Craufords took to keeping pigs where they lived in Aldbury, and once she rang up the vet in Berkhamsted in something of a state. 'Come quickly' she cried, 'one of my piglets is in an epileptic fit. I know it's an epileptic fit because its doing just what one of my landgirls does every fortnight.' She got short shrift from the vet: 'I'm not going to waste petrol coming out to a pig in a fit. Knock it on the head and eat it.' So we did, she said, and it was delicious.



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About twenty-five years ago the Church of England Moral Welfare Council (the fore-runner of the present Church Board for Social Work) became concerned about the position of the number of gypsy families encamped in lay-bys and waste land around Berkhamsted.

Although the Caravan Sites Act had then recently been passed, imposing a statutory duty on local authorities to provide sites for gypsies who were in need of them, no sites had been set up in this area. The gypsies were constantly being moved from place to place by the police and the local authority, despite the fact that there was no-where they could legally park their caravans. Most adults were illiterate, few children were receiving any education and the families had difficulty in obtaining health care and the other services taken for granted by the settled population. It was therefore decided to hold a meeting with a view to setting up an independent organisation to help gypsies and this was done. The Berkhamsted and District Gypsy Support Group was duly set up and has been operating ever since, always retaining some links with the church.

The objects of the group were three. First, to press local councils to carry out their duties under the Caravan Sites Act and set up sites. Secondly, to try to overcome the widespread hostility to gypsies by educating people through the

BERKHAMSTED GYPSY SUPPORT GROUP

Diana Allen looks at the record of this local group and considers its future work.

press and personal contact into their situation and needs. Thirdly, to help individual gypsies with their personal difficulties.

Since that time, the situation has changed in that three-quarters of the gypsy population is now living on sites. There

are two in the Dacorum area. Although many gypsies still travel for part of the year, most of the children attend school and, although retaining their own culture, the families are, to some extent, assimilated into our society.

Unfortunately, the position of the remaining quarter of the gypsy population is, if anything, worse than it was when the group was set up. In 1994 the last government repealed the Caravan Sites Act on the grounds that it had failed because it had not completed its work.

No more official sites are being set up, although some gypsies manage to provide their own. Councils and police have been given more stringent powers to move gypsies on as soon as they stop anywhere by the roadside or on private land. There is still widespread hostility against gypsies, due largely to the fact that people know little about them other than the almost invariably adverse comment in the press. Many families, including some living on sites, still need help and advice which they are not able to obtain from the statutory authorities. *(continued on page 12)*



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*In a recent address **Father Robin Figg** spoke on the future evolution of the partnership at All Saints' Church between Anglicans and Methodists. He set out the alternatives as being to strengthen and enhance the partnership developing our unity wherever possible or to allow the partnership to develop 'essentially as a shared building agreement between two separate congregations'. What follows are some extracts from his talk.*



full partners or just joint ? tenants?

Those in positions of leadership in the two congregations agreed that the right way forward was to strengthen the partnership. We have therefore been trying hard to explore how we could bring our two congregations closer together whilst still allowing individuals to retain their identity as Anglicans or Methodists. I stress that no one is talking of anyone having to give up being Anglican, and there is no talk of All Saints' breaking away from St Peter's: there may be scope for reviewing the nature of our relationship within the parish, but no talk of a total separation.

The focus of our life as Christians is our gathering together for worship. It is right therefore that one of the first areas of our common life to be thought about is our pattern of worship. The need is recognised to find a pattern of services that is right for the whole family of All Saints'. Hence the first significant change that it is planned will take place after Easter, is on the first Sunday of each month when we will have a joint non-Eucharistic family service at 10:00am. Last autumn we had just such a service for our harvest festival and the response from the almost full church was most encouraging. On the other Sundays each month we will continue to have separate 9:15am Anglican and 11:00am Methodist services as present.

We have also discussed making the early morning Eucharist a joint service

each week, using a common rite and also making the evening services joint affairs every week. The intention here would be to have a pattern of different evening services through each month, such as a joint Eucharist with prayer for healing once a month, a quiet Iona or Taizé style evening prayer once a month and so on.

Some feel that there has been a failing to pass information down from the committees to the rest of the church family. A factor in this, though by no means an excuse, has been the absence of a joint church newsletter. But this, I am pleased to tell you, is about to be rectified. The solution is quite straightforward and basically involves a re-titling of the present Methodist Newsletter and we Anglicans ensuring that we input news and information for publication. The print run will be increased by fifty or so copies so that it can really become a publication available to the whole church [*this also gives the Review a new opportunity - Ed.*]

These are the important changes afoot that immediately affect everyone. Other changes, largely planned improvements to our church building, will become apparent later.

I know that amongst us here there are differing views about the route we should be taking as a church. I know that the route chosen is not an easy one. If we wanted the easy option we would simply say let's share the building and not worry too much about anything else together. ❖

Berkhamsted Gypsy Support Group (continued from p9)

The group has continuously sought to solve the problem of provision of sufficient sites and also to counteract prejudice and hostility both in the media and elsewhere. It has dealt with a huge variety of individual problems, both of gypsies who have been continuously in the area and those passing through. This includes liaison with the statutory authorities, for instance arranging for children to go to school, and with the police. In general the group helps people who have been brought up largely outside society to deal with its complexity.

The members of the group have found the work intensely rewarding in that it is often possible to give instant and effective help to people whose problems seem to

them insoluble. It is also rewarding in giving an entry and insight into an ancient and continuing culture. The gypsies themselves are immensely grateful for the help given and many of them have said that in most parts of the country there is no-one outside their own community to whom they can turn.

The group meets once a month and would welcome new members. In addition to the meetings, there is often work that needs to be done in getting to know and visiting individual gypsies both on sites and by the roadside. Anyone interested please contact Diana Allen on 865212 who can provide further information. ❖

Full Partners or just Joint Tenants? *(continued from p11)*

Personally, I am not sure that that could ever be right.

Being in partnership, going forward together is about growth. When we share our common life together, our life of worship, mission and service, we become all the better because of it. When we set ourselves actively to live and work together, listening to each other and learning from each other, wrestling and

struggling with the issues, we are enlarged because of it. Being in a partnership must not mean that we are forever anxious about what we might have to give up. Being in a partnership must mean that we can be forever thankful for God-given opportunities to show to the world that the unity Christ talked about was not pie in the sky but actually possible. ❖

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Degrees of Honesty

Yvonne Rix writes:

I was dismayed to read the article *Degrees of Disability* (Review, March 1998). It does seem strange to me that some people with no disability regard themselves qualified to speak with authority about those whose feelings or abilities they obviously don't understand.

Most disabled people, if they could, would want to give shape and purpose to their lives to retain or regain their dignity. I know of many lovely people - particularly young people - who are disabled: a dentist, a doctor, many musicians, many nurses, a physiotherapist, a university lecturer, an architect, a metallurgist, a London taxi driver. I could go on. I help at a centre for disabled people. I am editor of a newsletter that goes across the world, so I do feel I can speak for them. I am one of them. We do not sit around all day watching television. Haven't you heard of creativity or helping others?

Have you, Mr Halliday, been incapacitated so that your ordinary tasks of the day take ten times longer, or even that

you cannot do what used to be automatic and it will be forever?

I know of a young woman, with children, disabled with multiple sclerosis, whose husband has left her because he couldn't face the distress of having a disabled wife. She is now a single parent and a disabled person - the object of two welfare probes. Does she have to find work? Isn't it more virtuous of her to try to provide a good home for her children to the best of her ability?

Let's be honest, the current debate is really about cutting benefits to the disabled, and not about enabling disabled people to get back to work. If it's about finding the dishonest folk who are cheating the system, then that's a different question.

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Jane and I went to Istanbul for the last weekend in November. I first visited the city in 1962 when, as an impoverished student, one chose between a four-day train journey from Victoria via Ostend, Munich, Budapest and Salonika or the potholed roads through Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. On this occasion we flew from Heathrow but when we reached Istanbul the city itself seemed to have changed remarkably little in the last thirty years.

Apparently it is much bigger, the population having more than doubled to thirteen million as more and more migrants have been drawn in from the countryside. However the great majority of the population lives in suburbs which the visitor is unlikely to encounter. The centre of the city, on either side of the Golden Horn, is remarkably unchanged. The traffic is chaotic and there still seem to be no parking regulations at all. I didn't see a single parking meter or yellow line but I saw dozens of cars parked on pavements, just as in 1962. The Grand

A CITY BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS

Istanbul offers a fascinating insight into Islamic history and architecture. **Stephen Halliday** explores the Byzantine capital.

Bazaar contained the same amazing and confusing array of carpets, amber, silverware, copperware, porcelain, spices and other merchandise and I am sure that some of the items I saw on sale were there in 1962. The streets, like the bazaar, also contained the familiar collection of vendors anxious to show you their collections of desirable merchandise regardless of

one's total lack of interest. They are all very good-natured and do not seem to mind in the least when they are given the brush-off. The streets are also home to large numbers of stray cats which, unlike their scruffy counterparts in Rome, seem sleek, well fed and well groomed.

The central part of Istanbul, overlooking the Bosphorus, is known as the Sultan Ahmet district and contains three of the city's most striking monuments: the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque and the Church of the Holy Wisdom, Agia (pronounced *Aya*) Sophia. The Topkapi Palace was the residence of the Sultans until the late nineteenth

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from Chilterns on page
19!*

century and is more of a village than a palace: a series of separate buildings connected by paths and covered walkways comprising kitchens, audience chambers, mosques, offices and the famous Harem - this being in fact the Sultan's private residence where he lived with his wives and younger children. It is now a museum whose chief exhibits are numerous Islamic relics and an impressive collection of jewellery and porcelain. Some guidebooks recommend a full day at the Topkapi but you'd have to be a lot more interested in jewellery than I am to spend that amount of time there.

The most impressive building is, in my view, the Blue Mosque, completed in 1616 and thus roughly contemporary with St Peter's, Rome. Its massive central dome gives way to smaller domes, half-domes and quarter-domes, descending in perfect symmetry and exquisitely decorated in intricate patterns of blue, pink and other colours. I have visited it five times altogether and yet I am still amazed every time I enter the door. By contrast Agia Sophia, a stone's throw away, built a thousand years earlier by the Byzantine emperor Justinian, is a rather sorry sight. When the Turks took Istanbul in 1453 they tried to turn it into a mosque, adding four

rather inappropriate minarets and a mass of ugly outbuildings with buttresses. The effect is as if St Paul's Cathedral were surrounded by multi-storey car parks. They have also painted the outside an unattractive red - a colour unknown to stonework - and this coating is now beginning to peel. The church is now a museum and many of the fine Byzantine mosaics which were covered over by the Turks are now visible. Islamic art forbids the depiction of living things, this being God's work alone which explains why Islamic artists create those elaborate and beautiful abstract patterns.

My final memory of Istanbul is of how cheap things like meals are. The rate of exchange is 320,000 Turkish lira to the pound so the standard unit of currency seems to be the half a million lira note! A decent meal for two, with wine, will cost about four million lira. It sounds a lot but it's a little over twelve pounds. Last time I was in Istanbul we got about thirty thousand lira to the pound. And we thought *we* suffered from inflation! One final thought: if you go to Istanbul, don't drink water unless it comes from a sealed bottle. You don't know where the tap water's been and if you did know you wouldn't drink it. ❖

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

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CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor
Norman Cutting keeps us up
to date on council matters.

I hate these short months. It only seems a couple of weeks ago that I sat down to scribble my words of wisdom and here I am again. No doubt you saw in the local paper that we Independents on the borough council have formed ourselves into a 'group' and we will have five full committee places instead of the current two. We have yet to decide who will do what, but in our usual democratic way, the coin will be tossed. You may all think it slightly over the top, but I bet you didn't know that in the last two months of 1997, nationally, eight by-election seats were won by Independents and we have a full voice in the Local Government Association. So there is life outside the political party system if you know where to look.

Three meetings that you really must mark in your diary are the town centres forum on 1st April, the annual town meeting on 15th April and the first AGM of the Berkhamsted Access Committee on Friday, 17th April. Taking them in order, the 'Berkhamsted Health Check' being carried out by well paid consultants will be giving the public the first glimpse of their draft suggestions, but those of us who attended the workshop the other Sunday, did wonder about a survey that suggested that a high proportion of shoppers in the town walk, did so several times a week and tended to be female and over 65. After all, it was carried out at the end of 1997 during the day and during the week! Along with rest of my colleagues, I wait with baited breath for their solution to this problem.

The annual town meeting is your opportunity to put direct questions to your council and get an answer. The actual format is slightly fuzzy at the time of

writing (after all it is nearly six weeks away), but I understand the committee chairmen will be giving a report of their particular activities over the past year and this will be followed by a presentation by the chairman of the

canal and riverside partnership on how the expected £630,000 will be spent.

The Berkhamsted Access Committee AGM is a result of local resident, Nick Goss, coming to see me at my regular Saturday morning 'surgery'. He complained that we meet during the day, and how is he to get there when he works. We took this on board and decided to try out a meeting in the evening to look at how we can help the disabled, and their carers, to have a better quality of life.

I thought you might like to know that the officers at borough haven't lost touch when it comes to Berkhamsted. The environment committee reported on 4th March that the new car park ticket machines were due for delivery on 9th March for installation on 11th March. Unfortunately the statutory notice has to be published for 21 days so the machines will not be operational until at least the end of March. And we were concerned that the Christmas '97 trade would be affected!

A number of people, including me, wonder what I do all day. To make life easy, I have bared all on my Internet web page, which you can find at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/normcall>. From there you can find out what's in *Sunnyside Up*, recent text of *Cutting Comments*, my activities with the mobile radio world and lots more. I may even get round to providing previews of council activities if there is a demand, as it is continually evolving. ❖

The title of this piece is one of the congregational responses from one of the new Eucharistic Prayers that we (together with some 799 other parishes in England) are using on a trial basis in the parish. A few months into this trial period I thought it would be a

good to make a few comments upon the process we are assisting the Church of England in and the prayers we're using.

The Liturgical Commission is addressing some key questions; such as, how can we maintain Common Prayer with a multiplicity of prayers? How can we provide variety to enable the diversity of cultural communities to pray with integrity and understanding? There are also questions about structure and responses, about the placing of the invocation of the Holy Spirit and so on.

A few comments on each of the prayers will, I hope, assist in your appreciation and healthy criticism of them.

Prayer A is based on Prayers 1 and 2 in ASB Rite A which are very similar in structure and in vocabulary and style and the changes are very minor.

Prayer B is a revised form of Prayer 3 in ASB Rite A which has been a very popular prayer. Again the changes are slight to a prayer that is perhaps the freshest of those in the ASB as well as the shortest, yet it does not feel rushed when prayed and its imagery resonates with tradition without a heavy dependence on traditional language.

Prayer C is a conservative adaptation of the BCP-style Prayer 4 in Rite A with its strong emphasis on redemption by the one perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Grammatical changes have reinforced its distinctively Prayer Book feel.

Prayer D is a new prayer with a dramatic telling of the story of redemption. It gives

THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG

Father Mark Bonney
describes the new Eucharistic
Prayers which are being
used in our parish.

a specific opportunity for children present to come to surround the holy table. It uses concrete rather than abstract images, short sentences and vivid phrases. The refrain appears throughout for the congregation. This is of a very different style and the Commission want to

know how people feel about it.

Prayer E shares some of the feature of a simple narrative style with Prayer D. A variety of extended opening prefaces is available. Like Prayers D and F it prays for the Holy Spirit to come upon the gifts and the worshippers in a single petition, but places this before rather than after the words of Christ at the Last Supper.

Prayer F is much influenced by the prayer of St Basil dating back to the 4th century and used today by eastern Orthodox Churches. There are no variables within it; there is a movement through the story of salvation, with the covenant relationship with the father before the Sanctus, through the incarnate activity of the Son to the invocation of the Spirit at the end. Particular features of this prayer are the way it relates the Holy Spirit to the work of creation and its description of the glory and power of God being revealed as much by the humiliation of the incarnation and cross as by the splendour of heaven.

I hope these brief comments are of some help. Every Eucharist is a drama in which we all have a part to play as we hear the story of our salvation and enter into it and are fed by it. It needs to be retold afresh in every generation and so fresh Eucharistic Prayers will be needed. I will warmly welcome comments upon the prayers (in writing please). ❖

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Refreshments



**Revd Peter Hart
anticipates the
glorious relief
of Easter's
arrival.**

reviewnorthchurch

Holy Week and Easter come as a glorious relief after the six week grind of Lent. Suddenly there is a new momentum, a positive direction to all the preparations and prayers; even the pace of the story picks up. Specific events can be highlighted, words of Jesus and other protagonists are put into a clear context of confrontation and hope, and the swing of emotions rings true. We move from an excited crowd to a baying mob: from an authoritative Messiah to a man burdened with doubt and anguished anticipation; from an untouchable critic of the religious order to a crucified victim of jealousy and cowardice. Then all goes quiet, all is hushed, apart from the frantic rustle of flower stems and greenery and the manic search for an unbroken chocolate egg. Finally, the bells ring out in glory, candles are lit, songs long-awaited are bellowed forth, and Easter-best outfits gain suspiciously chocolatey marks down the sleeves. Easter has come!

Anticipated joy is rarely disappointed, and Easter Sunday remains one of the most exciting days of the year. It speaks of freedom, the conquering of death and destruction, of life bursting forth from a clutching grave that could not retain the rising Jesus. It breaks barriers and chains, extends the power and love of God to the whole world in a rush of new life and spiritual energy. It makes possible the resurrection of liberty and challenges directly all oppressors and those who deal in violence. Easter Day is a political event, as well as a spiritual event, as our studies in the debt crisis and the possibilities of remission and jubilee have made clear. Easter speaks of the overwhelming of all that is negative by the superabundance of God's love and mercy, a superabundance which extends as far as world economic systems, as well as to our deepest felt grief.

This Easter, may that energy, vitality and excess of love and mercy fill our life at home, at work, in our community, our church, our nation and all of God's world, to the praise of God and for the transformation of this world to reflect more fully Christ's reign. ❖

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THE MOTHERS UNION



The new Diocesan president, Mrs Elizabeth Brown, was commissioned on 31st January at St Mary's church, Redbourn by the Bishop of St Albans, as were the council members and trustees. Mrs Brown must have felt a great sense of support and prayer from all her fellow members who filled the church. Margaret Burbidge and I were both at the service and so Berkhamsted was represented. Margaret is a trustee of the Mother's Union so has accepted real responsibility. The congregation sang with enthusiasm and our feelings of pleasure and friendship were extended to our time of refreshment in the Transept Hall after the service.

For our meeting on 8th April we will be attending the Holy Week talk by Rev. Mark Bonney in St Peter's Church at 8pm.

Margaret Barnard

THE LEPROSY MISSION

The Leprosy Mission will hold a coffee morning and sale of mission goods, cakes and bric-a-brac at All Saints' Hall on Saturday 2nd May from 9:00am to 12noon. Please support us if you can.

TUESDAY CLUB

As our meeting will be in Holy Week, we join the short meditation and compline service on Tuesday 7th April at 8: 30pm at St Peter's Church. Following the service refreshments will be served in the Court House and our members warmly welcome any members of the congregation who would like to join us.

BERKHAMSTED WALK



This year's walk will be on 17th May which is the third Sunday in May. Please note this change. The walk will follow the southern route which we last used three years ago. It

is very much a contrast to the other routes we have used, and has always been popular.

The full route is 18 miles, and after the success of last year's shorter alternative, we are also offering a shorter 12 mile route for those who like something a bit easier.

More details will appear next month, but in the meantime look your boots out (or buy some new ones) and get them broken in. I look forward to seeing you getting those rusty muscles back into use on Northchurch common.

Ian McCalla

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OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

**There was an old lady who lived in a shoe,
who had so many children she didn't know
what to do! - what a pity she didn't know
about Oxfam!**

For the Oxfam volunteers are busy preparing for yet another Children's Wear event to be held at the Civic Centre on Thursday, 2nd April from 9:30am till 12noon. All the summer stock will be available from baby stretch suits to teenage sweatshirts. There will be tee-shirts and shorts galore, swim wear for all physiques, party dresses, day dresses and school dresses. Kit out your children for all activities and occasions from the variety of stock that will be on sale. Previous similar sales of children's clothes have attracted quite a band of devotees. You are invited to come and join them to see for yourselves what the attraction is and experience the thrill of finding that 'designer label' bargain for your offspring.

A selection of children's books and toys will also be available plus a free cup of coffee to revive you. Toddlers and pushchairs can be accommodated too! We look forward to welcoming you.

URGENTLY NEEDED: OLD PHOTOS OF BERKHAMSTED

The Berkhamsted and District Local History Society are anxious to have old photographs of our area for a book to be published next year. If you have any such photos and would be willing for them to be copied, please get in touch with Vera Pullen (862196).

OXFAM LOOKS BACK

The Oxfam shop will be making a special feature of yesteryear clothes and accessories towards the end of April. On Thursday, 23rd April the local group will be participating in the Combined Charities Fashion Show in the Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall arranged by the Council for Voluntary Service. As part of their segment, Oxfam volunteers will be modelling fashion from past decades from the

30s to the 70s. The garments will be on sale at the end of the show and also in the charity's High Street shop.

Oxfam already has a reputation for retro fashion. Its specialist shop *Nologo* in London's Ganton Street won an Evening Standard Top 10 Fashion Shops award.

BERKHAMSTED QUILTERS

Berkhamsted Quilters fifth exhibition will be held in the Deans' Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School on 18th April. There will be more than forty quilts on display as well as many smaller items of work. The raffle of the tulip garden quilt will be drawn on the Sunday afternoon. It is hoped to raise at least £1,000 for *Scope Of Dacorum* from this project alone. Members will be demonstrating their skills throughout the weekend and there will be a children's workshop for anyone of eight years or over who would like to try their hand at some patchwork. Traders will be present and there will be some smaller raffles as well as the quilt. There will be a sales table with many bargains. Refreshments will be available in the hall.

CHUCKLES



Hi! I'm Chuckles Bear.

You'll meet me at the Tuesday morning toddler group at All Saints'. I have a lot of fun with the children there. We have a pram service fortnightly which we alternate with a morning of activities and music - they've even written a song about me!

Activity times can be quite treacherous for a bear as cuddly as myself. Last month I spent most of the morning lying on a radiator after a cuddle from a zealous young painter!

The fun starts at 10:00am and there is always plenty to be had. Come along and join us or ring 874993 to find out more about me.

Chuckles Bear

ST PETER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are pleased to say that our numbers are rapidly rising again, and we have recently welcomed several new members. We meet on the fourth Wednesday in the month (except in August) at 2:30pm in the Court House. On Wednesday 22nd April we ask members to come and talk about *Books I have enjoyed*, always a popular subject. Plans for our outing in May will be ready then.

BERKHAMSTED GARDENERS SOCIETY

Wednesday, 18th March saw the last of the talks of the 1997/98 season of the Berkhamsted Gardeners Society. In the months ahead we now look forward to three outings, a garden party and our annual show. The first of the outings will be in June to Gardeners World in Birmingham.

Every Sunday morning our shop in The Wilderness (along the side of Tesco's) is open from 10:00am. to 12 noon and sells a variety of basic garden essentials. On the first Sunday of every month there is a 'swap shop' where members can exchange plants and advice.

An innovation this year is a likely weekend trip to France to visit famous gardens.

New members are always very warmly welcome. If you would like to join or would

like further information, please contact the chairman, Keith Matthews, on 866994, or call at our shop any Sunday morning.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.



On such a rainy afternoon it was nice to see so many members at our March meeting. Our president Liz Baxendale was pleased to welcome a visitor to join us, and with secretary Janet Mitchell took us through the business matters giving details of forthcoming events.

Our town topic for discussion this month was local taxi hire. Members volunteered information on whether they received a good service or not. Timekeeping could be improved, as waiting for a taxi running late causes unnecessary anxiety. It seems that several taxi drivers do not leave their car to ring the doorbell at their passenger's house, but sit in the car and hoot the horn. Surely also it would be a courteous action if passengers were asked if they needed assistance to and from the taxi on arriving at or leaving their destinations. On the other hand we did learn that a good service was provided to and from the airports and on an odd occasion, being a rainy day, an umbrella was offered to the passenger. Now that's what we call service!

Our speaker this month was James Cuming who kept his audience enthralled with his memories as a child in wartime, living in a village in Buckinghamshire. He recalled the time when the first German prisoners of war arrived in the village, and the rationing of food up to the time of the arrival of the American serviceman to take part in the D-Day landings. He concluded his talk with the return of his own father when the war was eventually over. Our appreciation was given by Pam McNicoll.

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Next month on 3rd April we celebrate our ninth birthday party at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. Do pay as visit and bring a friend.

NORTHCHURCH W.I.

At 8:45pm on the second Monday in the month at Northchurch Social Centre the animated chat between friends came to a halt when President Joan Hollingdale welcomed members and four visitors to the meeting. Plans are in hand to take part in a county-wide project for the collection of rural rubbish to take place later in the year.

Several members attended a lecture at the Tate Gallery which has become an annual event for W.I. members in Hertfordshire and is always wholeheartedly supported. An

enthusiastic account of the visit and the subsequent tour of gallery was given by Barbara Savidge. Members were invited to join Berkhamsted and Berkhamsted Castle W.I.'s for short mat bowling on a regular basis.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Eve Davis, herself a prominent W.I. member who talked so knowledgeably and fluently about clothing through the last century. She showed us numerous garments, many now museum pieces, allowing us to handle and admire the exquisite hand stitching that went into them. An altogether evocative talk reinforced by many examples of her own sketches. Jennifer Underwood spoke for all in her warm thanks.

This month's competition was won by Meg Harper and the Bloom of the Month prize went to Val Buchorski. ❖

Berkhamsted Quilters

Fifth Exhibition 18th & 19th April 1998

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Holy Week 1998

Monday 6th April - Sunday 12th April

Tuesday - Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer (*St Peter's*)

5.30pm Evening Prayer (*St Peter's*)

Monday - Wednesday

6 8:30pm Short meditation & Compline (*St Peter's*)

8:00pm United Devotion (*All Saints*)

7 9:30am Eucharist (*All Saints*)

12:30pm Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

8:30pm Short meditation & Compline (*St Peter's*)

8:00pm United Devotion

8 6:45am Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

8:30pm Short meditation & Compline (*St Peter's*)

8:00pm United Devotion (*All Saints*)

Maundy Thursday

9 11:00am Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

8:00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper (Preacher: The Revd David Lindsay, Chaplain of Haberdashers' Aske's school)

The Watch until Midnight (*St Peter's*)

8:00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by
The Watch until Midnight (*All Saints*)

Good Friday

10 9:00am Morning Prayer (*St Peter's*)

10:00am Good Friday Procession. 10:00am in the Market Place with
procession to All Saints', followed by meditation

12noon Three Hour Devotion including the Liturgy of the Day
(*St Peter's*) Preacher: The Revd David Lindsay

5:30pm Evening Prayer (*St Peter's*)

Easter Eve

11 7:30am Morning Prayer (*St Peter's*)

5:00pm Evening Prayer (*St Peter's*)

9:00pm The Easter Vigil (*St Peter's*)

Easter Day

12 7:00am Ecumenical Service in the grounds of Berkhamsted Castle

8:00am Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

8:00am Eucharist (*All Saints*)

9:15am Family Eucharist (*All Saints*)

9:30am Sung Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

11:30am Book of Common Prayer Eucharist (*St Peter's*)

6:00pm Choral Evensong - Preacher: Jenny Wells (*St Peter's*)

	SUNDAY	<i>St Peter's:</i>	8:00am	Eucharist				
			9:30am	Sung Eucharist, crêche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House				
			11:15am	Matins & Sermon [1st Sunday only]				
			6:00pm	Evensong [except 1st Sunday]				
		<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am	Eucharist [except 1st Sunday]				
			9:15am	Sung Eucharist, crêche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall (<i>All Saints' is shared with the Methodists and this service will sometimes be replaced by a 10:00am United Service</i>)				
			6:30pm	Evensong [1st Sunday only]				
	MONDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	Morning Prayer (MP)	5:30pm	Evening Prayer (EP)		
	TUESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	5:30pm	EP		
		<i>All Saints'</i>	9:30am	Eucharist				
	WEDNESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	6:45am	Eucharist	7:30am	MP	5:30pm	EP
	THURSDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	11:00am	Eucharist	5:30pm	EP
	FRIDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	9:15am	Eucharist	5:30pm	EP
	SATURDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP			5:00pm	EP
	1st Sunday	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH: 12:30pm in the Court House <i>For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Contact: Joan Morris 863780</i>						
	3rd Sunday	OPEN HOUSE: 11:30am - 5:00pm with the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park <i>Stay for five minutes or five hours; unlimited coffee; lunch; tell a friend, bring a friend.</i>						
	2nd/4th Monday	BIBLE STUDY/HOUSE GROUP: 8:00pm at the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park						
	1st Tuesday	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm in the Court House <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker.</i>						
	Tuesdays	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time 1st & 3rd Tuesdays; Short service 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Special activity weekly. Gillian Malcolm 874993						
	Tuesday	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:15pm third Tuesday at 3 Nightingale Lodge. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981						
	Tuesday / Wednesday	MEDITATION GROUP: meets first and third Wednesdays at 8:00pm at Jenny's 57 Meadow Road, and second and fourth Wednesdays at 2:15pm at Ruth's 1 Montague Road. <i>Everyone is very welcome to join us for about half an hour of quiet prayer.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown 863268						
	Wednesday	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall. Contact Chris Billington 866038.						
	2nd Wed	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981						
	4th Wed	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm in the Court House. The meetings are usually addressed by a guest speaker and the group attracts senior members for whom lifts can be arranged. <i>New members and visitors always welcome.</i> Contact: Vera Pullen 862196						
	Thursday	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Contact: Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) 863804						
	Thursday / Friday	THURSDAY / FRIDAY STUDY GROUPS: 9:30-11:30am. Two separate weekly meetings for informal Bible study and support. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens 866531 for Thursday or Gillian Malcolm 874993 for Friday						
	Friday	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-1:30pm in the Court House. Weekly meetings with a short service on 1st Fridays in St Peter's. Katy Bonney: 864194						
	Friday	CHOIR: Boys 7:00-8:30pm (& Tuesday 5:15-6:30pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Contact: Adrian Davis 864722 or Jean Wild 866859						
	3rd Saturday	ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast followed by prayers. <i>Share the concerns of individual churches and of our town. All will be very welcome.</i> Meetings rotate between local churches.						

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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.

April / May 1998

APRIL

5	9:00am	Blessing of Palms at <i>All Saints'</i> and Procession to <i>St Peter's</i>	
6-12		HOLY WEEK - see insert on page 24	
13		Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans	
23	8:00pm	Confirmation by the Bishop of Hertford	<i>St Peter's</i>
25	7:30pm	Chiltern Music Concert	<i>All Saints'</i>
26	3:00pm	St George's Day Scout Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
26	6:00pm	A Service of Thanksgiving & Commemoration for those who have recently died. Preacher: The Revd Jules Cave-Berquist	<i>St Peter's</i>

MAY

1	6:15am	May Day Madrigals from the tower	<i>St Peter's</i>
9	7:00pm	The Parish Party at the Town Hall	<i>Town Hall</i>
10	9:30am	Bishop Christopher to preach	<i>St Peter's</i>
	6:00pm	Choral Evensong, followed by...	<i>St Peter's</i>
	7:00pm	The Dolce Recorders Consort of the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music	<i>St Peter's</i>
16	7:30pm	Chiltern Philomusica orchestral concert - Elgar, Brahms, Mozart. Director: Adrian Davis	<i>St Peter's</i>
17	10:30am	The Children's Society Berkhamsted Walk sets out from the Court House	

Registers

Funerals

5 February	Mary Elizabeth Davis	St Peter's (ashes interred at St Peter's)
6 February	Christian Bruce da Cunha	St Peter's Church (Kingshill Cemetery)
6 February	Cecil (Jack) Rogers	West Herts Crematorium
13 February	Ellen Elsie Goodfellow	Chiltern Crematorium
17 February	John Thorne	West Herts Crematorium
20 February	Stuart Alfred Colin Kibble	St Peter's (ashes interred at St Peter's)
27 February	Mary Margaret Grieve	St Peter's (ashes interred at St Peter's)

SundaySchool

Churches

PCC 1997/8

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). Changes from the last list are shown in *italics*.

St Peters

All Saints

Altar service	Keith Middleditch (862423)	<i>Jenny Wells (870981)</i>
Chalice rota	Martin Macdonald (872002)	<i>Jenny Wells (870981)</i>
Sunday school	Julie Kemp (872576)	Carol Newcombe-Coetsee (863452)
Youth activities	Carole Dell (864706)	Christina Billington (866038)
Church maintenance	John Cook (866278)	Mike Limbrick (384682)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (863241)	<i>Barbara Belchamber (864933)</i>
Flower arrangements	Gwen Beddall (862845)	Jayne Harris (873974)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	Currently vacant
Service recordings	Tony Blair (864660)	Ian McCalla (384574)
Intercessions	Rev. Mark Bonney (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	Joan Cook (866278)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Electoral Roll	June Haile (873087)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	<i>Felicity White (866223)</i>
Sidesmen	Christopher Green (863241)	John Banks (871195)
Social events	Chris Smalley (826821)	Currently vacant
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Currently vacant
Hospice contact	Angela Morris (866992)	May Kempster (863037)



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Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

Contacts

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Friday)
 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 & Area Youth Worker, Christina Billington, 13 Ashlyns Rise. Tel: 866038
 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: Adrian Davis 864722 Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild. 866859
 Organist: Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sun BCP) Holy Communion
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with crèche, Wednesday 6.45am
 Sunday Schools & Pathfinders Thursday 11.00am
 (in the Court House) followed Friday 9.15am
 by coffee in the Court House. Morning Prayer: Mon-Sat 7:30am
 11.15am Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only) Evening Prayer: Mon-Fri 5:30pm
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon Holy Days - see weekly Notices
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints') Matins & Evensong said daily
Confessions: By appointment 864194
Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals: Contact Father Mark Bonney.
Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham 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 Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday schools & Pathfinders; 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 an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)



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