

In this issue

June 1998

**May we borrow
your rector?**

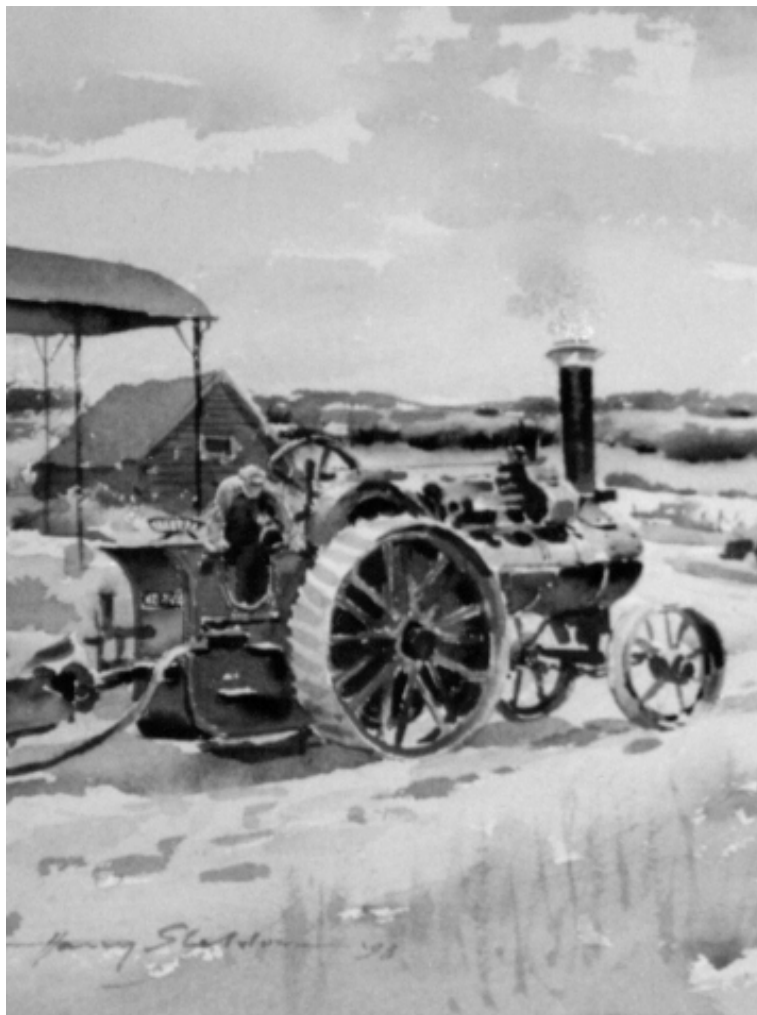
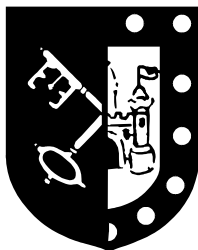
**Save our
trains**

**Berkhamsted
Rotary Club**

**Are youth
satisfied?**

**Some hard
questions**

**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the June issue of the Berkhamsted Review.

Thank you this month to Vivien Dotteridge, Bill Frew, Jessica Irons, David Simmons, Susan Taylor and Harold Young for sending us interesting material which lack of space has prevented us from including in this month's issue. Bear with us - your articles remain of interest and *will* be used in the near future!

We are very encouraged by the increasing number of readers who are being tempted to become writers. The more the merrier. We will use your material because it is the indispensable raw material of a parish magazine. One good rule in this sort of publication must be to get as many names in print as possible.

We could still do with some more photographs, however. Berkhamsted is a community rich in artistically gifted people. We are keen, indeed eager, to offer you a vehicle for showing off your work in this magazine. Please let us hear from you!

David Woodward

Cover: a detail from Harry Sheldon's watercolour Steaming Up - Traction Engines at Castle Hill Farm, which is one of the prizes in this year's Petertide Grand Prize Draw (see the advertisement on page 23).

In this month's issue...

May we borrow your rector?

Rev Canon John White explains why our rector will be away in July.

Save our trains

Ian McCalla looks at looming threats to and opportunities for our local services.

Berkhamsted Rotary

The history of Berkhamsted's Rotary club examined by **Colin Stott**.

Are youth satisfied?

John Cook questions whether our young people should be satisfied with their lot.

Petertide

Petertide Fair co-ordinator **David Northcott** explains what the jollifications on Saturday 27th June are all about.

Some hard decisions

Rev Peter Hart reminds us that God asks us some hard questions.

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

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 5 June 3 July 9 August



**Rev Canon John
White asks
'Please may I
borrow your
rector?'**

Fr Mark Bonney, will attend a mid-service course in Windsor between 2nd and 28th July. Rev Canon John White is the co-ordinator of the course.

Here at St. George's House we believe that we owe it to the congregations and parishes of the participants on our mid-service clergy courses that we should explain what happens when we take your local clergy away for a month. This is for their sake as much as for yours. The question 'Did you enjoy your holiday in Windsor, vicar?' often accompanies their return from their time here. But it is for your sake too, for we are conscious of the fact that in the absence of your minister, extra responsibility falls on those left behind: not least the clergy family, who frequently need additional support from the congregation; the church-officers who accept extra responsibilities for keeping the show on the road; and, of course, if you are fortunate to have any, the assistant clergy, who frequently find themselves taking an unexpected burden of ministerial functions.

We feel that we need to justify this upheaval both to you and to our participants. They have the difficulty of preparing for the month by writing, over the period of a year, a demanding project. They also have to ensure that they leave their own responsibilities properly covered during their absence.

First, let us try to remove some misconceptions under which some people seem to labour. The mid-service clergy course is not a holiday. In fact it is a very demanding course with little leisure and long days. Your minister will *need* a

holiday after the course is over and it would be a responsible act to encourage him to take at least a week off when he returns. It is not a promotion course where we try to see if your minister should move on to a different or better job. We make no reports from Windsor to any church body and we make no assessment of progress. It is not a training course to make them 'better at the job' through 'personal encounter' group activities or the like.

So what then *is* the mid-service clergy course set up to do? It is intended:

- To give ministers in their 'mid-service' a chance to stand back from the busy occupations of parish life and to assess what they have done, where they are now and what the future might mean for them and those for whom they have pastoral charge and care.
- To bring them face to face with people who have specialist knowledge of some of the problems of our society today (eg MPs, judges, black community leaders, trade union officials, media personnel and so on) and to enable them to tease out some of their problems.
- To give them a chance to look carefully at the basis of their personal life; in prayer, in theology, in their family, amongst their friends and parishioners.

In all it is a *re-assessment and renewal* which uses and values their personal experience. By giving space to reflect, and detachment from the hurly-burly, it enables, we hope, some new and renewed vision, both of God and his Kingdom.

May we in anticipation thank you for what you will do to make our course here a success and hope that you will feel that the effort you and we and your clergy put into it is really worthwhile. ❖

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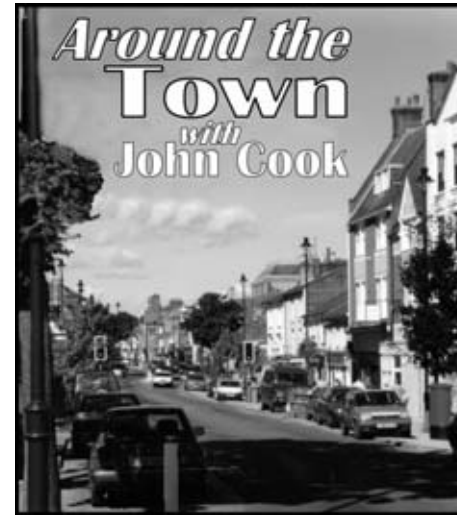
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Youth

Berkhamsted has had a youth council for over a year now. Stanley Sharpe was largely responsible for getting it set up and moving, and it is beginning to come up with ideas. One of these is a proposal that a skate board ramp should be provided on the site of the old open air swimming pool by the side of the canal.

Looking back at a *Berkhamsted Review* from 1972 I came across a reference to proposals for a youth council to be created then. The *Review* for October 1972 included a report of a survey carried out that year into the Town's youth. It was very thorough: over 1,000 people in the age group 11-24 were questioned - more than a third of all the people in the Town in that range. The main thing which young people thought was lacking for them in Berkhamsted, 26 years ago, was somewhere warm to meet informally, talk with their friends and drink coffee.

A Quarter of a Century On

There has been a sea change since then, mostly in the last ten years, and there are several warm places for them to meet and talk in, other than the pubs. We may have lost our cinema but on the plus side we have gained the sports centre, the youth

club and the dry pub at the *Swan*, apart from several coffee bars and cafes. Are our young people now satisfied on that front?

I don't suppose so; not a bit. The day young people become satisfied with their lot pigs will fly. Those who were the discontented youth in 1972 now find themselves the parents of today's discontented youth. Looking back, I think my generation in its youth must have been about the worst.

Perhaps the biggest difference between now and then is in politics. A lot of us who were in our teens at the end of the war were into politics. Mostly we were reds. There was a lot of literature about politics in bookshops then, and we bought and read it. There were protracted discussions in coffee bars and in pubs over glasses of Algerian wine, both the discussion and one glass of wine lasting all evening.

Now there seems to be little enthusiasm or interest for such matters among the young (or the old for that matter). Where WHSmiths at one time had racks of books expounding political dogma, now you would be hard-pressed to find any.

Anyway, good luck to the youth council; and it will be interesting to see what comes from their ideas.

Old Buildings, New Fronts

If you walk round the outside of St Peter's and look at the buildings surrounding the church you might well get the impression that the oldest of them is the conspicuous black and white house called Dean Incent's; but that is not so. It certainly looks its age, but it is only one of several houses around the church dating from the 15th or 16th centuries. The others, though, have had new fronts put on them in the last century or two.

Starting at the west end there is the 16th century Court House. What you see there today is a Victorian face on a Tudor building. Along the High Street from

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added to old houses in the 18th or 19th centuries to modernise them. The same applies to the first few cottages down Castle Street to the east of the church. Of the houses in the High Street, probably the oldest is the building which is now home to our newest estate agents.

Completing the square, as it were, on the north side of the churchyard is the original grammar school building, and this still looks much as it did when it was opened in 1544, except that extensions have been added at both ends.



Dean Incent's House: not the oldest

The Arts in Berkhamsted

I am for ever marvelling at the range of arts activities that go on in Berkhamsted: the variety, quality and extent of concerts, exhibitions, lectures and so on. We are particularly strong in music. A few years ago I spent a lot of time in Lisbon, and I came to the conclusion then that in a typical month there was more music in Berkhamsted than in the whole of Portugal's capital.

There are two areas of our music which I would particularly mention. At St Peter's we have a fine choir and organ, and when these were augmented with other singers and an orchestra on Easter Day the result was spectacular - worthy of a cathedral.

Then there is Tom Loten's Dacorum Sinfonietta (which of course isn't just Berkhamsted but often plays here) - always a treat to hear. Unfortunately its very talented and charming leader, Clare March, has got herself married and gone off to live in Scotland. What a loss to us and a gain for them.

Rule from Kent?

Not a great deal of reliable English history is to be found for the time from when the Romans left until the Norman invasion, (hence the Dark Ages); but this interesting item has come to light: In the year AD 696 in the reign of Wihtred, King of the people of Kent, a *deliberative assembly was collected in Berghamstye*.

It is not certain that this was today's Berkhamsted, but it seems quite possible. It is known that on another

occasion Wihtred issued a *grant* at Berkhamsted, suggesting that he may well have exercised power as far north of the Thames as today's West Hertfordshire.

I am grateful to the March edition of the newsletter of the Dacorum Heritage Trust for this snippet. The DHT's newsletter comes out every few months and is well worth reading if you are at all interested in local history. The current edition is available, as well as back copies, in the library.

Phone Intrusion

How rude should you be to salespersons who ring you up at inconvenient times to try and sell you double-glazing? They always seem to be at it. Twice it happened to us on Maundy Thursday; then someone phoned on Good Friday wanting to flog us a new kitchen. What should you say?

One idea is to ask them to hold on, leave the phone off the hook and go and do something else, thereby ensuring that at least for a few minutes they won't bother some other unfortunate person.

Do readers have any bright ideas; or are there people who actually approve of this intrusive form of salesmanship? ❖

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A year ago my wife Jane suggested that we should take one of the empty allotments near Sunnyside Church. There are over one hundred on this site alone, each measuring ten poles, a now archaic measure

which, according to my dictionary, is thirty and a quarter square yards. Each allotment is therefore over three hundred square yards, or the size of a substantial garden, rectangular in shape, the annual rent for this handsome space being a very modest £10 a year! There are water tanks distributed at intervals so that it is easy to keep plants well watered in dry spells. The site is sunny and south-facing which helps to account for the amazing variety of plants which are grown there.

Apart from the usual selection of potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes and similar vegetables there are many more exotic strains. One tenant has made a success of growing both globe and Jerusalem artichokes, a lady has devoted her plot entirely to flowers and one enterprising gentleman, whom I believe to be of Greek origin, has had considerable success with a vine which, in a reasonable summer,

A LOT OF ALLOTMENT

Stephen Halliday has an offer you may find very fruitful!

produces a fine crop of grapes. Corn on the cob also flourishes but none of the allotment holders I have spoken to ever gets to eat any because the badgers move in by night and steal it before anyone else gets the chance!

My one reservation about the plots is that mine is much larger than I need. I don't have the time to cultivate all of it all the time and I am embarrassed when bits of it start, in consequence, to become overgrown: something which seems to happen amazingly quickly on account of the amazing fertility of the soil. The size of the plots may account for the fact that there are many vacant plots despite the exceedingly modest rents. So if anyone out there would like to cultivate a piece of fertile land but doesn't want to take on a full sized plot then you are welcome to take on a bit of mine, free of charge. Any takers call me on 870194. If any of you want to join the 'Good Life', take on a full plot and become self-sufficient in fruit and veg call in at the Civic Centre and ask the town clerk about the vacant plots.



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On a Sunday in April I was told there was a tramp in church, and when a fellow 'welcomer' went to speak to him she came back quite upset and told me the poor man's wife had died early in March and he was very distressed.

I didn't see him but presume he stayed for the service. I have to confess that if, as welcomer, you sit at the back there is so much coming and going that virtually all of what is happening during the service completely washes over you. However, I found myself thinking about the man and wondering what had made him come to church. Was he expecting that he would be welcomed and perhaps helped by us 'Christians'? Was he desperately lonely and hoped to find companionship? Had he at some time been a churchgoer, before he fell upon bad times? What could we do about it? What should we do about him?

Then I found myself making excuses - if we took him back for a meal it would have to be rushed as we were on duty up at the Ashridge Tea Room in the afternoon. There wouldn't be time to offer him a bath and a change of clothes;

AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE...

Vera Pullen faces up to an unexpected challenge.

probably nothing would fit him. We knew nothing about him so we couldn't give him the run of the house whilst we were away, and so on and so on, and of course we forgot all about him. How convenient.

That evening when

I went back to church for the service of thanksgiving and remembrance for the bereaved, the same man was sitting at the back of the church. Alan Conway, after making enquiries, was willing to take him to St Albans to a centre for the homeless, but he refused to go. No doubt he was a wanderer, perhaps an alcoholic, but he must have had parents, a family at some time, a home. What had happened to him?

As a so-called 'Christian' I should have been prepared to do something for him. I didn't, I played safe. So much for my profession of faith. I have a poster on my study door which says, 'After all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.' I'm ashamed to say it is true. True Christianity hasn't been tried yet - if we really practised what we preach we could change the world. ❖

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PATRONAL FESTIVAL

St Peter's Day is Monday,
29th June. The patronal
festival Eucharist will be at
St Peter's at 8:00pm. The
preacher is Fr Peter Grant
of Sacred Heart RC
church.

This month has been fairly eventful. Members of the public are still complaining about the increase in the council tax, which is a sure sign that the new public relations department at borough has not got the message over yet. The defection of one of the borough council ruling group to the independents was the highlight of the annual meeting on 22nd April. This event is generally a nicely organised function, where the outgoing mayor says his piece and the incoming one thanks everyone for their support. This is followed by the agreement first of the minutes of the last full council meeting and then of the committee memberships for the year. This time the 'Berkhamsted syndrome' took over and the leader moved an amendment to the published list to delete their errant member from all committees. This was not acceptable to the three opposition parties. Confusion reigned for some time as the left hand attempted to find out what the right hand was up to.

The upshot was that the four group leaders had a meeting and agreed that the

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor
Norman Cutting scrutinises
recent events at our town
council.

urgency committee meet on the Saturday morning to sort matters out. I understand the membership of a number of committees has been increased to allow more accurate representation of the political balance of the council on each standing committee.

Guess who loses out? As we start the final year before the election next May, I thought I would remind you of some of the things this council has achieved over the past three years. We inherited a proposal for a new town guide, the Mayor's (now the Heritage) Walk, the canal and riverside partnership (CARP) and a system resistant to innovation and change. One of the first things that we all noticed was that we had very little power. The leaders of the majority group decided that things would have to change and set about raising funds to get things done.

They started by looking at the facilities available to enable your council serve you rather than pay lip service to those outside the town. These have now been upgraded with improved computer facilities together with better report compiling and printing. An

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additional part-time member of staff was employed to ensure holiday cover, all day opening five days a week and compliance with the new financial regulations. The idea of a decent council operated visitor and information centre is still on the wish list though with a distinct possibility of it happening.

The borough council have played a part in the life of the town, with the provision of lots of money to the chamber of commerce for the Christmas lights, the formation of the town centre forum and the funding of a town warden.

The forum is the place where the public has a direct line to the majority group and officers of the borough council. The town warden, Andy Rolls, has been worrying the borough officers and succeeding in getting some of those jobs done that no-body ever seems to get round to. Indeed, he even has been known to 'wade' into the bed of the 'River' Bulbourne and clear out the rubbish, including returning trolleys to the supermarkets.

Council tax increased because it has been 'politically' under funded for years and it was hoped that no-one would notice. In defence of both the borough councillors and officers, the public expectation of council services is far

greater than that which they are prepared to pay for. So a little honesty wouldn't go amiss. It would be useful to let us have your thoughts, as the budget for the year after the election will start to be considered in late summer and we wouldn't like to slip back into the old ways of reducing the precept just before an election, would we?

Just to update you on my web page: you can now find out all sorts of information including links to town schools and other organisations at <http://berkotc.connect-2.co.uk>. It has a counter fitted to the first page of council information, so we can get an idea whether or not to continue with it after this year. It is regularly updated and added to, so pay it a visit and let me have your comments and opinions on any town/borough matters.

Just arrived on my doormat is information about the structure plan review 1991-2011. You remember that County sent the report to the secretary of state in the hope he would consider intervening in the review, either by deleting the Green Belt proposals or reducing the total housing requirement. It looks as though the 'democratic' process has won and no change made. The fall-back position is still the SerPLAN review up to 2016, so watch this space! ❖

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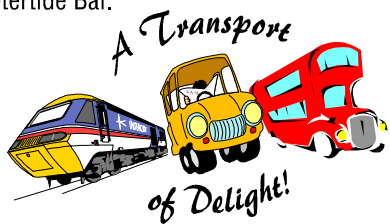
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year: the **Hospice of St Francis** in
Berkhamsted and the **Nchima Trust**,
working to bring clean water to people
in Malawi.

www.cavendish.co.uk/petertide

David Northcott provides us with an insight into how the Petertide Fair is planned and how the money raised this year will be used to help the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted and the Nchima Trust in Malawi.



As in previous years the proceeds of the Petertide Fair will be used to provide the charities concerned with specific articles or services: the funds are not simply handed over as cash. This ensures the control remains with the fair organisers and we are able to guarantee that the generosity of our local community, whether it be from those attending and spending at the fair, or from our local businesses, who also contribute most generously, ends up in the right place.

Each year, planning for the fair starts in early December and the organisers firstly look at the many charities proposed, and make a selection of, usually, two - one within the parish and one from outside. After the choices have been approved by the parochial church council we look at the needs of each charity and agree with them a target for the fair to aim at. Our desire in making this decision is to provide a lasting gift that can clearly be seen as being beneficial to the recipients. This year our targets are quite exciting and as usual very challenging, but we do like a challenge!

Dr Ros Taylor, medical director at St Francis, explained last month that the hospice was about to start a programme of refurbishment and expansion, enabling it to help even more people and provide them with a high standard of care. One way of achieving this is to ensure that a nurse is always available to patients when they are in need. The Petertide Fair is therefore targeting a new nurse call radio system, which, located at the bedside, can reliably alert a nurse wherever she may be

in the building, and ensure she gets to the patient quickly.

One of the many areas of need in Malawi, highlighted by Mrs Ann Scarborough MBE, of the Nchima trust, is the availability of clean water in the village. The benefits of reliable and clean water are obvious from a health point of view, but an added bonus of having it in the village is that it prevents the women and girls from having to carry heavy containers of water, from rivers or ponds, over several miles. This practice not only takes hours out of every day, but is a significant contributor to spinal and joint problems in women and girls. To alleviate this suffering and prevent associated health problems the Petertide Fair will be targeting the sinking of two wells, and the building materials for the well heads that make it possible.

So, now you can see, the money you help to raise at the fair will be spent on two very worthy causes, and help bring considerable relief into the lives of many who are less fortunate than most. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the fair and hope you will have an enjoyable day. If you would like to contribute in any way, please contact any member of the organising committee, numbers available in churches and on town notice boards. Or, if you have access to the Internet you can visit our website at www.cavendish.co.uk/petertide for further information. ❖

David Northcott, this year's Petertide Fair co-ordinator, can be contacted on 874037.

When your Editor asked me to write a few words about the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted, I needed no persuading for, as its president, I am proud of its achievements, awed by its history and honoured to be part of it.

Many people feel that Rotary is a mysterious and rather secretive society – it isn't. Some equate

Rotary with arcane dressing up rituals and 'special' recognition codes, which couldn't be further from the truth. Others believe that Rotarians are wealthy and prominent members of our local society – not a bit of it, although some of our members would fit into one or both of those categories.

So what is Rotary and where does the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted fit into the scheme of things?

Rotary International was formed in Chicago in 1905 and today is active in no less than 160 countries with a membership of over 1.2 million members in some 29,000 clubs. In Great Britain and Ireland there are 1,800 clubs. Our club in Berkhamsted is part of a district covering broadly Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire with nearly 2,000 members in 53 clubs. Whilst we value our national and international connections, particularly the welcome we receive when we are overseas, our real place is at the heart of the Berkhamsted community.

We were formed in 1936 which was a bad year to start anything. The echoes of the deepest financial recession since the fall of the Roman Empire were still audible, Adolph Hitler was using the Munich Olympic games as his springboard for the conquest of Europe and the second World War was just over the horizon. But a handful of Berkhamsted men were not

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BERKHAMSTED

Colin Stott takes us through the history of one of our town's most illustrious institutions.

deterred from founding our Rotary club because each of them felt deeply that in Rotary there was something of value and something too important to shelve. Our founder members included Cuthbert Cox, then headmaster of Berkhamsted School, who became our first president. He died in March 1962 as a Rotarian with over a

quarter of a century of service

At the outbreak of war, when younger Rotarians were called to serve their country, we did not falter. We played our part and we raised money to sponsor a cruiser. When the war ended, we recruited new (and old) members, including Dorian Williams. We founded the Amersham Rotary Club in 1946, the Probus Club in 1970, the Tring Rotary Club in 1974 and the Berkhamsted Bulbourne Rotary Club in 1984. In addition we have raised and distributed money in large amounts to many local causes including the Hemel Hempstead blind centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, the Iain Rennie Hospice, the Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted Youth Club, Berkhamsted Gym Club, Macmillan Cancer Relief, St Peters Church, St Mary's Northchurch - the list goes on and on.

Many of you will recall nostalgically the Valentine Balls which we organised throughout the '60s and '70s. We actively promoted the Berkhamsted Pageant in 1966 celebrating 900 years of history since William the Conqueror came here. Some of you will know that we started and paid for the Berkhamsted Christmas lights which were operated by us for the first three years. Everyone will know about the annual half marathon and fun run which has been a town success since we started it 16 years ago.

By now you will be thinking that Rotarians are dedicated workaholics, sharply focussed on doing 'good things' and puritanical in their zeal. So I now need to tell you what it is actually like to be a member of the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted.

It's great. We meet every Monday for a meal and either enjoy a good speaker and/ or conduct some club business. Then there are other occasions like a progressive or safari supper, or a musical evening or a visit to a Chinese restaurant. You get to know each other better, you become friends and your social and business contacts are strengthened.

Then there is the international aspect which might include a lunch in Bruges with your fellow Rotarians. Or perhaps you are on holiday in France. Visit the local Rotary club and doors begin to open for you. I have had tours of several vineyards, an invitation to a mayoral reception and been present at a discussion in Burgundy on the staffing and logistics of the vendange. Exceptional privileges for a tourist but par for the course for a Rotarian on holiday.

What about the downside to all this? Well, first it costs me £70 per annum subscription plus the cost of a weekly meal, say £400 per annum as a reasonable average. Then, if I want to go to the annual district conference and take my wife, I would budget about £300 for the

weekend. Other events might add another £250 over the year, amounting to just over £1,000, say £20 per week. And then there is the work to be done, but this is so enjoyable and worthwhile so that it cancels out the costs.

Our history is truly awesome and it continues to the present day. But times change and our members feel the same pressures of work and family that everyone else does. Some members whose work takes them out of the Berkhamsted area find that they cannot get to our 6:15pm Monday meetings in time. Others who have moved out of the area leave our club and join another Rotary club near their new location. There may be other reasons but the net effect is that we need to invite new members into our fellowship.

Perhaps you have a care for Berkhamsted and want to help support local, needy organisations. You might like to do this within a framework of mutual fellowship either as a member of a team or as a personal task with individual recognition. Or perhaps you have a special skill which you could put at the disposal of the young people of Berkhamsted, either directly or in the form of career advice. Maybe you would simply like more information or would like to come to one of our meetings as a guest.

The box below contains contact details for the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted. We would be delighted to hear from you. ❖



The Rotary Club of Berkhamsted



Established in Berkhamsted over 60 years ago, the Club has made significant contributions to the development of the Berkhamsted community in many different ways.

Membership is by invitation only but we welcome enquiries and we are pleased to have non-Rotarians come to our weekly meetings by prior arrangement.

For more information, please contact during office hours, either our President Colin Stott on 01442 874941 or our Secretary Geoffrey Sumner on 01442 872311

The Cowper Society presents



J.S. BACH **MASS in B MINOR**

CHILTERN CHAMBER CHOIR
with
THE CHANDOS ENSEMBLE
Directed by Adrian Davis

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BERKHAMSTED
Sunday, June 28th 1998 at 7:30pm
Tickets: £7.00 and £5.00 (concessions)



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I have recently been given the 'transport portfolio' by Northchurch parish council. First I looked at buses. No exciting changes have been made to the bus services in recent years, although the bus company has changed hands a few times. It now belongs to a firm called Arriva, which also operates a lot of London bus routes.

So I have been looking at the train services. Well, having worked on the railway for twenty-seven years I would, wouldn't I? And Northchurch people *do* use Berkhamsted station. Two separate but connected issues have aroused our interest and concern.

The first was the activities of Connex South Central. They run the trains from Victoria to Surrey, Sussex and the south coast. Last May they started a new service from Gatwick airport to Rugby, but they go through Berkhamsted without stopping. We thought that a through service to Olympia, Croydon and Gatwick would be very useful.

So how do we persuade Connex to stop their trains at Berkhamsted? We have to convince them that it is economic to do so, and that there is a large number of

SAVE OUR TRAINS!

Tilting trains threaten the quality of our rail services,
Ian McCalla says.

regular business fliers in the catchment areas of Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Leighton Buzzard. However, stopping at all or any of these stations causes problems. It adds extra time to the journey. It makes the train seem like a slow one to

those who *don't* use these stations and it means that the trains must run on the slow lines between Watford and Milton Keynes. This adds another ten minutes to the overall journey.

At present Connex can run the service with only five trains. Add half an hour extra to the round trip and another train set is needed, and a scarce worth-its-weight-in-gold dual voltage train at that! We are working on these problems and are still talking to Connex.

Everybody involved with the local railway services is worried about a big black cloud on the horizon. This is the coming of Richard Branson's 140mph tilting trains. They will have a profound

(continued overleaf)

effect on services operated by both Connex South Central and Silverlink.

First, there will be considerable

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disruption of services while the whole system (tracks, signals and overhead lines) is being upgraded for them. This process is covered by the mystery acronym 'PUG2'. When that is finished and the new trains are running, no trains which cannot do at least 125mph will be allowed on to the fast lines. This means that all the trains run by Silverlink, Connex and the two freight companies will have to use the slow lines. At present many of them are able to use the fast tracks to overtake slower trains. Thus those presently fast trains to Northampton and Rugby will have to crawl along behind stopping and freight trains.

Our calculations are that in the peak period they will be running 'block-to-block' (to quote traditional railway jargon)

behind one another at the speed of the slowest train. This will add eight minutes to peak-hour journey times between Euston and Berkhamsted. And with more congestion, reliability will deteriorate with everything coming to a complete stop if anything fails. It will be the railway equivalent of the M25. Unless the regulator sticks to his guns and makes Railtrack come up with better ideas than they have so far... Perhaps you should be writing to Richard Page MP, especially if you work in London.

What, in the meantime, are the local authorities who run Berkhamsted doing about it? Do they know anything about it? Norman Cutting, where are you? Meanwhile Northchurch parish council are looking after your interests! ❖

The Cowper Society presents

Berkhamsted Choral Society

Mendelssohn's

Elijah

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted
Saturday 13th June 1998 at 7:00pm

Soprano	Eldrydd Cunan Jones	Tenor	Jeffrey Lloyd Roberts
Mezzo	Andrea Gray	Baritone	Dyfed Wyn Jones

Conductor **Graham Wili**

Tickets: Adults £7; Concessions £5 from
Cole Flatt & Partners, 124 High Street, Berkhamsted
or Berkhamsted Choral Society members



***Revd Peter Hart
reminds us that
God asks us some
hard questions.***

reviewnorthchurch

After months of rain, wind and dreary weather, this month holds out for us the prospect of the outdoor life: times in the garden, walks on Ashridge, strolls alongside the canal. Nature beckons in all her colour-filled glory, and we all feel the urge to get out and enjoy it. Along with that comes a vaguely pious notion of seeing God in the colours of the flowers, and meeting him in the bees and the dragon flies. Suddenly, the God of creation seems accessible again, so out we go to encounter his presence.

However, when we get out into the great outdoors, we quickly realise that there are all kinds of things which are not so sweet and pretty. We all know the nuisance of wasps and the panic they sow. Mosquitoes easily ruin a quiet evening's musing by a lake, and dead baby birds bespeak either heartless cuckoos or bigger birds fighting for space at the expense of their siblings. 'Nature red in tooth and claw' confronts us, and we ask serious questions of this God of creation. 'Did you really create slugs to eat our lettuces, or for food for the thrush?' 'Do cats really have to be so vicious with their tiny prey, all fluffy and longtailed?' 'Why do those eight-strong broods of ducklings get whittled down to two so quickly?' 'What sort of a God are you?'

The other reminder which we are rapidly given is that this God of creation has been active all winter and spring, while we have been happily ignoring his work, tucked up within our cocoons of warmth and protection. Something is askew, where have we gone wrong?

A balanced vision is what can so easily be lost, and sentiment can hold sway over a reasoned attitude to God. The God of creation balances the long term with the short term, and rejoices in the medium term prospects. Life cycles are short, long and somewhere in between, for all living things, and the balanced interaction of each component of the world gives purpose and direction to it. If our attitude to it is unbalanced or sentimental, then we too are out of kilter with God's strategy. We worry about the destruction of the rain forests, but have not yet made the connection with the debt crisis. Hard economics as well as science and a creation theology must be put together when addressing heart-stirring issues, just as the reality of survival must colour our sentimental reaction to the plight of the disappearing brood of ducklings. There are hard questions which God raises for us in his creation, just as much as the majestic revelation of the divine hand in all that is around us. As we venture out this summer, may we face those hard questions, seek their answers, and balance our understanding of God with a knowledge of the breadth of his purposes. ❖

ORGAN RECITAL

ST MARY'S NORTHCHURCH

The opening recital on the organ newly rebuilt by Saxon Aldred will be given by Hilary Norris on 20th June at 7:30pm

Entrance free, refreshments available

review notes¬ices

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who responded to the St Peter's and All Saints' stewardship campaign earlier this year. The total pledged increase is £9,500 and if realised will significantly improve our situation. So, thank you again.

TUESDAY CLUB

For our June meeting on Tuesday 2nd at 8:15pm we will be entertained with three fascinating films presented by Mr David Stevens illustrating the wide variety of countryside found in Britain. The films range from the Farne Islands of Northumberland to springtime in southern England. New members will be warmly welcomed at any of our monthly meetings.

JUNE AND JULY AT ASHRIDGE

Guided walks and gentle strolls are organised by the Friends of Ashridge and led by estate staff and volunteer guides. The strolls are shorter and at a gentler pace! Walks cost £2 for friends and £3 for others; strolls cost £1.

A walk in Ashridge gardens will leave Ashridge college car park at 7:00pm on Thursday 4th June.

A stroll leaves Bridgewater Monument at 1:00pm on Thursday 11th June.

A downland walk leaves Steps Hill car park at 7:00pm on Tuesday 23rd June.

A woodland walk leaves Lady's Walk car park at 7:00pm on Wednesday 1st July.

A stroll leaves Steps Hill car park at 10:00am on Wednesday 15th July.

Please book a place on any of these walks by ringing Janet Stupples on 842252.

The *Four-seasons craft fair* will be held on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July at Meadleys Meadow from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Mediaeval themes will include Robin Hood, knights and traditional crafts, with many traditional food stalls. The cost is £3 for adults, £1 for children and £2.50 for senior citizens.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

The Golden Jubilee appeal account has now been closed and we are proud to say that we collected a total of £22,106 which included interest on monies in the account during the appeal and tax credited from tax free gifts. Our expenses were payments for hall hire, raffle licence, postage, collecting and returning the D Class boat we borrowed, a donation to the Dunkirk Little Ships Association, the band for the barn dance, two draw prizes, drinks licences and advertising which in all totalled

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BERKHAMSTED

BOOK FAIR

**SATURDAY
JUNE 27**

Ashlyns School,
Chesham Road
Berkhamsted, Herts
10am to 4pm

Admission 25p (donated to charity)
Accompanied children free
Refreshments available
Organiser: 862011

£1,120. The low level of expense is in part due to the generosity of many members who helped out at no cost to the appeal. We have just over £800 to send to the Happisburgh lifeboat station towards their running costs.

We have been very lucky that so many people from all over the district have helped in so many ways. Some, like our local police sports and social club, devoted all their recent events to our appeal and contributed a very significant sum to our total. Little Gaddesden with very strong leadership organised a super charity auction which produced nearly £3,500. This gave a magnificent boost towards our goal and our final large effort at Waitrose put us past the winning post. When we added in all the interest and reclaimed tax we were over the moon and felt rightly proud of Berkhamsted and district.

Several relatives asked that instead of flowers a contribution be made to the appeal which results in over £1,300 being donated. We were so lucky that we were given a superb watercolour by that great friend of Berkhamsted, Harry Sheldon, to be the main prize in the grand draw. I am sure that the lucky winner will prize it for many years, even more so for what it helped to achieve.

We has a demonstration D Class boat in the town for two separate weeks and that raised a respectable amount. At least everyone could

see what they were collecting for. Startrite Tyres generously garaged the boat overnight and during the day when it was on view; there was one of their staff available at the gate with a bucket to receive donations. They collected over £450. We had support from many more people, from the golf club, the flower club, the collegiate school, various associations and businesses. I think nearly all sections of the community have been represented one way or another.

Thank you Berkhamsted. You have, as always, done something that you can be proud of. Remember that when you go to Happisburgh you must visit your lifeboat.

The 1998 Petertide **DRAW**

Great prizes including a Harry Sheldon watercolour, vintage aircraft flights, steam train rides and champagne!

Tickets are 25p each or 1.50 a book of 6 from Alan Conway (865798) or any fair committee member. The draw will be made on the day of the Fair, Saturday 27th June.

Watermill Weddings

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BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.



At our May meeting Mary Harris, vice-president, welcomed us to our resolutions meeting. With our secretary, Janet Mitchell, she took us through the business matters including a report of the annual general meeting held at Hatfield last month. Our president Liz Baxendale then guided members through the two public affairs resolutions selected for the intermediate general meeting at Brighton in June. They were both carried unanimously. Next month we look forward to meeting again Mrs Beryl Hilbert who will give us an illustrated talk on Scotland in the Autumn. This is on 5th June at the Court House at 2:00pm.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.

The April meeting opened with our president, Mrs Jill Blumson, welcoming members and reminding them of forthcoming meetings and outings this month. These were the resolution briefing meeting on 23rd April and the Herts Federation annual council meeting on 27th April. Outings to Sandringham and Oxford in July were confirmed. Members were encouraged to read the new Denman College programme and to apply for bursaries.

Our speaker for the evening, Mr Tony Rook, a writer and lecturer with the Universities of London, Essex and Cambridge, took us '*Up the Nile without a paddle*'. He gave a fascinating glimpse of Egypt, which he described as a 'long, thin country with a long, thin history'. Historically speaking nothing of particular import occurred for a great number of years, hence '*a long, thin history*'. He stressed the importance of the River Nile to the Egyptians - pointing out that as the country is effectively five miles wide and mainly desert, the Nile, which flows through a gorge has always been the only source of water.

Mr Rook illustrated his talk with slides. Some slides demonstrated the ways in which the ancient Egyptian way of life was portrayed. Gods were depicted as partly human, partly

animal, noblemen were pictured as very large, women comparatively smaller and working people even smaller. Other slides showed the use of hieroglyphics - a form of writing or telling stories in Ancient Egypt, using picture symbols. He described the Egyptian people as 'good, friendly and genuine' and finished his talk with a magnificent slide of the sun going down, commenting that "as the sun goes down, I am sure that it becomes lighter".

The May meeting was on 20th May when members discussed the resolutions to be taken forward to the intermediate general meeting at Brighton in June.

NORTHCHURCH W.I.

In March Northchurch W.I. had been hosts to a group meeting chaired by Mrs Barbara Reid of Tring W.I., when they had been joined by Aldbury, Tring and Wigginton institutes. The speaker, Caroline Elwood of Albury W.I. introduced her programme of speech and drama entitled *Do It Yourself*. A physically active and energetic interlude ensued. Each institute gave a report on its recent activities.

An invitation by Sainsbury's to visit the Apsley store was accepted by a group of members. A friendly and helpful staff answered a multitude of questions and explained the running of a huge enterprise as fully as possible, and satisfied to a large extent the customers' curiosity about what goes on behind the scenes.

The speaker for the April meeting was Mrs G Smallman. She displayed a large and varied selection of her decorated eggs, ranging in size from goose down to quail. Her skilful mastery of a wide number of crafts was impressive and the range of imaginative celebration eggs did her great credit. She demonstrated the process involved, from blowing the egg to hardening the shell, cutting a door, and lining and covering a hen's egg to make a delightful jewel-box. Mrs Win Prout-Jones appropriately thanked her.

The bloom of the month competition was won by Sheila Latham and the competition by Christine Flanagan.



SUNDAY	<i>St Peter's:</i>	8:00am	Eucharist			
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist, crèche, 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, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall. All Saints' is an Anglican Methodist local ecumenical partnership. On the <i>first Sunday</i> each month there is <i>instead</i> a joint family service at 10am			
			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> Contact chairman Angela Morris 866992 or secretary Margaret Barnard 862794.						
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 or Jenny Wells 870981.						
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 at 8:00pm. <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. 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: 9:30-11:30am 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.						

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.

June / July 1998

JUNE

7	10:00am	Joint family service	<i>All Saints'</i>
11	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist on the feast of Corpus Christi	<i>St Peter's</i>
13	7:00pm	Mendelssohn <i>Elijah</i> - Berkhamsted Choral Society	<i>St Peter'</i>
17		St Peter's Area Committee	
18		All Saints' Area Committee	
20	8:00am	ABC Prayer Breakfast at Berkhamsted Baptist Church	
27	10:00am	PETERTIDE FAIR in and around St Peter's church and the Court House (<i>ends 3:00pm</i>)	
28	7:30pm	Bach <i>Mass in B minor</i> - a Petertide Celebration (Chiltern Chamber Choir)	<i>St Peter's</i>
29	8:00pm	St Peter's Day - Patronal Festival Eucharist. Preacher Fr Peter Grant (followed by drinks at the Rectory)	<i>St Peter's</i>

JULY

2		Standing committee	
5	6:00pm	Choral Evensong in memory of Karen Breakwell	<i>St Peter's</i>
14		Parochial church council meeting	

Registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

19 April	Thomas William Peters, Henry John Peters, Nicholas David Ewart (<i>St Peter's</i>)
12 April	Matthew Anthony Simpson (<i>All Saints'</i>)

Wedding (*St Peter's*)

4 April	Adrian Lloyd Herbert & Joanna Mary Lumb
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Funerals

7 April	Gertrude Katherine Barker	Chilterns Crematorium
6 April	Florence Day	Chilterns Crematorium
9 April	Elsie MacDonald	St Peter's church (Chilterns Crematorium)
27 April	Margaret Lambourne	St Peter's (ashes interred at Kingshill Cemetery)



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Young people

Churches

PCC 1998/99

Contacts

Young people at St Peter's and All Saints'

St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Linda Bisset (862115) or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

Crèche is available at 9:30am for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Please contact Katy Bonney (864194).

All Saints'

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:15 to 10:15am, or at 10:00am on the first Sunday in the month. Sunday school caters for 3-9 year olds; Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Children from both groups join the main service part way through. Contact Carol Newcombe-Coetsee (863452), Kathy Beaumont (384453) or Felicity White for Pathfinders (863526). Crèche is available at the same times as Sunday school for children under 3. Please contact Elizabeth Figg (866161).

Youth Groups

The youth fellowship meets in the Court House each Sunday 7:30-9:30pm. Contact Christina Billington (866038).

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in All Saints' hall. Contact Christina Billington (866038).

For mid-week activities for toddlers please see page 25.



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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 pm / Sat am)
 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 Ashridge Rise. Tel: 866038
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227
 Churchwardens: Mrs Barbara Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798;
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195
Parochial Church Council: Secretary: Richard Foster, Vandykes, 29 Ashlyns Road. Tel: 863359
 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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