

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

July 1998

The Lambeth
Conference

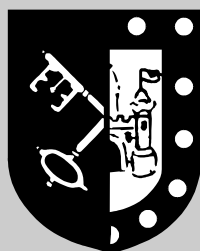
Free cherry
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to the rule
book?

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A saucy castle

This month's
Notes & Events



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Thank you, Barbara!

During her time in Berkhamsted, Barbara Belchamber has done a great many jobs in this parish. The most conspicuous was her notably effective term as deputy warden for All Saints'. What is not so well known is her service for the past decade or so as first a helper and then a joint editor of the *Review*.

Barbara began this work assisting our previous editor, Katie Beckett, and soon moved to a position whereby she and I edited alternate issues of the magazine or shared the work in other ways. When I was out of action due to an operation two years ago Barbara ran the editorial side solo for several months.

She is shortly leaving to settle in Grange-over-Sands and we offer her and David (another unsung participant in this enterprise) all the best for the future and many years of happiness in their new home.

David Woodward

Cover: The group of children visiting us from Chernobyl, enjoying a fun day and barbecue with the Round Table at the start of their visit. A full report on the visit will appear next month.

Photo: Chris Smalley.

In this month's issue...

A Conference of Bishops

Fr Mark Bonney explores the purposes and idiosyncrasies of the Lambeth Conference.

Free Cherry Trees!

John Cook passes on an offer which we hope Berkhamsted can't refuse.

What happened to the rule book?

Will extending sex and rug education to younger people work, wonders **Vera Pullen**.

The Making Place

Sue Cook invites you to explore, learn and grow at the *Making Place*.

A saucy castle

Stephen Halliday tells a story from Berkhamsted's prospective twin town.

Fair's fair

Rev Peter Hart is hooked on summer fairs and open days.

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

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 3 July 9 August 4 September



***Fr Mark Bonney
on the purposes -
and idiosyncrasies -
of the Lambeth
Conference.***

review leader

From the 17th July for about a month there will be a large meeting of Anglican bishops from all over the world being held in Canterbury. This is the Lambeth Conference, which gathers every ten years and acts as a forum for discussion, fellowship and shared concern for all the bishops of the Anglican Communion.

The Anglican Communion is, at one level, a weird and wonderful Anglican legacy of Englishness. It is a legacy of English colonialism, although far gone are the days when the American colonies came under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London, and 'The Church of England in Australia' would no longer be a name to rejoice the hearts of any of our antipodean brothers and sisters. At another level the Anglican Communion is an example of that quintessential feature of Anglicanism - the ability to hold together in communion a wide spectrum of Christian opinion. That is not to say the Communion has not and is not without its tensions. This will be the first Lambeth Conference at which women bishops will be present and that is a cause of some tension. The Archbishop of Canterbury, by virtue of his office, is the senior bishop present, and continues to exercise a particular ministry of unity, in which affection is more significant than authority. Because of the dispersed nature of Anglican authority don't expect great shattering pronouncements by the Lambeth bishops - but there will be some lively discussions on many issues facing Christians throughout the world.

This great gathering is a reminder that being an Anglican is a far bigger and

better thing than simply being a member of All Saints' or St Peter's or St Etheldreda's in the Wilderness - it is a reminder that members of the Church of England are part of a worldwide federation of 37 churches containing 500 dioceses and about 7 million members. It is part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church (that Church which exists only perfectly in heaven). A modest part in a global context - but a part nonetheless, and a part that has its distinctive offering to make to the Catholic Church. The denigrators of Anglicanism will always say how difficult it is to pin down - and perhaps at times it is, but not necessarily so. In 1888 the Lambeth Conference signed up to what is known as the Lambeth Quadrilateral. This is a document of four articles that enshrine the inherent balance characteristic of Anglicanism and which have proved themselves to be an invaluable benchmark in determining doctrinal questions from an Anglican point of view. These four articles are:

- Holy Scripture as 'the rule and ultimate standard of faith'
- the Apostles' and the Nicene Creed as 'sufficient statements of the Christian Faith'
- the two sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist
- the historic episcopate.

It is these things that unite (I hope!) the bishops of the Lambeth Conference, and are an essential feature of this funny animal called the Anglican Communion. It's good for all of us to be reminded of essentials of who we are, and also to remember that the Church of God is much bigger than our own little patch (and much bigger than the Anglican Communion too!) ❖

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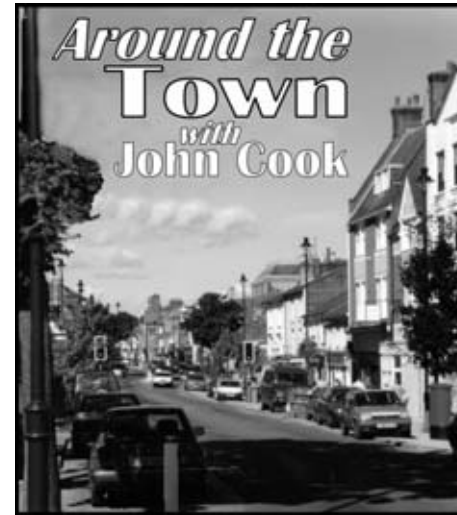
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A use for old newspapers

For a few months now we have been regularly getting a new free local paper, *The Dacorum Independent*, and in my view it is not at all bad as these papers go: it is quite newsy and well laid out.

A lot of people of course don't get it at all; either they are off the route of the deliverer or they put one of those little notices near their letterbox: *No free papers*. I sometimes think this is rather looking a gift-horse in the mouth.

This is certainly a problem for the green-minded. Forests are felled to provide these papers and time and energy expending in disposing of them. The market for old newspapers is almost saturated and if you take them to one of the skips in the town you may well find it brimming over.

But I recently happened to visit a place where there is a shortage of old newspapers. In Yemen they use newspapers for tablecloths. Except in the better hotels there, tablecloths made of textiles are almost unknown. Usually in restaurants nothing covers the bare tables, if indeed they even have tables. (Knives and forks are rare too).

But when the staff see that you are a foreigner they will often cover the table

with newspapers in deference to what they see as the Westerners' pernickety concern for hygiene. When I was there most of the tablecloths we were offered were in Arabic, but we did get *The Straits Times* on one occasion, and on another *The New York Herald Tribune*.

Railway Changes

The exhibition of photographs of local scenes held at Westbrook Hay School on the May Bank Holiday weekend was excellent. They called it *Looking through the Lens*, and there were some fine photographs of Berkhamsted, including several of the railway here. It certainly looked very different 50 or 60 years ago.

Ian McCalla's article in last month's *Review* about coming alterations to the train services on our line was another reminder that the railway never stays the same for long.

Of all the changes that have happened to our railway in living memory the most important was electrification in the 1960's, when we not only gained our electric trains but lost our goods yard, signalbox and all our points. The signalbox and goods shed buildings were demolished.

But we still have reminders of those earlier days (when Berkhamsted had its own resident railway staff) in the old stationmaster's house by the side of the station in unmistakable railway brick, and two other houses in Station Road of similar robust construction.

Night Mail

On a similar topic George Cameron writes to say he recently watched an old Post Office film on television called *Night Mail* which showed the inner workings of a mail train carrying letters from London to Glasgow. Bags were collected and dropped off at particular places en route by means of special apparatus attached to the coach.

This reminded George of a similar apparatus that stood (about 1950) on the south side of the railway track somewhere

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memories (for example) of Post Office workers with their red handcarts collecting the mail bags to take back for sorting and distribution to the town and villages, and (is he correct? he asks) to Amersham.

Hospitals

Save Our Hospitals, the posters say. Protest groups are active and there is certainly plenty being said and written about proposed changes and even possible closures of local hospitals. We keep hearing of new proposals. Last month's idea was for an entirely new hospital on a 'green-field' site between Kings Langley and Watford; but as we go to press this seems to have met a snag: it turns out the green field is not for sale.

On the subject of local health provision, the Health Authority is holding a public consultation meeting - a forum - in Berkhamsted Town Hall on 20th July, and are sending some of the top brass in the health service to make a presentation and answer questions.

In the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries there could have been few towns with more hospitals than Berkhamsted. We had at least four. Two of them were founded in King John's time: St John the Baptist for poor and infirm persons and St John the Evangelist (also called St James') for lepers. There were at least two others: St Leonard's and St Clement's, but nothing seems to be known about these.

The Hospital of St John the Baptist stood in the High Street about opposite the bottom of what is now Boxwell Road. It lasted for 300 years, until in the 16th century Dean Incent persuaded the brethren to devote its endowment to the education of the children of Berkhamsted. The funds made available were used for building Berkhamsted School.

The hospital closed and eventually all the buildings disappeared. But its name is still remembered in St John's Well Lane, and at the school in St John's House and the statue of John the Baptist on the side of the school chapel.



The modern look of the railway at Berkhamsted

Free Cherry Trees

Responding to a comment of mine about the loss of trees, in Lower Kings Road particularly, Mr Paul Latham has written to me from Perthshire. He commented that where he lives at Blairgowrie they are surrounded by cherry trees, called *gean* there, and when he wrote in May they were in flower - a magnificent sight, he said.

Mr Latham is a nurseryman and he very generously offered to provide trees free of charge if the local council or whoever is responsible can be persuaded to plant them.

He sent me a poem, written by a friend of his, concerning the destruction of trees by the dreaded chain saw. This verse from it gives a flavour of its sentiment:

*To servitude this tool is doomed,
To make of wood a thing that
bloomed;
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What a very queer world we are living in at present. We may not be able to win the World Cup this year - our 'hero' Gazza having disgraced himself once more has been left out of the squad. But you may be interested to learn our country has the highest percentage of any in the world of single mothers! We are also the highest in

the abortion stakes. Thousands of babies are killed every year in this country - yes, babies. Believe me, when you are pregnant at no time do you either think of it as or believe it to be a foetus. If you have watched that remarkable programme *The Human Body* on TV you will have learned how early this collection of cells begins to have the attributes of a human being. I believe that theoretically you still have to have the permission of two doctors before an abortion can take place, but I am sure it is really abortion on demand, and often for the flimsiest of reasons. 'It isn't convenient now', 'My career comes first' and so on. In these days when women do have control over their bodies, why don't they think first?

Did you also see in the national press that a boy of twelve had raped a little girl of five? It does seem to me that after years of so-called sex education in schools and at a much earlier age, all we have succeeded in doing is to encourage children to experiment. In fact I am sure of it. Many years ago a neighbour came to me in great distress one morning to tell me her eight year old daughter had come home from school and told her, 'It doesn't work!' When she finally discovered what hadn't worked it was that after having a lesson on sex her daughter had gone round the corner with a small boy and, in her

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RULE BOOK?

Vera Pullen finds herself
perplexed by the examples set
for young people today.

words, tried it - but it hadn't worked! In view of the fact that we keep hearing of younger and younger children having babies - after all the lessons they've attended, surely it proves that youngsters like to prove things for themselves? Can you blame them when even chocolate bar advertising on TV has sexual overtones?

The powers that be have now decided that even small children must be informed about the dangers of drug abuse. My fear is that it will be just about as successful as instruction on the dangers of irresponsible sex, and they will also decide to experiment on the theory that until you try it yourself you don't know.

Heroes and heroines appear to have vanished from the face of the earth. I read today of a woman TV announcer (not BBC I'm glad to say) who was invited to the Palace where other people who had achieved various things were also invited. She then, in her own words, 'nicked' a couple of small items which she then displayed on her show on TV and made a joke of it. For heaven's sake the woman is plainly a thief. If someone invited to my house did the same I would be furious. Wouldn't you?

How are we going to be able to explain to youngsters that experimentation with sex without understanding the responsibilities that go with it is dangerous. That taking drugs with all the degradation and misery that brings will very likely kill them. That it is actually wrong to take things that don't belong to you. We seem to have thrown away the rule book completely and we are left with utter chaos.



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In warm sunshine at least 50,000 people gathered in Birmingham on Saturday 16th May to make a six mile human chain. This was part of the Jubilee 2000 campaign to urge the G8 world leaders to consider seriously the issue of the debts of the poorest countries of the

world. The world leaders were out of Birmingham and safe from the demonstration, in the Staffordshire countryside - a point strongly emphasised by the speakers in St Martin's in the Bullring in the morning. The church was full to overflowing and with the speeches relayed outside, many thousands of people heard clear and at times impassioned support for the campaign from MPs, representatives of Jubilee 2000, Christian Aid and other agencies. Among the crowd, a bishop sat quietly eating his packed lunch, purple cassock stuffed into a carrier bag at his side!

In the afternoon young and old, of many races, formed a human chain along the pavements of the city centre. The square around St Philip's Cathedral was two or three deep with people; some in fancy dress, some with red hair and faces,

JUBILEE 2000

The G8 summit demonstration supporting Jubilee 2000 was a rousing occasion, as
Margaret Burbidge found.

some linked by all manner of chains. At three o'clock the cathedral bells rang, whistles were blown, and shouting, clapping and Mexican waves all served to draw attention to the importance of the campaign. At its heart is the fact that the root cause of much poverty

in Third World countries is debt; debt to the richest nations, the IMF and World Bank, and debt which can never be repaid. Jubilee 2000 is urging the world leaders of the richest countries to cancel the debt of the world's poorest countries, so that in a new millennium, a billion people can be given a fresh start. Petitions from all over the world were received by Clare Short MP.

Afterwards the people slowly dispersed, encouraged by the unity and solidarity the demonstration brought, but perhaps disappointed at the absence of the world leaders from Birmingham. The lack of priority given to the debt issue by the world leaders at the end of their summit emphasises the need for the campaign to continue, which it will. Jubilee 2000 will confront the G8 leaders when they meet in Germany next year. To 'break the chains of debt' is of real importance, both to those in Birmingham on 16th May, but especially to those who live in abject poverty in the Third World. ❖

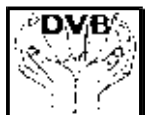
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You can find the *Making Place* at the bottom of the town hall arcade. If there's no-one in you'll barely notice it, but, if the lights are on, take

time to peer through the window and see what's happening. For you are likely to find a hive of happy activity, with children or adults having great fun at pottery, silk painting or even sculpture.

The *Making Place* was born just over eighteen months ago when West Herts College despite a long search were unable to find premises for their pottery and sculpture courses. In response Freda Earl, helped by some of her pottery students and the backing of the Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust, converted the *Reluctant Eel* into a working pottery, complete with kilns and potters wheels. This became the *Making Place*.

The first year was exciting. Would people come? Would it work? It did, and now well into the second year Freda has been joined by Sue Taylor to share the increasing workload. There are currently seven weekly classes for children, five for adults (most with West Herts College) and lots of extra special activities for everyone, ranging from children's parties to 'raku' days for adults. *Raku* means fun in Japanese, and it's just that. Each person decorates one or more pots. We heat the pots to 1000°C and then as they glow white hot we plunge them into sawdust, then sizzling into water. Everyone goes home with a cache of pots, a grin and smelling like a bonfire.

THE MAKING PLACE

At the bottom of the town hall arcade lies a treasure store of creative fun and activity.

As well as the classes there is studio time available for budding potters and sculptors, while advice and support is available to young potters just starting in their professional life.

There is now quite a community of artists and students growing up around the *Making Place*. At one point we even had our own cat! This is precisely

what Freda and Sue want, for unusually in these modern times the *Making Place* is first and foremost run for the benefit of the community. A place where people can be creative, where parents can work along side their children, where the tensions of the working day are lost in the concentration of throwing a pot, and where your imagination can be set free to explore.

There is always a friendly buzz in the air when the *Making Place* is occupied and people love to be there. The classes also provide an excellent opportunities to meet new people and to chat.

For Sue, becoming part of the *Making Place* was in part an act of faith. Until August of last year she was a landscape architect, but was led to give up her job to get involved with the *Making Place*, with a chance to give something back to the community but with no assured income. Six months on she has no regrets at all, but has new opportunities to use her skills within the community and Church alike. Sue is now looking forward to a richly varied future both for herself, for the *Making Place* and for the people of Berkhamsted. ❖

If you want to find out more about what we do please pop down to the Making Place for a chat or ring Freda on 865661.

Save our Trains

Councillor Ian Johnston writes:

Councillor Ian McCalla's article, *Save our Trains*, in the June *Review* suggests that his fellow Liberal Democrats have not told him what Berkhamsted town council is doing about local rail services. Perhaps they were all too busy driving around in their cars to pass on the information which I supplied to them.

When the modernisation of the west coast main line was first agreed, I requested full details from both Railtrack and Virgin Trains. Both told me that, while there will not normally be room for any stopping services on the fast lines, stopping trains will still be able to use them when the slow lines are closed for engineering work or become blocked for other reasons, for example if a previous train breaks down. Neither suggested, as Councillor McCalla did, that trains which are not capable of running at 125mph would be banned from the fast lines.

In order to reduce congestion on the slow lines, it is proposed to install additional passing loops at Watford, Tring and Leighton Buzzard. These would allow faster trains to overtake slower ones without having to use the fast lines.

I have also written to Connex South Central recently to request that the Rugby to Gatwick service calls additionally at Berkhamsted. The customer relations manager told me that Connex, as a newcomer to this busy section of line, was only allowed to serve certain stations in order not to interfere with other operators. This is hardly the competition which we were promised at the time of privatisation.

I agree that extra trains on the line may lead to slower services and additional delays, but only experience will tell whether or not the alarmist tone of Councillor McCalla's article is justified. One thing is more certain: the powers-that-be will not take account of the views of either Northchurch parish council or Berkhamsted town council when planning the future of local rail services. We will be fortunate if anyone even gives us accurate information about what is going on.

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Councillor Ian Johnston is chairman of the transport and highways committee of Berkhamsted town council.

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The following letters were held up for lack of space in the June Review.

Ecumenical services

Vivien Dottridge writes:

I feel that I must write to say how special I found this year's United Easter services in the town. The Good Friday united devotional service (this year at All Saints Church) was very helpful. It was preceded by a rather short service in the market place, then an impressive silence procession to the church.

There was something very exciting and significant about the Easter Sunday morning early praise celebration in the castle grounds. Hopefully these special united services will grow and be supported more and more each year.

Some of us have wondered what happened this year to our posters proclaiming this is Holy Week. Let us hope we can have them again next year.

With regard to other festivals, I am sure that many people are glad about the resumption of Christmas carols around the tree on Christmas Eve. This is often appreciated by people who do not get to service. Maybe we should try open air united Ascension Day and Pentecost services too.

It seems, though, that we need greater publicity about these important Christian events. They are one way of witnessing for our Lord and showing a united Christian front celebrating the real meaning of these holy days (holidays).

*3 Kitsbury Terrace
Berkhamsted HP4 3EE*

Something to say? Say it in the Review!

Write to The Editor, 3 Murray Road,
Berkhamsted HP4 1JD

The Bust

Bill Frew writes:

I seem to recall that one of your contributors recently pointed out some of the more obscure details of local architecture but I cannot now find the article. However, can any reader tell me the history of the small bust which is placed in a recess high up in the gable wall of Clarke & Marshall (the Vet)'s place overlooking the parade of shops opposite the foot of Swing Gate Lane?

Who is the gentleman so commemorated and why is he there? Perhaps he came from some previously demolished building but yet the building which he adorns is fairly old itself and the niche which he occupies looks as if it was created for the purpose when the house was built.

*11 Barncroft Road
Berkhamsted HP4 3NL*

Oak Apple or Royal Oak?

Harold Young writes:

I was interested to read Muriel Lander's letter concerning Oak Apple Day, 29th May.

My grandmother, born on the 29th May in the 1870s or 80s and long since dead, often told me she was born on Royal Oak(s) Day. She lived in the north of England all her life.

I have to confess, I always thought she was referring to some famous horse-race, but must now conclude that she was referring to the hideaway of Charles II.

Granny's expression seems much more apt than Muriel Lander's Oak Apple Day. I wonder where the apple comes from. But thanks anyway for recalling such an old and long lost memory.

*40 Gaveston Drive
Berkhamsted HP4 1JF*

On 18th May, it was Berkhamsted's turn to elect its mayor. With the now usual slick organisation, we had two proposals for town mayor and John Brookes (Lib-Dem) got the position by a hairs breath. The Lib-Dems showed their appreciation by proposing Peter Ginger (Cons) as his deputy who was duly elected.

All you have to remember is that out of 13 members, the Independents have six seats, the Lib-Dems have four, the Conservatives two and Labour one. Full details are available from the town clerk or on the website (<http://berkotc.connect-2.co.uk>)

Meanwhile, let us return to things that directly affect you and I in Berkhamsted. If you are quick, the town centre forum will have its quarterly meeting on 1st July in the Town Hall where you can join in the discussions on how to put right all those things that have gone wrong over the past few years. Questions can be asked and answers provided by members of the borough majority group. If you have

CUTTING COMMENTS

Mayoral elections, the NHS and CARP under scrutiny from local independent councillor
Norman Cutting.

practical ideas then this is the one meeting to attend. Later in July, on the 20th, the West Herts Health Authority is holding a public meeting (in the Town Hall again) to discuss the future of the health provision in the area. This is all about whether to keep the main hospitals as they are (option A) but cut services, or build a new one (option B) and still keep the existing hospitals open. Everyone, except the Health Authority, considers that the decision has already been made and option B is the one to go for. After all, if you have the choice of cutting services or consolidating them in one place, is there a choice? The answer is to suggest an alternative, let's say, option C, and get public support behind that. Watch the local press for updates on this saga. Attend the meeting(s) and make sure we get the best solution to the problem that the NHS has created for itself.

The council has accepted a report/proposal by Cllr Peter Such, which suggested the canal and riverside partnership (CARP) should take advantage

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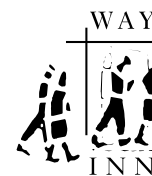
of funding from the European Commission for a project manager. He has assured the council that it will cost it nothing, as it will be fully funded. I'm afraid I will believe it when I see it. The argument is that assuming a person is found who meets the EC's fairly strict requirements, then that person could be used for youth and community development and/or town development. This is the same scheme that the borough council proposed taking forward last year - remember, two wardens, come on, pay attention - but for reasons best known to themselves, was quietly dropped. I wonder why?

Readers will remember that the whole CARP project is estimated to cost around £630,000, and the town council has paid more than £11,000 for the design work. The first part to be 'attacked' is the bridge over the canal in Castle Street, which will be enhanced and 'beautified'. This work will include replica gas lamps on each corner of the bridge, street lighting removed in Mill Street (makes you wonder why it was recently renewed, doesn't it?), installing new paving to match the rest of the town (!) and changing the balustrade top section of the railings to reflect the design of the adjacent railings. I bet you are all looking forward to looking out of the train window at this wonder of design. It won't last long: I reported the broken light fittings about a year ago, but borough said they belonged to county, as they hadn't been handed over. County took the view that as they were in Berkhamsted and not on a trunk road, they shouldn't pay to repair the lights. In best local government tradition, nothing happens. After all they

can't even get all the *new* High Street lights to *all* come on at dusk and off at dawn in the same 24 hour period. Is it just me?

The 'Festival of Light' (*aka* Christmas lights) group is now under the wing of our new mayor and I like what I have heard so far. Once we have some firm news, I will pass on all the details. All I can say at the moment is that switch-on day could be well worth turning out for.

On a personal note, the changes in borough mean that I have come off the development control (planning) and environment committees. I am now on the housing and policy ones, so you should hear more from me about their activities. On the town council, I am no longer on finance and policy, but have gone back onto planning. I hope these changes will allow me to provide a better and broader 'news service' for you all. I will still be involved in town planning via my involvement with the planning committee and Berkhamsted Urban Design Study (BUDS). I shall attend the environment committee as the allotment representative for Sunnyside and member of the parish paths group. I still meet with the transport and highways committee as a member and because of involvement in the CCTV project. Community action and the finance and policy committees will also suffer, as I am still involved with the Christmas lights, town warden, Berkhamsted access committee and the Internet. Thinking about it, not a lot will have changed and I expect my knowledge base to continue to expand to stand me in good stead for next years election. ❖



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I was very interested to learn from last week's *Gazette* that Berkhamsted may seek to be twinned with the town of Les Andelys in Normandy, the site of one of the most remarkable castles ever built. The article in the *Gazette* appeared to claim that the castle was built by

William the Conqueror, like Berkhamsted's, but this is not so. It was built by William's great-great-grandson, Richard I in the late twelfth century, a hundred years after William's death. From the time of William the kings of England were also dukes of Normandy and thus vassals of the king of France. As such they were over-mighty subjects, regarded with great suspicion by the French kings and constantly at odds with them. The situation became worse when Henry II, Richard's father, married Eleanor of Aquitaine, who had been divorced by the French king (Louis VII I think but someone may correct me) and had taken to her new English husband, as dowry, a huge part of south-western France. Richard thus controlled more of France than did the French king, Philip Augustus.

A SAUCY CASTLE

What connects a French castle, the Crusaders and English football supporters? Stephen Halliday tells all.

Richard built the castle at Les Andelys on the banks of the river Seine to protect his possessions in Normandy, notably the nearby Norman capital of Rouen. It was called *Le Chateau Gaillard*, literally 'the saucy castle' because its construction was regarded as one in the

eye for the king of France.

Richard I has had a much better press than he deserves. He is still depicted in some history books as the good crusader king. In fact the crusades were not the romantic, selfless activity sometimes depicted. Crusaders were welcomed in Eastern cities with as much enthusiasm as they would now welcome English football supporters on a bad day. I once heard a history tutor argue that crusades and other mediaeval wars of conquests were a kind of male bonding process - an opportunity for men, before the era of Tottenham Hotspur, to get away from their wives and have good punch up with the lads. In 1204 a crusader army sacked Constantinople, the capital of their Christian allies. Richard missed out on that, having died five years earlier leaving his nearly

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bankrupt kingdom to his hapless younger brother King John.

In the same year that the crusaders were sacking Constantinople the French king was laying siege to Le Chateau Gaillard in order to dislodge John from his French possessions in Normandy. The castle is extremely well fortified and quite impossible to storm so the king, Philip Augustus, decided to starve the defenders into submission. In order to hold out the castle's commander, Roger de Lacy, decided to expel the non-combatants, who were simply 'useless mouths' eating and drinking the defenders' provisions.

As they left the castle and approached the French lines the unfortunate non-combatants were greeted with a hail of arrows and other missiles from the French who wanted to drive them back into the castle. These luckless people then spent the winter of 1203-4 starving in no mans land before Philip finally took pity on

them and allowed them to pass through his lines.

The castle fell in March 1204 and John quickly lost the rest of Normandy, retiring to his English kingdom to quarrel with his barons, thus leading to the one act for which he is remembered, the sealing of *Magna Carta*. The June 1998 edition of *History Today* (on sale in W.H.Smith) has a good account of the siege of the Saucy Castle so I suggest that our councillors read it before opening negotiations with their French counterparts. ❖

Rod, the chef from the Way Inn, has taken up my offer in last month's Review to cultivate part of my allotment in order to grow fresh vegetables for his customers. So those of us who use this excellent establishment should benefit even more from his hard work. I'll keep you informed on what he has in store for you.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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Yes, I know, there are occasions when a mobile phone could be a life saver. Stuck in a car in the middle of nowhere and so on, but I'm talking about the indiscriminate use of a mobile phone.

Nowhere is sacred. Wandering around a supermarket it is not uncommon to see a man shopper (it often seems to be men) talking into the phone, giving someone at the other end (presumably the little wife) the price of apples or some such item. Once I heard a man talking into the phone and saying, "Now, about the summer holidays...". This was last winter! Surely he could have waited.

Another time I was travelling to Manchester, joining, the train at Watford. At the next table a young woman had spread all her papers over the table and was constantly either making a phone call or receiving a call. The elderly gentleman next to me, who had had to endure this from Euston, snarled in my ear, "The

MOBILE PHONE RAGE

Constant chatter into mobile
phones on trains incurs
Muriel Lander's wrath.

phoning their friends with the startling information that they were just going to go into a tunnel!

Walking round our town, you can see someone standing at a corner with their phone stuck in their ear. I have a theory that such types will have a phone implant in years to come.

I would like to make the suggestion that public transport sets aside a carriage for those who want to transform it into an office or use it for social chit-chat. This would leave the rest of us to speak quietly between ourselves or, in my case, enjoy a good book!

I wonder, do any of you reading this share my mobile phone rage? ❖

**** woman has been on that that phone since we got in!". I kid you not, this went on the entire journey. I thought he would have apoplexy.

On another occasion - again to Manchester - two young girls in the train spent most of their time



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MOTHERS' UNION



We live in an age of pressure groups. People spend their lives campaigning for or against roads, insects, horses or ghosts. The more obscure the interests, the more passionate the concern.

So it is all too easy to write off the Mothers' Union as an eccentric group who actually care about family life in this generation, when it seems to be disintegrating. They do furthermore enjoy this remarkable society, now over 100 years old, which is still one of the largest women's organisations in the world and meets a profound need. The stories of the Mothers' Union as a growing, thriving and enlightened organisation in many parts of Africa make us question why many parishes in England have lost their commitment to this cause.

At the annual general meeting, the branch at St Peter's and All Saints' was encouraged to think that, being fairly small, they have great advantages. They could meet each in each other's homes, discuss topical issues, the one another's burdens, and experiment with new ideas. Most of the members work full time, so daytime activities are limited. But the members bring their personal experience to the discussion. Perhaps it is time more mothers, or even others, came and joined.

*Stephen G Wells
Deanery Chaplain*

RED CROSS SHOP

The Red Cross shop needs more volunteers to help for a few hours a week in what is a surprisingly busy enterprise. Volunteers would find themselves dealing with customers and helping to sort the donated items which are brought in for sale. It can be very hectic! The shop opens from 9:30am to 4:30pm on Mondays to Saturdays. If you are interested, please ring the shop manager, Susan Harding on 879238.

TUESDAY CLUB

It's all hands to the wheel on Tuesday 7th July when we shall be visiting the Making Place to try out our skills at making pottery (*see article on page 13 - Ed.*). We shall meet at the Making Place at the back of the Old Town Hall at 8:00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

DACORUM CARE PROJECT

An exciting and interesting approach to care is being organised for people who wish to learn to care in a professional way.

The Dacorum Care Project is looking to train over 50s, predominantly men, as carers. Those successful will receive a NVQ Level 3 in Care, a high and well respected qualification. Trainees will be eligible to work in private home care, nursing homes and residential homes. This could provide the pathway to a position of management in care.

Dacorum Borough Council has received funding from the European Social Fund Integra programme for the project and has asked Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service to undertake the day to day management.

The strand of funding promotes projects that seek to break down gender barriers and perceptions in the field of employment, hence the encouragement to men to become carers. With a shortage of carers in the borough and a trend towards an ageing population, the project has been able to draw upon the expertise of a number of other important partners, West Hertfordshire NHS Community Trust, University of Hertfordshire and Dacorum District Social Services.

Dacorum CVS is looking for trainees to join the programme. The trainees must be over 50 and have been unemployed for more than two years. The course will be both tutorial and practical with the average 15 hours per week split between Hemel Hempstead and various placements in local care settings.

If you are interested in registering for the course or just wish to learn more, please contact Kim Alexander at Dacorum CVS, 48 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 3AF (tel 253935).

JULY AND AUGUST IN ASHRIDGE

On Saturday and Sunday 4th/5th July the Four Seasons Craft Fair will be held at Meadley's Meadow from 10:00am to 6:00pm each day. There will be a medieval theme with Robin Hood, knights and traditional craft and food stalls. Entrance is £3 for adults, £2.50 for senior citizens and £1 for children.

Also at Meadley's Meadow on Tuesday 25th August at 3:00pm and 6:30pm the company *Illyria* present a colourful production of Alice in Wonderland. The cost is £8 for adults, £5 for children and £26 for a family ticket. On the same day from 11:00am to 3:00pm there will be children's art and craft workshop at the visitor centre. The cost is £4 per child.

Guided walks are offered on Wednesday 1st July (a woodland walk) starting from Lady's Walk car park at 7:00pm and on Tuesday 18th August (a children's walk) from the visitor centre at 2:00pm.

Gentle guided strolls are offered on 15th July (from Steps Hill car park at 10:00am), and 30th August (from Northchurch Common at 1:00pm). Please ring Janet Stupples on 842252 to book a place on the walk or a stroll.

GARDENS OPEN IN ALDBURY

Aldbury is a picturesque village built around a natural pond and surrounded by the beautiful wooded hills of Ashridge. Not only is the village of itself a delight, but for two Sundays in June and July locals will open their gardens for the enjoyment of all. In addition scrumptious afternoon teas will be on offer in one of the beautiful open gardens, where you can sit and spend time enjoying the wonderful ambience of the place.

There is a small charge to visit all of the gardens open on a Sunday. The proceeds will go to supporting local village charities.

Do come and share the beauty with us - we think you will really enjoy it - on Sunday 28th June and Sunday 19th July. The opening times are from 2:00pm to 6:00pm and tickets will be on sale outside the village shop. The cost will be £2.50 with children free. For further information please contact Martin Compton on 851437.

Organising an event? Let our readers know what's going on... send full details to **David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1JD (862723)** (copy dates inside front cover)

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BERKHAMSTED W.I.



Mrs Jill Blumsom opened the May meeting by awarding a competition prize to Mrs Evans, who exclaimed in delight at winning a prize 'after 14 years of trying'! Mrs Blumsom announced that the evening's meeting was to be dedicated to the discussion of and voting on the two resolutions for the home intermediate general meeting at Brighton. Mrs Jane Crellin is the link delegate this year and will take forward the views and voting wishes of four local institutes to Brighton.

Mrs Pam Elphinstone gave a detailed and interesting report of the recent annual meeting of the Herts Federation.

A programme planning committee was organised and future outings - in particular *An evening behind the scenes* at Waitrose in September - were brought to the institute's notice.

Mrs Margaret Downey and Mrs Olive Odell then led the discussion on the two resolutions been put forward at Brighton. These are:

- The NFWI urges all levels of national government to make the regeneration of

brown field sites a priority in urban areas, with respect to the planning and provision of housing; and

- The NFWI urges Her Majesty's Government to ensure full support for school age children who are carers in order that their welfare and education are protected.

After lively discussion, Mrs Crellin was instructed to give both resolutions a unanimous 'Yes'.

The evening concluded with a photographic recognition game where places of interest both locally and nationally have to be recognised. This proved a far trickier than it first appeared and members resolved to take more notice of their surroundings whilst walking round the town in future!

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed once again to our June meeting Mrs B Hulbert who came to give us a illustrated talk of an *Autumn tour of Scotland* including visits to Skye. There were excellent slides of the changing scenery of mountains, lakes and castles and also perfect shots of many birds of prey and seabirds not forgetting the rare red squirrel! An appreciation was given by Pam McNicol.

During business matters a report was given by Joy Lovell on the institute's outing to Clandon Park which was thoroughly enjoyed by members.

At teatime the raffle was drawn and the competition for the flower of the month was chosen.

Next month we look forward to meeting Mrs Barbara Owen talking to us about *Costumes Then and Now* on 3rd July at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. New members and visitors are most welcome to join us. ❖

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**Revd Peter Hart
tells us why he likes
fetes and
open days.**

Our summer Saturdays are frequently given over to fetes, fayres, shows, galas, open days and festivals. Hard

work is put in to staffing stalls, doing publicity, baking cakes, praying for fine weather and coming up with an interesting scheme that will draw the public in. Each event has something special to offer, be it a view from the bell tower or the offer of a holiday through a raffle. After the clearing up is done and the money counted, the outcome is measured against the energy and time put in, and a decision taken regarding the value of the exercise - is it really worth it?

I must admit to enjoying fetes and open days. They have a ritual to them which is both comforting and pleasing. Tea and cakes are consumed, bottles containing strange coloured liquids are won, soft toys are brought home to add to the stock of teddies and rabbits, and second hand books are scoured in the search for rare editions at knock-down prices. All of this is circular, as the purchases and winnings from one event are frequently recycled to further stalls and raffles, and it is entirely possible that certain objects have a solely fete-orientated existence, as they move, year by year, from one bric-a-brac stall to another, without ever being used.

There is a more important aspect of fetes, which is represented by the people involved - the workers and the visitors. Motives may vary, but the twin aims of fun and money raising on one side are matched by the desire for entertainment and bargains on the other. There are no doubt people who plan their summer

around the differently timed events, not least parents whose children attend more than one school, who can find themselves supporting two or three events on any one Saturday. Pleasure is to be found equally amongst the organisers - they are pleased to see people at their event - and those attending - they are glad that the fete has been held once again.

The Church has been involved in fairs and celebrations since the Middle Ages, as it was the Church which laid down when the holy days were, and frequently it was the Church which provided the space for the events to be held. Entertainment, buying and selling, social exchange; all these characterised the Church's fairs, but while the constituent parts of the fair have remained constant, the purpose behind the fair has gradually changed. No longer is the fair simply a means of raising funds and of enjoying a day off from work. Now, the income has a designated destination, usually of a charitable nature, and the social side of the event is stressed - meet people, spend time with old friends, explore buildings you do not usually visit, get out and be part of the local community. The welcome has become as important as the product, indeed, the openness and availability of the hosts are as much part of the event as the tombola and raffle. What is more, God is to be found there, in the welcome and the openness, in the sharing and in the prizes, in the relaxation and the frenzy of service.

This summer, as you do the rounds of fetes and open days, add to your reasons for going a willingness to meet God there. This summer, as you volunteer your time and energy for fairs and shows, add to your reasons for helping the desire to encounter God in the work, the welcome and the ritual joy of the event. ❖

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
<p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>2nd/4th Monday BIBLE STUDY/HOUSE GROUP: 8:00pm at the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Tuesday MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:15pm third Tuesday at 3 Nightingale Lodge. <i>Non-members always welcome. Contact: Jenny Wells 870981</i></p> <p>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</p> <p>Wednesday PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall. Contact Chris Billington 866038.</p> <p>2nd Wed MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981</p> <p>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</p> <p>Thursday BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) 863804</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>							

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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.

July / Aug 1998

JULY

- 2 Standing committee
 5 6:00pm Choral Evensong in memory of Karen Breakwell *St Peter's*
 14 Parochial church council meeting
 18 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
 Prayer Breakfast in United Reformed Church

AUGUST

- THE PARISH OFFICE WILL
 BE CLOSED IN AUGUST
 15 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
 Prayer Breakfast at St Michael & All Angels
 Sunnyside

Registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

- 17 May Alexander Jonathan James Gann
 24 May Francesca Lauren Booth, Madeline Rose Travis

Weddings (*St Peter's*)

- 16 May David Guy Wainwright & Claire Judith Mitchell
 23 May Andrew Bell & Claire Louise Childs,
 Brian David Peutherer & Marion Garrett
 David Neil Briggs & Helene Van Rensburg

Funerals

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---|
| 12 May | Irene Edith Milner | The Chilterns Crematorium |
| 12 May | Doris Jesse Turner | The Chilterns Crematorium |
| 19 May | Cissie May Hawken | St Peter's church (Chilterns Crematorium) |
| 22 May | Lilian Forbes | The Chilterns Crematorium |
| 29 May | Evelyn Alice Andrews | The Chilterns Crematorium |



SUMMER FETE ST MARY'S NORTHCHURCH

Saturday 4th July at 2:00pm

Stalls, raffles, refreshments, Atlas Copco Band, tower visits,
 ball pool, parachute games and much much more!!

Young people

Churches

PCC 1998/99

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*.

	<i>St Peters</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
Altar service	Keith Middleditch (862423)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Chalice rota	Martin Macdonald (872002)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Sunday school	Julie Kemp (872576)	<i>Elizabeth Figg (866161)</i>
Youth activities	Carole Dell (864706)	Christina Billington (866038)
Church maintenance	John Cook (866278)	Mike Limbrick (384682)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (863241)	<i>Currently vacant</i>
Flower arrangements	Gwen Beddall (862845)	Jayne Harris (873974)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	<i>Sylvia Banks (871195)</i>
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)	Felicity White (866223)
Sidesmen	Christopher Green (863241)	John Banks (871195)
Social events	Chris Smalley (826821)	<i>Still currently vacant</i>
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	<i>Rodney Cottrell (384963)</i>
Hospice contact	Angela Morris (866992)	May Kempster (863037).



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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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