

*In this issue*

**August 1998**

**A new start for  
the millennium**

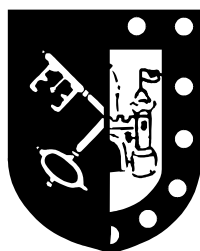
**Olga's story**

**What's wrong  
with being  
wrong?**

**BURK or  
BERK?**

**What *is*  
respect?**

**This month's  
Notes & Events**



*for Town and Parish*

**25p**



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

### **Welcome to the August issue of the *Berkhamsted Review*.**

In his *Around the Town* column this month, John Cook notes that a recent study has demonstrated the comparative affluence of Berkhamsted, judged by a number of factors. While I suspect that most people living in the town will find this of no surprise, it's always reassuring to find a willingness to share our good fortune with people who's lot isn't quite as comfortable. Elsewhere in this issue we have a story from Alistair and June Marr describing their experience hosting one of the group of ten children who recently visited us from Belarus. One couldn't draw a finer example of people across the town and further afield extending the hand of friendship and help to these children, who despite their outward appearance as happy, if initially shy, 10 and 12 year olds carry the legacy of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl in their health and in their environment back home.

Their time with us has not only, we hope, enriched their lives, but has certainly touched many people here in Berkhamsted in quite a profound way. On behalf of the organisers and of the Chernobyl Children Life Line charity, a sincere thank you to you all.

*Chris Smalley*

### ***In this month's issue...***

#### **The millennium cometh**

**Fr Robin Figg** enlightens us as to local plans to celebrate the millennium.

#### **Olga**

**Alistair and June Marr** describe what they learned from their visitor from Belarus.

#### **What's wrong with being wrong?**

We should all learn from our mistakes, says **Stephen Halliday**.

#### **BURK or BERK?**

**Gerry Morrish** wants to change the sound of Berkhamsted.

#### **What is respect?**

**Rev Peter Hart** asks what it is which commands our respect.

#### **The living church**

Churches haven't just been used for worship, as **John Cook** explains.

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

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**Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 9 August 4 September 2 October**



**Fr Robin Figg  
offers us a 'new  
start' as we  
approach the  
millennium.**

## review leader

The millennium is just around the corner; the nineteenth of this month marks just 500 days to go to the start of the year 2000. We may know that the third Christian millennium does not strictly begin until 1st January 2001, but it is quite clear that - like it or not - the world is going to celebrate as the calendar turns over from the 1900's into the 2000's.

When we think about the millennium it is easy to get drawn to a small area of land beside the River Thames and the not inexpensive Dome, with Baby Dome alongside! But the Dome is not the whole story, of course. Already much work has been done at national and local level to ensure that the reason for the millennium is not lost in the great swathes of celebrations, events and new building projects. There is now a Churches' Millennium Office in London with a small full time staff with the task of resourcing churches at a local level.

This is a time to remember where we have come from - and to reflect on where we might be heading. For the Christian Church the millennium is a major anniversary, that enables it to re-tell the story of Jesus of Nazareth, and to consider the impact he has had on our lives and on our communities. It also offers an unparalleled opportunity to share those stories with others.

For the churches in England the hope is that people will see the millennium as a time to make a new start, remembering that we are celebrating the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ and

he is the one who offer new starts to all of us. The invitation to individuals and communities is to make a 'new start' in one or more of three areas: with the poor of the world, in the way we live in Britain, and in our relationship with God.

There are a number of exciting ideas being proposed to help us all make our 'new start'. Nationally it is hoped that every household will receive a special commemorative candle during December 1999. The intention is that people take these with them on 'Millennium Eve' for a shared moment of national reflection just before midnight. There is also to be a nationwide Churches' Celebration Day on Sunday 11th June (Day of Pentecost); it is

hoped to have our town's celebration in the Castle grounds. Alongside other joint services during the year 2000 a further exciting possibility is a major passion play production involving people from across the town. The local schools too are being invited to take part in the Millennium Drama Festival, creating their own millennium production using the arts to apply the words and actions of Jesus to the issues of today.

The millennium will provide ample opportunity to celebrate and party, but we must remember what it is we are celebrating. We must remember whose anniversary it is. ❖

**NewStart**

Cover: *All aboard for the Petertide Fair! A group of young admirers with one of the vintage cars on display at the fair, which this year adopted the theme of a 'transport of delight'. See page 22 for news of the outcome of this year's event.*

*Photo: Chris Smalley*

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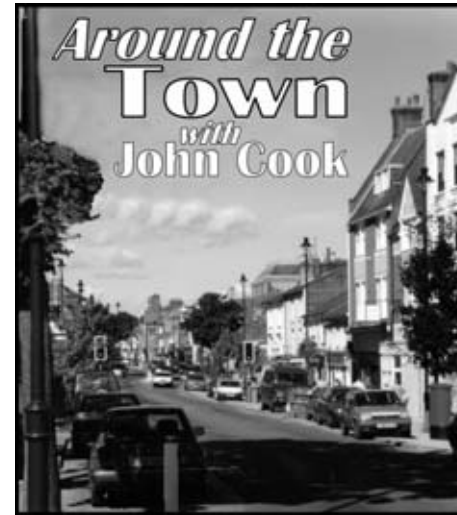
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### A Nasty Case of a Virus

First of all this month I must apologise for having given Chris Smalley a virus. I provide him with my copy for this column in the form of a computer floppy disk, which saves anyone having to type it all out again. Last month he rang up to say that the disk I had given him had infected his system with a virus and he had spent all Saturday afternoon trying to get rid of it. (When I say system I mean his computer rather than his body). Eventually he had succeeded. With kindly concern he then offered his expertise to exorcise the virus from my system too.

Chris turned up complete with a special virus-expunging CD, the computer expert's equivalent of Beechams Pills. As it turned out, my own computer had not been infected, and all is in good health. Furthermore there is absolutely no risk of the virus having been transferred to the printed page, I'm told I can assure readers.

### Affluent Berkhamsted

The big London firm of surveyors, Donaldsons, have been carrying out a study called *Berkhamsted Town Centre Health Check, Strategy and Action Plan*, and their draft report has been published

for consultation. Near the front of it there are all sorts of interesting statistics.

Berkhamsted has a population of 18,028. Some 182,623 people live within ten kilometres of the town centre and we have a current catchment area of 37,633. Berkhamsted's population is growing (approximately 8% over the last census period and an estimated further 7% up to 1997). Almost a quarter of the population is between the ages of 30 and 44.

By any standard Berkhamsted is an affluent place. The Town has a very high percentage of 'high income' families – 41.85% compared with a national average of 9.9%, and we have a much higher than average car ownership:

<i>Households with:</i>	<i>Berkhamsted</i>	<i>National average</i>
No car	19%	33%
One car	42%	43%
More than one	37%	23%

Our unemployment level is only 5.5%, compared with the national average of 7.5%, and only about 3% of us are 'blue collar' workers, compared with the national 12.5%. This, in Donaldsons' judgement, is not only positive in terms of local economic wealth, but also in the area's ability to attract additional high value employers. In other words, Berkhamsted is not only an attractive place for employees but also for employers. If so it raises the question as to why there are still so many empty offices in the Town.

### Using St Peter's

If you came to the Petertide Fair on 27th June, how did you react to seeing the pews pushed against the walls, dancing in the nave and all sorts of things on sale (all for charity, of course)? I personally felt some qualms about it, but on balance I think it was rather a good thing. After all, in years gone by the nave of the church was for the people and would have been used a lot for secular purposes, just the chancel and chapels being restricted to purely religious use. In the Middle Ages the chancel

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In pretty well every town and village in the land the parish church was the only substantial building and was used for all sorts of purposes. After the Reformation it was considered superstitious to regard church buildings and the objects in them as being in any way sacred. During the Civil War St Peter's was used for a time as a prison and hospital for prisoners from the siege of Colchester. Even in Victorian times St Peter's was used for meetings of what in effect was the local council, then called the 'vestry', and when a fire engine was acquired that was kept in the church for want of a better home.

But things changed in the course of the last century, and the Church became more particular about what went on within its buildings. In any case, when it became normal for churches to have fixed pews it was difficult to use them for anything other than the holding of services and perhaps concerts. It was not long ago that some members of the congregation disapproved of the church being used even for concerts.

### **The Familiar Church**

It can come as a shock when things which we consider to be part and parcel of the forms and practices of the historic church are called into question. The late Jim Pitts-Tucker, a one-time reader and stalwart of St Peter's, once quite distressed me by saying we should get rid of all the stained glass at St Peter's and 'let the light in'. Rosamund Essex, for many years editor of the *Church Times* and later on the staff of St Albans Abbey, would have been very happy if there were no such things as church organs, which she greatly disliked. Gilbert Harding couldn't abide church bells. R. S. Thomas, the poet-priest, can't stand hymns. What a different thing the C of E would be if they had all had their way.

### **Another Castle Street Scribe**

I recently mentioned the local benefactor and historian Henry Nash who lived in Castle Street and wrote *Reminiscences of*



*Dancing in the nave: the Petertide Fair*

*Berkhamsted*, an excellent book to read if you want to get a feeling for what life was like in Victorian Berkhamsted.

His niece, Annie Louise Nash, lived there and wrote a play for children, *Catawampus*, published just 100 years ago. It had some success. She was also responsible for what I believe was a well written but tame novel called *Lutes and Rifts*, written under the penname of Louise Sahn (an anagram of Nash). Does anyone have a copy of either of these?

### **Unwanted Phone Calls**

Following my comments on the matter in the June *Review*, several readers have mentioned ways they have of dealing with unwanted calls from firms trying to sell you things. All their suggestions seem to me to be excessively polite, even to the extent of telling little white lies such as 'I am afraid I don't own the house' to get rid of the caller without giving offence.

But Priscilla Coombs has pointed out that BT offer a telephone preference service under which you can have your number removed from the lists which are used by many of the firms which sell over the telephone. Details are to be found on page 14 of the telephone directory. ❖

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*A group of ten children from Belarus, afflicted by the 1986 disaster at Chernobyl, spent June in the clean air of Berkhamsted. In the first of two articles about the visit, we hear from one of the host families who looked after the children, in this case Olga Demidkova.*

**Alistair Marr** recounts his family's poignant experiences hosting one of a group of children visiting from Belarus.

IT WAS a straightforward enough question: "Would we be willing to be a host family to a child from the Chernobyl area, who was coming to the town for four weeks in June?" With hardly any hesitation, we both said yes and then spent the next six weeks until Olga's arrival coming up with lots of 'what ifs'! Now, a few days after a tearful farewell at Gatwick, we look back on those four weeks safe in the knowledge that all the 'what ifs' came to nought. We have, instead, been left with a very strong reminder of just how trivial some of our 'Western' worries are and how much more important the basics of life really are.

The first basic that we all, understandably, take for granted is verbal communication. Even with our Russian-English, English-Russian phrase book and Olga's few words of English, the first days had their poignant moments. For instance, the half hour 'discussion' on the first day with phrase book, stick men drawings, gestures, bewildered smiles, nervous laughs and repeated sentences, when Olga wanted to know where to hang wet clothes. It turned out that she expected to wash her own clothes and was most concerned that we shouldn't need to do this for her. Not that she had that many clothes with her. She arrived with a small suitcase which contained barely enough clothes for a week, let alone four. Indeed, for one who arrived with relatively little of her own, we were overwhelmed to find

that some of the space in her case was taken up with gifts for ourselves and our children.

It soon became apparent where the similarities and differences between the Belarussian children and our own lay. Like children everywhere, a hug and a kiss can mean the world when they're tired, sore or down. Unlike children over here, there was no jealous aspiration to have whatever the next child gets, no expectation that they deserve the latest piece of consumerism to be put before them. Instead, Olga's face lit up when we gave her a drawing pad and some new pencils (she was a superb artist, it turned out). Olga was twelve years old and like our own ten and a half year old daughter, she too wanted to stay up later than she could really manage! She also wanted to look through the latest teen magazines to see who was 'hot' and who was not! Unlike our kids, though, Olga didn't appear to have the stamina to 'last the course', in the way our kids could. This really hit home, when, at the start of the second week, she was brought home early from a day trip absolutely exhausted and stayed at home the next day with one of us and our toddler to recuperate. As far as we can find out, the diet back home for the children is certainly less varied and it would seem, less nutritious than we enjoy here.

Along with our 'what ifs' at the start, there was also a nagging doubt about whether or not it was the best thing for the children to enjoy the 'excesses' of our culture for a month and then to be returned to their own more basic way of life, with, it would appear, little hope of achieving many of the things we take for granted. The same question had been asked by the organisers of the group's stay with us in

*(continued on page 13)*

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Like the rest of the human race I make mistakes every day of my life. Usually they are fairly small mistakes: taking a wrong turning, misjudging an argument advanced by one of my students and thus (temporarily I hope) misdirecting him or her; buying a plant for the garden

which is quite unsuited to the soil, and other mistakes of that kind. Occasionally I make bigger mistakes from which I hope to learn. I have often thought that one can divide the human race into three groups: those who learn from the mistakes of others, those who learn from their own mistakes; and those who learn nothing after the day they learn to talk. The last group are a particularly sad bunch and many of them seem to end up as politicians, judging from the difficulty which interviewers experience when trying to persuade them that they might, just, have been wrong over something.

It has not always been so. I am currently reading an excellent biography of Gladstone written by Roy Jenkins, one of Gladstone's successors as Chancellor of the Exchequer. We rightly think of

## What's wrong with being wrong?

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We should take a leaf out of Gladstone's book, suggests  
**Stephen Halliday.**

---

Gladstone as the father of modern Liberalism, but I was intrigued to learn that in 1831, as one of the first presidents of the Oxford Union debating society, he criticised the Duke of Wellington's government for granting the vote to Roman Catholics and spoke strongly against the 1832 Reform Bill

which extended voting rights to towns like Manchester and Liverpool at the expense of 'Rotten Boroughs' like Dunwich in Sussex (which despite having disappeared into the sea still returned a Member to Parliament). Gladstone then entered Parliament as a Tory and as a candidate for a rotten borough, Newark, which was in the gift of the Duke of Newcastle. His first published work, which later caused him some embarrassment, was a turgid volume of 500 pages called *The State in its Relations with the Church*. He wrote it in only two months in 1838 and the haste shows in its tedious and repetitive arguments which were, broadly, that no-one should be allowed to take public office who was not a communicating member of the Church of England. His maiden speech, on 3rd June 1833, was in opposition to a Bill to abolish slavery.

He followed up his opposition to Catholic emancipation by arguing that the government should not contribute £9,000 to the Catholic seminary at Maynooth, in Ireland, for the training of priests to minister to the indigenous Irish population. This is a particularly paradoxical view for one who spent the last twenty years of his political life trying, without success, to grant home rule to the Irish. Gladstone later changes sides on the Maynooth issue (*continued on page 13*)

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## What's wrong with being wrong? *(cont from p11)*

a few years after he had opposed it. He also supported a bill to allow Lord Rothschild to take his seat in parliament despite the fact that, as a Jew, he could not take the customary Christian oath. I don't believe that these changes of mind diminish Gladstone, who went on to become possibly the most powerful progressive influence in our history ever exercised by one politician. Consistency is the most overrated virtue: one who never changes his mind is more likely to be consistently wrong than consistently right. The fact that Gladstone learned from observation and experience and modified his views sharply in the light of events makes him appear wise and honest.

The first modern politician to tell Jeremy Paxman, "I was wrong about that and I've changed my mind" will get my vote! ❖

## OLGA

*(continued from p9)*

Berkhamsted of the charity responsible for making the arrangements to bring the children over from Belarus. They told us that studies conducted on previous groups brought over to England (now some three and a half thousand children in all) had shown that a month over here equated to a year of recuperation back in Belarus and that those children most severely affected by the nuclear accident had, on average, two years added to their life expectancy.

A colleague in my office summed the visit up when he said that no matter how bad the children's life may be when they return home, they would always have the good memories of the stay to remind them that things can be better.

We will certainly always have the good memories of our time with Olga. She reminded us how much more important some of the simpler things in life really are and she delighted us with her honest gratitude for any kindness shown to her. Her visit, with her nine friends, will leave a lasting impression on us for which we feel privileged and grateful. ❖

*Olga (left) gets to grips with some serious painting, watched by Emma and June Marr.*

*Photo: Barbara Conway*



### WOODS OF BERKHAMSTED

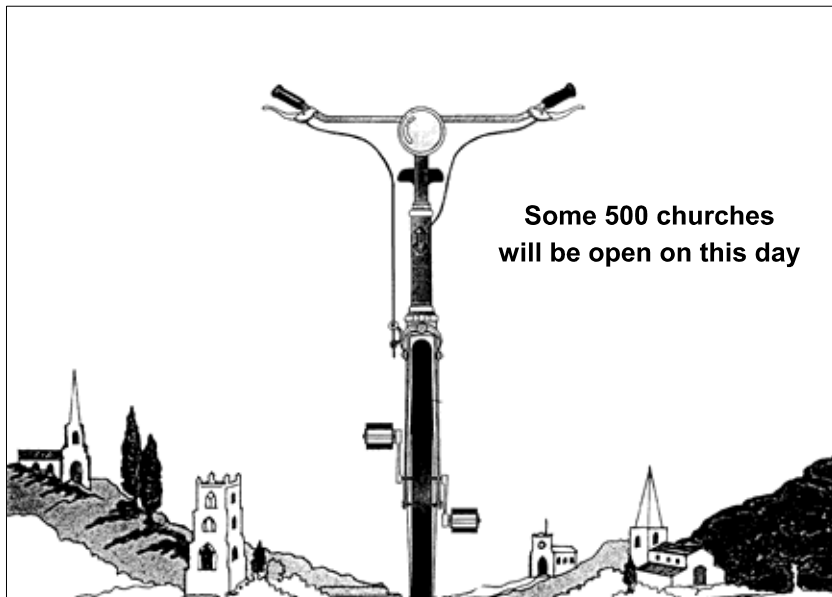
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One of the less publicised activities of your local councillors is representation on outside bodies. I don't mean governorships to local schools, but things like the CVS and the youth club. One of the items discussed by the

community action committee at the end of June was the reports from appointees to various outside bodies. The one thing that struck me was the suggestion that they had very little influence on what goes on.

For my part, I am the council appointed member on two local church charities and was a trustee of the town hall trust. The church charities allow us to take an important part in the decision making and encourage us to get involved. On the other hand, the youth management committee never called either Geraldine Corry or myself to any meeting during 1997/8 and we both felt it a bit of a shame. A similar thing happened whilst I was involved with the town hall trust. The reason I bring this to your attention is that I would like you to pop into the town hall foyer when you next pass. That is all I will say.

The town's environment committee met on 8th June and water supplies on the Sunnyside allotments were high on the agenda. It appears no records are available for the location of the old rusty water pipes. The newly formed allotment society is looking for improved supplies and are worried that if another leak occurs they could be without water for some time. Having looked at some of the pipe-work I have expressed concern that if additional tanks were to be provided, we could be in danger of disturbing the rust holding the pipes together. Planned maintenance has to be the preferred route to ensure that essential facilities on all our allotments are not left to deteriorate. After all, the allotments are the town's only tangible

## CUTTING COMMENTS

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Independent councillor  
**Norman Cutting** scrutinises  
our town council's committees.

---

assets. Also discussed at this meeting was the idea that a project manager should be employed by the council on behalf of the canal and riverside partnership (CARP) using EC funds. We were assured that it would not cost the

council (you and I) one single penny. Apart from the continuing problem of actually finding someone who meets the strict requirements to qualify for the money, I am still trying to get my head round what this person is going to do, with only the Castle Street bridge project being anywhere near fully funded and British Waterways having already allowed for a project manager.

The town's transport and highways committee met on 15th June and the main item discussed was on-street car parking by non-residents. The town is one of very few which has a main line station, main waterway, main trunk road and town centre located within a few hundred yards. The town has lost most of its large employers and commuters travel up to London in increasing numbers. The collegiate school has seen a decline in its boarders and now large numbers of pupils either are driven or drive themselves to school. All this means a lot of on-street parking during the working day, making passage of vehicles difficult if not impossible. Cllr Peter Ginger brought up the thorny subject of a scheme to restrict parking to residents in the affected areas. This has the full support of the town council as well as of many residents. Areas of Hemel Hempstead near the town centre were surveyed last year for a similar scheme but is turned out that many residents had misgivings once the implications dawned on them, I trust that we will not allow this to happen to us. ❖

As the aim of the Mother's Union is the advancement of Christian religion in the sphere of family it follows that prayer is very important to us. We have a monthly prayer group and all our meetings begin and end in prayer. If any member is housebound or just unable to get to meetings they can join the Indoor Members Prayer Circle.

However, our prayers are needed not just for local needs and families but for the worldwide work of our organisation, and for this we have the Wave of Prayer. This is an annual cycle which unites members in prayer for the work of the Mother's Union. Every diocese in which the M.U. exists is linked to dioceses in other parts of the world. The links are prayed for in turn throughout the year. Special services are held in dioceses at the time when links are being remembered. St Albans diocese was prayed for from 6th to 10th July together with five other dioceses from Australia, and Central and South Africa. The M.U. workers in some of these

# THE MOTHER'S UNION

**Margaret Barnard** explains the value of a worldwide 'Wave of Prayer'.



Two of our members will have had a chance to meet some of our overseas members at Winchester or York by the time you read this and will be telling us about it at our September meeting. It is wonderful to think that not only have we been praying for others but worldwide they have been praying for us.

In August, as many of our members have school children it is a holiday time. No meeting. No prayer group. Well, we can take our prayer diary wherever we go and still pray for people like Alice Kuklwe from Uganda, Adebanye Adepoju from Nigeria, Mayonga Kankolonko from Zaire and so many more who depend on our prayers. ❖

places do invaluable work amongst families where conditions are difficult, and sometimes we are given their names. During our time in July we prayed for Melita Muwena from Lusaka and Agnes Adegunloya Dada from Akoko. As we prayed for them, we tried to imagine them and the work they are doing.

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## BURK or BARK?

*Gerry Morrish writes:*

I'm starting a campaign to restore the old pronunciation of our town name, and would appreciate any indications of support.

Not all readers may realise that before 1900 the standard pronunciation rhymed the first syllable of Berkhamsted with *lark* and *park* rather than with *work* and *murk*. The spelling often reflected this, with Barkhamsted and Barkhampstead appearing in documents as regularly as the modern equivalents. Indeed, the colonialists from our neighbourhood who emigrated to Connecticut in the USA in the seventeenth century named their settlement BARKhamsted, spelling as they spoke, and so it remains to this day.

R A Morris, in the introduction to *The Parish Church of Berkhamsted St Peter* (1923) refers to BARKhamsted as the normal pronunciation, and urges that it be made universal. Clearly the vowel change was sufficiently well established by his time to be seen as a threat to the norm.

So why did BARK become BERK? I suspect the coming of the railway had much to do with it. Commuters may well have been influenced by the erroneous pronunciation of railway staff at Euston and intermediate stations calling out the stopping places of trains. Anyone unfamiliar with our town would be liable to assume that BERK was BURK by analogy with Bert (a very common name - indeed a royal one - around the turn of the century). The influx of new residents accelerated the process of change, until only the old-timers were unaffected by it.

Why did Hertford, Derby and Berkshire not undergo a similar vowel shift? Presumably people generally were more familiar with them than with our

:

little town, and so the correct pronunciation was better known.

So can we please revert to the euphonious BARKhamsted and eliminate the ugly BURK'msted (with that curious gulp in the middle)? I would be particularly delighted to hear from any railway employees who make loudspeaker announcements!

*17 New Street  
Berkhamsted HP4 2EP*

## Save our Trains

*Ian McCalla writes:*

I feel I must reply to Ian Johnston's letter in the July *Review*. Northchurch parish council did not write to Railtrack or to Virgin Rail about the railway upgrading plan, PUG2. This was because both companies have a vested interest in the plan and would be bound to write a bland, reassuring reply. Instead we wrote to the Regulator of Rail Services and were sent a copy of his draft conclusions on the PUG2 agreement. This was anything but reassuring. The regulator considered that the provisions for other operations were not at all satisfactory. He required the plan to be revised before he would approve it in detail. He threatened Railtrack that if certain other improvements were not carried out, so that reasonable requirements of other operators were not met, then Railtrack's track operators licence would be in jeopardy. So we felt justified in being 'alarmist'!

We have heard about the plan to have passing loops at Watford and Tring. But the effect of having only one passing loop in the 32 miles between Euston and Tring, at a station where most trains stop anyway,

would be minimal, assuming that trains were every five to six minutes in the peak period.

With regard to the Gatwick airport service, I got a similar response from Connex South Central as did Berkhamsted town council, about a franchise restriction on stopping trains at Berkhamsted. So I went to another fountain head of knowledge, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (OPRAF). They checked and found that there is no *franchise* restriction on stopping at Berkhamsted as the service is a commercial one. The only restriction is in Connex's track access contract with Railtrack, and this can be renegotiated. That would mean increased track charges and there would be increased operating costs. This means that Connex will only stop trains at Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Leighton Buzzard if they are convinced that the extra costs are worthwhile. We have to make a sound case to hard headed business people. Then we might get our extra trains.

*81 Bridgewater Road  
Berkhamsted HP4 1JN*

## Oak Apple Day vs. Royal Oak(s) Day

*Muriel Lander writes:*

Having read Harold Young's letter regarding the above in July's *Review*, I phoned our local library to see if they could settle the matter!

The person I spoke to looked the occasion up in a National Trust book regarding customs and so on, and she said it refers to Oak Apple Day.

I don't know if this is the definitive answer - but isn't it interesting that the occasion is still commemorated in various parts of the country?

And, yes, one would think Royal Oak(s) could refer to a famous horse-race if no mention was made of Charles II's hideaway.

I'm pleased, Mr Young, that I recalled an old and long lost memory for you.

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### More about Oak Apple Day!

*Liz Baxendale writes:*

I believe that the original oak in which Charles hid was thought to be in Staffordshire. My mother was born in Leek, Staffordshire and she used to sing a song that went as follows:

*Oak Apple Day, Oak Apple Day,  
If we can't have a holiday, we'll all  
run away!*

On the road from Leek to Buxton, right at the top of the moor, is a pub called the *Royal Cottage*. This is where (it is said) Charles spent a night on his journey south. For years the pub had no sign - it looked just like an old farmhouse - but, to celebrate the lady publican's 40 years there, a sign was hung outside last year. It is a very old fashioned place and well worth a visit if you are in the area.

With regard to the apples... these are galls (caused by the oak moth, I believe). There is a tree on the common not far from the top of Dudswell Lane which has been covered with these galls. In the early stages of development they are a pretty rosy pink, rather like a small and knobbly

crab apple. I've always known them as oak apples.

While visiting the Royal Cottage one evening with Staffordshire cousins, I went outside to return their dog to the car, as she would not settle inside the pub. This was surprising as she is a quiet animal and usually settles down anywhere. As I left the car I saw an old shepherd in the field across a narrow lane that runs alongside the pub car park, a disused sheep fold. He was waving to someone down the hill. It suddenly struck me that he was wearing a smock and an old brown hat. When I stared to see if it was a smock, he disappeared!

My cousin attended a W.I. meeting on the history of the area, and she told the speaker, a local man, what I had seen. His response was, "If I have a pound for everyone that has seen the shepherd, I'd be a rich man by now!" That made me feel a lot better, I can tell you!

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The Chiltern Hills cover an area of some 600 square miles of parts of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, northern Hertfordshire and south Bedfordshire. This has now been designated an 'area of outstanding natural beauty' in which we are all proud to live.

Some 30 years ago a group of enthusiasts decided to form the Chiltern Society, with the primary aim to care for and maintain the character and beauty of the Chilterns. The society now has some 5,500 members, many of who take part in the society's various activities including clearing footpaths, checking stiles, pond clearance, surveying streams and watching over historic buildings and monuments.

When the society was formed in 1965 there were many problems to overcome. Public footpaths were in danger of loss to ploughing and diversions. Green belt areas were being eroded and unsuitable buildings were being forced into the area.

Some of these problems are still with us and a number of groups have been formed to specialise in certain functions. These sections are self-managing under the general umbrella of the society and are particularly active in transport, planning (ensuring that rights of way are not closed), airport noise and the Chiltern Open Air Museum, which we support. Aircraft noise is a particular problem as

# The Chiltern Society

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**John Bailey** describes the work of the Chiltern Society in protecting our local countryside.

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both Heathrow and Luton airports are on the edge of our area. The society is opposed to the building of Terminal 5 at Heathrow. Rights of way are historic paths to which the public has access and may not be closed unless agreed, after a public enquiry, by an inspector appointed by the Department of the Environment. Planning is the responsibility of the district

council and the society's planning advisers monitor carefully every application and oppose those which are considered to be against the general interest.

The Chiltern Society membership consists of individuals, family and corporate members. There is an elected executive council which manages the affairs of the society and on which many of the groups are represented. The annual general meeting is held in various locations throughout the Chilterns and is followed by a talk of local interest. Various seminars are held locally. A quarterly magazine is published giving news of the society with commentary, pictures and articles of general interest.

Our administrator, Christine Preston, is based in Chesham (01494 771250) and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining. ❖

*John Bailey is the local information officer of the Chiltern Society.*



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## THE ALL SAINT'S ANGLICAN COMMUNION SERVICE

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Some time ago it was suggested we might introduce a new musical setting at the communion service at All Saints' so that we might have the choice of two settings for the future. It was felt that this would enliven and refresh our liturgy without (it is hoped) confusion or uncertainty.

A small group was formed to look into this and to review possible musical settings. The aim was to find something which was musically expressive and interesting, but which was eminently singable by the congregation; which would, in other words, satisfy everyone, musical or not.

David Thorne's setting, entitled *Mass of St Thomas*, was a fairly clear winner amongst the numerous settings we reviewed. Its music can fairly easily be learned by the less musical, owing to the repeated use of a small number of simple memorable musical phrases, but at differing speeds and with differing accompaniment to suit the text. Additional vocal parts for choir embellish the congregational tune. We hope the new music will be appreciated. The congregation has made good start in the familiarisation process and the music will, we feel sure, soon be a natural part of our worship.

Valerie McCalla's All Saints' setting will of course remain with us. It is intended in the future to alternate between the two settings every two or three months. Quite how we will arrange this is for the future. For the moment - enjoy yourselves singing!

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## TUESDAY CLUB

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There will not be a meeting of Tuesday Club in August so the next meeting will be on 1st September at 8:15pm in the Court House when Fr Mark Bonney will be answering questions on a variety of topics both light-hearted and serious. Any questions please in writing to Angela Morris or Margaret Barnard by 24th August.

The 1998/99 programme is now available and copies can be found on the noticeboards in the Court House, St Peter's and at All Saints'. New members are always welcome; please contact Angela Morris on 866992 or Margaret Barnard on 862794 for further details.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously either with cakes or assistance to the Tuesday Club cake stall at the Petertide Fair. You all helped us achieve a superb total of £406 which was almost treble our previous record.

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#### AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER AT ASHRIDGE

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Tuesday 25th August sees the *Illyria* company present at 3:00pm and at 6:30pm a colourful production of *Alice in Wonderland*. The cost is £8 for adults, £5 for children and £26 for a family ticket.

Also on Tuesday 25th August at 11:00am and 3:00pm there will be a children's art and craft workshop at the visitor centre. The cost will be £4 per child.

The visitor centre is the scene of an art exhibition from Saturday 29th August to Thursday 3rd September from 2:00pm to 5:00pm daily. Little Gaddesden Art Society present pictures of the landscape, wildlife and daily management of the Ashridge estate. All are welcome.

There is a children's guided walk on Tuesday 18th August starting from the visitor centre at 2:00pm. The cost is £2 (friends £1.50).

A gentle stroll is organised for Sunday 30th August from Northchurch Common at 1:00pm. The cost is £1.

If you wish to go on one of the walks, please book by phoning Janet Stupples on 842252.

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#### OXFAM CHILDREN'S' WEAR EVENT

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Preparations are already in hand for the next Oxfam children's wear event which will take place on Thursday 10th September at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted from 9:30am to midday.

An extensive range of children's winter clothes will be available and those with an eye for bargains will not be disappointed! Keep the date free and come and make the most of this very popular shopping opportunity.



The Petertide Fair, held in 'meteorologically challenging' conditions on Saturday, 27th June, raised the magnificent total of some £5,900. This amount is to be split equally between the Hospice of St Francis, to help fund a new radio nurse call system, and the Nchima Trust, to help provide clean water wells for villages in Malawi.

Very many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the fair a resounding success!

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## BERKHAMSTED W.I.

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Mrs Jill Blumsom opened the June meeting by welcoming members and visitors. She then asked for a report to be given of the 'Berkhamsted rubbish round-up'. Eight stalwart members, armed with rubber gloves and black bags, have filled four sacks completely in one hour of rubbish collecting around the town centre and adjacent areas. The ladies were congratulated on their efforts. Mrs Blumsom continued with the business concerns of the meeting. The 1999 programme is virtually completed, and the institute's annual autumn fair will be held on Saturday, 17th October.

Mrs Jane Crellin then gave a report on the intermediate general meeting held recently at Brighton. The two resolutions detailing NFWI concerns about regeneration of brown field sites and the provision of support for school age children who are carers were carried with large majorities. Mrs Crellin reported that she had thoroughly enjoyed her day, commenting that there was only one hat in the entire hall - a very definite sign of the changing of the times - even within the perceived vision of the W.I.!

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Vic Botterill, a philosopher and retired chief inspector for the Hertfordshire constabulary. Mr Botterill spoke on Moments, Memory and Magic. From start to finish Mr Botterill held us enthralled with his fascinating and at times disturbing insights into the human mind. We would thoroughly recommend you to hear him for yourself if you can!

At our July meeting Mrs N Ireland spoke on *Old paperweights*.

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

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At our July meeting president Liz Baxendale introduced us to Jane Crellin who gave us a report of the IGM held at Brighton on 3rd June. She attended this on behalf of our institute. We were pleased to hear the results of the resolutions and also to learn that W.I. activities are now detailed on a web site.

During business matters members were pleased to know that alterations to the gap on platform four at Berkhamsted railway station are to proceed this month! The gap was one of our town topic discussions and we await to see these operations on completion.

Our speaker this month was Mrs Barbara Owen who gave us a most interesting and amusing talk on Costume then and now. As a volunteer at the Museum of London she explained how she helps to maintain and care for the for 40,000 items that are held in store at the museum. She brought with her illustrations of some of the costumes that are on display and it was quite remarkable how the fabrics have survived through the years. Mrs Owen kindly judged the monthly competition which was for a brooch.

Next month we welcome Mr Graham Atkins, speaking to us on British hedges on 7th August at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. New members and visitors are most welcome.

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## NORTHCHURCH W.I.

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The June meeting of Northchurch W.I. was under the chairmanship of vice president Mrs Barbara Savidge. Having welcomed members she introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr Keith Gardner, who had kindly agreed to come at short notice, his subject being *Rare breeds of poultry*. Mr Gardner proved to be a man of many parts who began breeding rare birds as a hobby for retirement. He rapidly however found the possibilities limitless so that it has now become more than a full time occupation. Mr Gardner packed a mine of information and humour into his talk showing spectacular slides of some of his most handsome birds.

Members will be showing items of craft work during the St Mary's church Festival of Flowers in August, including demonstrations. Meetings are held on the second Monday in the month at Northchurch Social Centre at 7:45pm. Visitors and new members are very welcome. Contact 862854 for more information. ❖



## **review**northchurch

**Revd Peter Hart  
reflects on the  
value today of  
'respect'.**

Respect is a word which crops up regularly, but which prompts a variety of reactions. As a child, I deeply resented the idea enjoined upon me of 'respecting my elders and betters'. Now I that am older, I secretly hanker after just such an attitude, but purely out of an inflated notion of my own self-worth. Linford Christie runs his own public relations and sports personality company called *Nuff Respect* as a direct challenge to the racism he has encountered in his life and to the exploitation he considers is rampant amongst other companies which manage athletes. Certain 'marks of respect', like men removing their hat in church, or not overtaking a loaded hearse, are disappearing, whereas the wearing of black armbands on the sports field or red, pink or yellow ribbons in the lapel have multiplied.

It is currently felt that respect has to be earned, and that simply existing is not sufficient. Thus, the newcomer must gain respect by an act of prowess or recognisable ability. Authors gain respect by selling their books by the thousand, not simply by being published, and pop stars are respected by conforming to the codes of revolt and social challenge typified by behaviour viewed as unacceptable in others. These ideas may be open to debate, and their desirability called into question, but they can be encountered in many sections of our society.

If people can gain, merit, or lose our respect, then is it also possible for buildings and places to hold our respect? We can be in awe of some constructions

because of their size, style and age, or the dazzling skill involved in their completion. Some places induce calm, while others cause us to reflect and remember. Is this respect? One feature of St Mary's is the ancient graffiti carved into the bottom of the tower pillars. What was once a punishable act of vandalism is today viewed as a remarkable remnant of social history, as bored choirboys scratched dates and initials in the stone, and bellringers scored a memorial to a lost friend near the tower door. To remove the graffiti now would be to show no respect to the marks of history on our building, but were the perpetrators showing respect to the house of God when they wrote their name on the pillars?

One problem is that certain places or buildings draw respect from some people, but not from others. Graves and areas for interring cremated remains are traditional places of respect and homage, of remembering and hallowing. Yet flowers are removed from graves, and vases interfered with in the Garden of Remembrance. Respect for the dead and for the feelings of those who tend the resting place of their loved ones seems to have been forgotten, as the current spate of disappearing flowers from different parts of the churchyard would suggest.

Respect for others and for places or buildings lies in inherent worth, not necessarily in a value that is won at the expense of others. The inherent worth of individuals as created and loved by God is undeniable. That worth survives in death, and respect should be shown. The gift of seeing God in others, even in those who have died, is much to be desired, and once gained, leads to a more respectful attitude towards all God's creatures, wherever they are encountered. ❖



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&registers

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.

Aug / Sep 1998

## AUGUST

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED IN AUGUST

15 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches  
Prayer Breakfast at St Michael & All Angels  
Sunnyside

## SEPTEMBER

19 8:00pm Association of Berkhamsted Churches  
Prayer Breakfast at Northchurch Baptist  
church.

Registers

### Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

28 June Jack Oliver George Groves

### Weddings (*St Peter's*)

6 June Andrew Philip Jennings & Gillian Alexandra Laishley

13 June David Giles Smith & Nicola Mary-Anne Horrigan

### Funerals

2 July Jack Bandle All Saints' church (Chilterns Crematorium)

**THE PARISH OFFICE** is usually in operation Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am to 5:30pm and Fridays 9:30am to 1:00pm throughout the year.

This year the office will close 1:00pm Friday 31st July and will re-open 2:00pm Thursday 3rd September. Jean Green, parish secretary, suggests that essential communications be posted.

**PARISH OFFICE DEADLINES:** please get any notices for the weekly pew leaflet to the parish office by **2:00pm on the Wednesday for that Sunday's leaflet**. Late alterations *only* by 10:00am on Friday - telephone 878227. It is greatly appreciated that most people do abide by the deadlines, because re-arranging page 1, 2 and 3 in order to accommodate a late notice can be extraordinarily difficult to achieve on a busy interrupted Friday morning, and can result in Ted Lewis being kept waiting when he comes in to copy - in his voluntary time.. *Thank you.*



Young people

Churches

PCC 1998/99

Contacts

## ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

### Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

1. Northchurch Baptist	Rev Peter Swaffield	Berk. 866685
	Mrs H Blundell	Berk. 875021
2. St Mary's Northchurch	Rev Peter Hart	Berk. 865312
	Mr W Frew	Berk. 864368
3. All Saints' Anglican	Rev Robin Figg	Berk. 866161
	Mr John Malcolm	Berk. 874993
4. Methodist All Saints'	Rev Martin Turner	Berk. 866324
	Mrs Ida Rance	Berk. 865829
5. Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr Peter Grant	Berk. 863845
	Mr J McLellan	Berk. 871818
6. Society of Friends (Quakers)	Mr Robert Ward	Berk. 864404
7. Kings Road Evangelical	Pastor Billy Milton	Berk. 864393
	Mr J Rainey	Berk. 866315
8. United Reformed	Rev Jane Wade	H.H. 212320
	Mrs Margaret Crichton	Berk. 875401
9. St Peter's	Rev M Bonney	Berk. 864194
	Mrs Jean Green	Berk. 878227
10. Berkhamsted Baptist	Rev James Neve	Berk. 873283
	Mrs J Ivin	Berk. 865309
11. St Michael & All Angels	Rev David Abbott	Berk. 865100
Sunnyside	Mrs Pam Davis	Berk. 863609
12. St John the Evangelist	Rev David Abbott	Berk. 865100
Bourne End	Rev Dick Clarkson	Berk. 873014
13. Salvation Army	Lt. Stephen Poxon	Berk. 876024



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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  
 Evening Prayer: Mon-Fri 5:30pm  
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices  
 Matins & Evensong said daily  
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon  
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints')  
**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)  
 10.00am Joint Anglican-Methodist Family Service each Sunday in August  
 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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