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on Windsor**

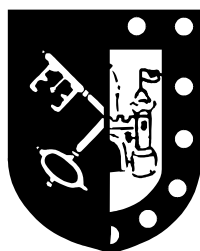
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**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

The popular cliché 'Doesn't time fly?' never seems more true than at this time of year. Summer holidays, warm weather and light evenings seem hardly over and yet here we are looking forward to the winter months, judging by the notices in this month's issue of the magazine for Christmas fairs, preparation for Advent and much else. Indeed, I notice Tesco is nicely stocked up with Christmas crackers just in time for the mad rush there's bound to be in the next few days (!).

There is a point to this, other than the perennial complaint about the early start to the Christmas 'season' (the commercial one, that is). Time disappears particularly quickly when one is planning some sort of event - what seems months away soon becomes a matter of days. This time of year, going through Christmas to the early months of the new year, sees a whole variety of events in the town - and very fortunate we are too. Of course, there's little point in putting in the hard work if no-one knows about what you're doing - so do please tell us so that we can include your event in the *Review* (and pictures of people enjoying themselves make great covers!).

Chris Smalley

In this month's issue...

Reflections on Windsor

Fr Mark Bonney tells us of his experience during his month away.

A Challenge from Chernobyl

In the second of two articles, **Barbara Conway** completes the story of the visit of a group of children from Belarus.

Trains and Tapestries

John Cook on infighting in the PCC and much else around the town..

La Vie Universitaire Francaise

Jessica Irons finds that French university life is a little different to England.

Wishful Thinking

English football hooliganism? **Stephen Halliday** points firmly to the media.

Silence in church!

Revd Peter Hart argues that we shouldn't be preoccupied with silence.

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

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 2 October 6 November 27 November
(note early date for December issue due to Christmas)



**Fr Mark Bonney
reflects on his
time spent
recently at Windsor.**

My month away at St George's House Windsor is now a little distant, but its general influence will I'm sure be with me for some time. I would like first of all to say thank you to those who covered services and other duties while I was away; it was an excellent opportunity to have been able to take.

As Canon John White (one of the course tutors) had said in June's *Review* the course was no holiday, although the change of environment and routine balanced some quite long days. The twenty three participants had all researched and written a 10,000 word project during the preceding months (I chose to write about the homosexuality debate within the Church of England), and in our groups of eight we each presented and discussed someone else's project. Within those same groups we also had a series of Bible studies on the letter to the Romans, eight book reviews, a daily period of theological reflection on what we had heard about, and discussions resulting from the input of some 15 lectures. The lectures covered a wide range of issues, the speakers having been asked to link in with the overall course title of *Beyond 2000, Christian Believing Into The Future*. We heard from the head of one of the largest comprehensive schools, a media expert, an up and coming defence lawyer, a Muslim leader, a professor of history, an NSM priest in the senior management of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank to mention but a few. We also had a couple of trips out to places like St Botolph's in Aldgate, the Lloyds Building, the Steinberg Centre, the Lotus factory (software - not cars!). It was a splendid chance to reflect and get a much

broader picture of the context of one's life and ministry - it is so very easy to become swamped by the local things (often very important, sometimes trivial) that the wider context passes one by.

At the end of the course all the three groups in which we were working tried to focus our reflections upon what we thought were the main challenges ahead for Christian believing beyond 2000. We came up with a lot of questions and not too many answers! Questions to do with authority - whether we like it or not ours is a society in which the older models of authority imposed from above no longer carry weight, and this has many implications for the way Scripture is used and the way the Church operates; questions around our place as Christians within a plural society and our relationship with other faith groups; moral questions resulting from the rapid advances in information technology and in medical and scientific fields.

What came out of all this for me personally was an awareness that in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world there is a danger of seeking refuge in neat and tidy certainties and straightforward answers that are very possibly wrong. The Church is often asked for answers to difficult questions - it must grapple with those, but not be afraid of the grappling, and resist the quick and easy answer, especially in areas where we don't really know what we're talking about. Gazing into the tea leaves and saying what the world is going to be like in 30 years time is an exercise fraught with danger, (continued on page 12)

Cover: Olga and Elena from Belarus get acquainted with how canal locks work during a day out on the Grand Union (see article on p9). Photo: Barbara Conway

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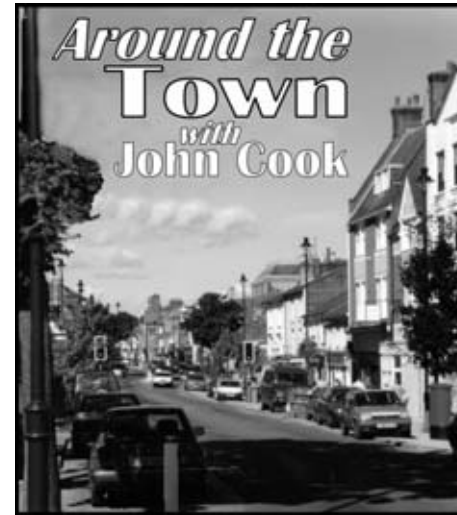
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The Millennium

Any future references in this column to the Millennium will mean the year 2000. All educated people know that the year after next is not really the Millennium – that will be a year later – 2001; but there is nothing we can do to stop the year 2000 being celebrated and called by that name. The media have the final say in all such things and they will take no notice of those of us who may think otherwise.

Certainly computers believe that the year 2000 (which I see that the computer magazines are now calling ‘Y2K’) will be a special year, and by all accounts many of them will mark the occasion by going on the blink right at the very start - on 1st January 2000.

The year 2000 will also be the 200th anniversary of the death of perhaps Berkhamsted’s most famous son, William Cowper. I hope that the Cowper Society will be organising some suitable way of making sure that this is not forgotten among all the other celebrations.

Tapestries

In last month’s *Review* there was an article about the exhibition to be held of the reconstructed final panel of the Bayeux Tapestry. Just to remind you of the dates:

it will be on display in Berkhamsted Civic Centre from Monday 5th October to Saturday 10th October. Going by the reports of those who have already had the opportunity to view it, the tapestry is an impressive piece of work and well worth going to see.

Some readers may remember the Berkhamsted Pageant in 1966. Following that event - or rather series of events - there was a proposal to hang a tapestry depicting the pageant in St Peter’s church. Regrettably this idea was not exactly warmly acclaimed when the Parochial Church Council considered it. There was squabbling about whether the matter should be discussed at all as it was not on the agenda, then strongly voiced views were expressed for and against. The report in the *Berkhamsted Review* of November 1966 recorded that the Council hardly distinguished itself over the matter.

Further criticism of the PCC appeared in a letter in the same *Review*, complaining that it took half an hour to discuss the price of a piece of coconut matting. Given a ball of string and a crochet hook apiece, the letter claimed, they could have knitted a mat in less time than that. Let us have less sound and fury from the Council on matting and tapestries, the commentator pleaded, and more fire in the belly on spreading the word of God. The reports of today’s PCC meetings seem rather restrained by comparison.

Mail Trains

Following comments in the *Review* a month or two ago about the dropping and picking up of mail from trains at Berkhamsted, I am very grateful to two readers who have let me have very interesting accounts of what used to happen.

Mr Roger Osborn who now lives in Clarence Road joined the GPO in 1939 and after the war he became part of the Travelling Post Office (TPO) team. When on pick-up duty he would arrive at Berkhamsted Station at 3:00am and walk

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250 yards up the line to where the special pick-up apparatus was located.

The 8:00pm train from Glasgow sped through Berkhamsted at 3:30am. The signalman would tell the postmen when the train was coming and they would then set the nets to catch the leather 'pouches', each containing two or three mail bags.

Berkhamsted's Importance

Berkhamsted was the most important drop-off point in the country. Sometimes there were 30 pouches of mail, not just for Berkhamsted but for Chesham, Amersham, Beaconsfield, Slough, Windsor, even as far as Marlow. After they had been extracted from the nets the pouches had to be humped across the slow lines and put into vans. It was all a pretty violent operation carried out at speed at night, and the men were paid danger money.

Mrs Winter who now lives in Lincoln Court tells me that her late husband also worked on the mail trains, but his job was to get the mail on to the trains in the 'down' direction. The leather pouches were hung up on the apparatus and when the train came by at 9:00pm it put out a net and caught the bags, then drew them into a coach. Mrs Winter would go and watch from the field, now the playground.

Both Mr Osborn and Mrs Winter mention occasions when there were mishaps, ending up with mail being scattered along the line. The postmen had to collect it up – not an easy task on a frosty winter's night with only oil lamps to see by and the letters frozen to the sleepers. And to answer another query: yes, the postmen did use red handcars.

To round off the story of our travelling post offices: you need to be getting on for 40 years old to be able to recall the news breaking of the most sensational event ever to happen to a TPO. It occurred in 1963 just a few miles down our line at Cheddington and filled the newspapers and news bulletins for days. It has taken its place in history as the Great Train Robbery.

Totem Wrath

I have received a letter signed 'Yours indignantly, The Berkhamsted Totem Pole'. It complains that in talking about sculpture in Berkhamsted in last month's *Review* I failed to mention one of the finest examples of north-west Pacific coast sculpture to be found anywhere in the world, which is what our totem pole claims to be. Be warned, the letter says, that one of its crests depicts a sea-serpent named Sisiutl who has the power to turn its enemies into stone at a glance. With the letter came a copy of the totem pole's new biography to put me right.

The book entitled *The Berkhamsted Totem Pole* is by John Tearle who lives in Alsford Wharf, the flats in the grounds of which the totem pole now stands. It is a charming little volume - well researched and nicely produced - and I recommend it to anyone who is at all interested in this feature (it doesn't like being called a curiosity) of Berkhamsted's townscape. It was typeset in the Town by the Print Shop and is on sale there and elsewhere.

And Another Book

Finally, the Berkhamsted author of another book has presented me with a copy - Audrey Clark's new edition of *the Penguin Dictionary of Geography*. Looking a few things up in it I found the definitions to be concise, clear and with a sort of authoritative ring to them.

The blurb on the back says that Audrey's major work on which this new, briefer book is based, *the Longman Dictionary of Geography: Human and Physical*, has been acclaimed as the geographer's bible. This one (still some 450 densely filled pages) is a snip at £6.99.

Will the flow of ink from the pens of Berkhamsted's writers ever dry up? ❖



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If you want the money you have raised to be used to bring a group of children to England then why don't you host a visit?' That was the challenge and we felt we had to respond positively. After all over two thousand children had come across in groups of ten, so surely Berkhamsted could

give four weeks respite to such a group. It was much more difficult than ever we had anticipated to find families willing to host the children. Indeed, we had an outline programme in place before any homes had been found. However, after a meeting of potential host parents in mid-May the problem was resolved and it was with eager anticipation, mixed with some anxiety, that four of us awaited the arrival of the children's Belavia flight at Gatwick Airport on 5th June. After a quick group photograph and a cheery 'Goodbye, see you all back here in four weeks' time' from the Chernobyl Children Life Line organiser, we were on our own!

I realised we were going to have a very interesting and challenging time when there was an urgent request for a toilet stop on the M25 journey to Berkhamsted. We pulled on to the hard shoulder opened the minibus door, then all the children piled out and disappeared to the top of the embankment. We did retrieve them all eventually and the police did not arrive to ask why we had stopped, so breathing a big sigh of relief we continued our journey to the Court House, where the children were introduced to their host families.

The children arrived with few possessions and they were unprepared for our inclement June weather. When they left Minsk the temperature was 32°C and they had no suitable clothing or footwear. Fortunately fleeces had been donated and then they were given lightweight

A CHALLENGE FROM CHERNOBYL

In the second of two articles, **Barbara Conway** describes the challenge of the recent Chernobyl project.

waterproof anoraks. We had sufficient funds to buy them a stout pair of shoes each and they were fully equipped for our English summer.

It had been our intention to centre the programme for the four weeks around one or two major outings or activities each week interspersed with quiet

days. It soon became evident that this was not to be. Once people met the children they wanted to become more involved and organise activities for them. It was difficult to refuse offers, but in the end we had no choice because we ran out of time. We had to remember the needs of the children and also the host families.

There were so many highlights to this visit that it is difficult to single out individual events. However, I will mention just a few that appealed to me. During the first week the children were invited to watch a World Cup match on television. It was lovely to see the boys all sitting closely together on a settee with their cans of Coke and bags of crisps. They were told that this was the way that English fans watched football at home.

In the second week the group was hosted for a day on the canal. We travelled in two boats from Pitstone Wharf to Tring Station and back. At first the children just sat in the boats, but with some encouragement they became involved in operating the locks and steering the boats and really enjoyed themselves.

At the beginning of the third week we had been invited to Hyde Park barracks, the home of the Household Cavalry. The children were allowed to get really close to the men and horses and one trooper stood patiently whilst his uniform was explained

(continued on page 13)

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The Mothers' Union World Wide Council meets every ten years, coinciding with the Lambeth Conference; after all many diocesan presidents from overseas are bishops' wives! This year it assembled in York in July, where around 400 diocesan presidents from all over the world prayed and

worshipped together, discussed the issues which affect MU today and looked to its future. On the agenda was a debate to consider changing the name, which was rejected, so it is as the Mothers' Union that we go forward into the 21st century.

The World Wide Council gives the dioceses in the United Kingdom the opportunity to meet and entertain the presidents from overseas with which they are linked. In St Albans we were able to have staying in the diocese five link presidents: Abigail Olowokure from Akoko, Nigeria, Joyce Banda from Lusaka, Zambia, Julia Njumbuxa from Christ the King, Johannesburg, Betty Chiswell from Armidale and Isabel Farlow from Grafton, both in Australia. Meetings and receptions were arranged for members

THE MOTHER'S UNION

Margaret Burbidge
highlights the recent meeting
of the World Wide Council.

to hear about MU in their countries. Falling membership is as much a problem in Australia as it is here, but not in Africa, and attending meetings is no problem in Nigeria: when your diocesan president, the bishop's wife, tells you to come, you come! Project work is at the heart of MU activities all over the world. In

Australia families are supported as here, but in Africa the work is focused on educating members about the spread of Aids, and teaching them skills which will enable them to increase their meagre incomes. Julia reminded us of an African saying, 'You teach a woman, you teach the whole world; you teach a man and you teach an individual!'.

MU members in this country also had an opportunity to attend two big events, the first in Winchester and the second in York Minster. Winchester was a whole day affair with workshops in the morning on subjects ranging from women in prisons and Jubilee 2000, to parenting and calligraphy. In the afternoon, around 1,500 members including overseas visitors packed the cathedral for a Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop of Winchester. Visiting bishops, civic dignitaries and MU banners processed up the long central aisle. The World Wide president, Lady Eames, preached and reminded us that as MU members we have to go into risky places and to find room in our attitudes to take risks for God. The service was truly international and as we shared together in the breaking of bread, so we shared our commitment to strengthen marriage and Christian family life.

Nine days later in York Minster, a congregation of 2,000 was present for a celebration service for the World Wide Council. All the diocesan presidents, the

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primates of the Anglican communion and many others shared in a Eucharist celebrated by the Archbishop of York, and heard the Archbishop of Canterbury preach. It was an uplifting experience just to be there, to pray for MU world wide, to hear George Carey speak of our distinctiveness and diversity, and to receive the bread and wine alongside others from every continent.

The moment I shall treasure came afterwards. Outside the west door of the minster I met Canon Rachel Stowe, a past president of St Albans Diocese, now living in Yorkshire and a member of the World Wide Council. She told me of the humbling privilege of celebrating the Eucharist for council members, of breaking bread and sharing it with the presidents from Rwanda, acutely aware of the brokenness of their country, and as we chatted the African presidents danced and sang on the steps. Their personal experiences were set aside as they rejoiced and celebrated being part of 'a world wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.' ❖

The last MU article in our August issue was wrongly attributed to Margaret Barnard when it was actually written by Jenny Wells. Apologies to both ladies - Ed.

review leader

(continued from page 3)

and almost certainly full of wrong answers, but an assessment of the present suggests that we're in fluid times, a transitional period of the world's history, uncertainties abound in a way that hasn't been the case in living memory. What is needed perhaps above all else is a Christian spirituality that can be at home in that fluidity and uncertainty - a Christian spirituality that can be with others as they struggle with the many tensions in life. That spirituality won't be easy; it will involve waiting, silence, listening and openness both to God and to others; it will be something that resists charging in with ready sorted templates for each situation because so many of the situations that are facing us are new ones. That all makes for an exciting ride!

Coupled with such serious thoughts it must be said we *laughed* an enormous amount, which is always spiritually refreshing, and I also played a round of golf with the castle plumber at the Royal Household Golf Club (a nine hole course adjoining the castle) - one of the more exclusive clubs in the world I suspect - it's not every day Prince Philip hurtles past in Range Rover as you're driving off the fourth tee! ❖

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in great detail. We watched the daily inspection of the guard and then visited the stables to see the farriers at work. Finally we saw the ceremonial uniforms and were able to try on helmets, breastplates and swords. The children loved every minute of the visit and were reluctant to depart.

The highlight of the final week was a shopping day in Watford. All the children decided to buy T-shirts for their fathers, so that was simple. Then we discovered one of the multiple stores had a sale and they very quickly became avid bargain hunters. Two hours later and their money had been spent. Every transaction was done separately and the shop assistants entered into the spirit of the activity, suggesting small items to use up any odd coins. The children were delighted with their purchases. They had never seen large shops with such a variety of goods before, but they soon got the hang of things and were so excited to find how much they could buy through being selective. During the visit, despite the language barrier, we came to know the children and their likes and dislikes. They were introduced to fish and chips in the first week and this became

their favourite meal. In common with children everywhere their favourite drink was Coke and they all loved ice cream. At first they were reluctant to try bananas and oranges and we were told this was because they did not have them at home, as they were too expensive.

All too soon it was time for the party to return to Belarus. They gathered at the Court House with bulging holdalls and rucksacks. During their stay they had been given many presents and all these had to be fitted in somewhere. We made the return journey to Gatwick by minibus and we were able to give them lunch there before bidding them a fond farewell. The visit was a great success and we were so grateful for all the local support and encouragement from individuals, organisations and retailers. We feel sure the children gained much from their stay and that they went home with a store of happy memories. For all those involved it was a worthwhile and unforgettable experience.



The first article in this short series, Olga, appeared in the August 1998 issue of the Review.



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'The Natural Place for Gardeners'

In this one question, M. Péronnet seemed to have captured the essence of life in a French university. Why make life simple when one can make it complicated? I certainly had cause to wonder. And few things can rival the complexity of French administration, which, as I began my year studying history in Montpellier, was my first and most formidable opponent.

The administrative machinery is renowned, and with justification, as the most perfect example of the eternally perplexing. To acquire my (as yet unused) *carte de séjour* required more documentation than I thought I possessed, and more fruitless visits to the Prefecture than I care to remember. The French themselves freely admit that their administration verges on the ridiculous, and assured me that once the battle with this intransigent opponent was over, the rest of student life would be comparatively straightforward.

Comparatively... but for the foreign student, the administrative difficulties are but the first stumbling block on the

''Pourquoi le
faire simple
quand on peut
le faire
compliqué?''

French university life is far
from straightforward, as
Jessica Irons discovered.

vide merely a preliminary glimpse of the gulf which separates French and British perceptions of university, a gulf to which no description can ever fully do justice. For if the British experience of university encompasses a definitive break with the past and a wealth of new opportunities, then the French experience is decidedly less adventurous.

To begin with, the French tend to obey an unwritten rule by attending the nearest university and returning home every weekend to rejoin the old friends. Thus, the new life in no way supplants the old one; the two lives merely co-exist. The strength of regional attachments also seems to encourage a wide definition of what is 'foreign' (to the people of Montpellier, anywhere at a distance of more than 10km) and often a certain coldness to those deemed to be outsiders. At weekends, the halls of residence are normally deserted, and the fact that I do not likewise return home was at first a source of amusement to the French, even when I explained that I happened to live in a different country. As



treacherous trail of discovery. They pro-

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an excuse, this seemed to them inadequate...

Such a tradition inevitably dictates the tone of student life. From the beginning of term, there seemed to be a lack of community spirit, and the exhausting though effusive friendliness which characterises Freshers' Week in England was notably absent. So, too, is the enormous range of clubs and societies which can so enrich and enliven student experience, although this, of course, varies considerably according to the university. Some of the societies which do exist are national in their organisation, often being responsible for the *manifestations* which form such an inescapable part of French student life. To participate in a *manifestation* is, moreover, seen as a social and political obligation - a defining characteristic of the true citizen. '*Manifestons à Marseille!*' proclaimed one of the posters outside the university library last week, '*Tous ensemble, nous gagnerons*'...

The need to act *en masse* is to some degree prompted by conditions within the university itself. One of the most striking features of a French university is its complete anonymity. The absence of any selection procedure before entrance into higher education results in impossible numbers of students, *amphithéâtres* which are full to overflowing, and a lack of any personal contact between students and the lecturers.

My own experience, learning history in French, has certainly proved to be eye-opening. Far from the healthy scepticism and individual research which Durham history department tries to promote, the emphasis in Montpellier is on the diligent learning of lecture notes, as of an infinite number of precise facts and figures. I was somewhat disconcerted to find myself expected not only to be familiar with a comprehensive chronology of the French Revolution, but also to have the minutest details of France's numerous constitutions firmly imprinted on my memory.

This 'facts, facts, facts' approach is coupled with a distinctly republican philosophy, and the one lecturer who initiated us into the mysteries of the counter revolution was noticeably apologetic about doing so. The study of Edmund Burke resulted in a condemning criticism of the curious Anglo-Saxon mentality - no wonder, remarked the lecturer, that the English and the French have had to resign themselves to mutual suspicion, if not open hostility. But it is worth noting that anyone with right wing tendencies is liable to be suspected of dangerous nostalgia for the ancient regime, as the revolution continues to exert an undeniable influence on the political will. In the interests of international relations, I have therefore found it wise to keep my non-republican - and thus dangerously subversive - views to myself. My one indiscretion led, as I remember, to the crushing rejoinder that the revolution was all my fault anyway: if the English had not executed Charles I in the first place, then the French would never have had such an uncivilised idea...

My French university experience has not been entirely devoid of redeeming features. There is a certain sense of exhausted achievement to be found in having endured a four-hour examination on the *métapolitique* of Joseph de Viaistre (especially since it began at 8 o'clock on a Saturday morning...) and no less memorable has been the chance to sing with a French cathedral choir, and the experience of giving a presentation on ecumenism and the Anglican Church to a group of critical French Catholics... In short, life in a foreign country is certainly a formative experience even if not always an enjoyable one. And although many students are relieved to come to the end of the year abroad, few - if any - can deny having gained considerably from the experience, even if it is but a deeper insight into the infinite nature of national differences.



Copies of Sermons

June Douglas writes:

I should like to thank Father Mark for making copies of his sermons available on the table at the back of the church after the service on Sundays.

I came across this custom in New Zealand last Spring when I was visiting the cathedral in Christchurch through April and May. There was a shelf in the cathedral on which the copies were placed and left for several weeks or months - I picked up five or six at the time and gained much through reading them.

A lot of thought has gone into sermons and however quick one may be in the uptake, it is often difficult to recall and retain all the significant points which are very rewarding to think about (especially, as I well know, as one gets older!).

So please, Father Mark, do not remove your copies too quickly as people who forget to take them on the day may come back much later.

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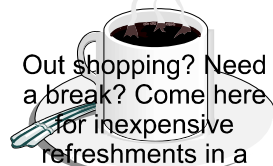
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In my capacity as allotment representative for Sunnyside, I carried out an inspection with two representatives from the allotment society to see if anything could be done to encourage more residents to take

them up. I was struck by how sad it was to see carefully tended plots alongside thistle infested areas. It must be really discouraging to contend with this problem and we, as a council, perhaps should start to manage the allotments properly. When you look over from Hall Park, you see what a large area the Sunnyside old and new allotments actually occupy. The allotments are the only asset your town actually owns and I am sure that the last thing we want to see is housing when far better use of the land could be made for all residents. The sort of things that spring to mind include an adventure playground, a recreational grassed area, a skateboarding site or even swimming pool. The only difficulty as usual is that money needs to be spent, but it is our heritage and belongs to the town. At the end of the day, you can make your views known to the council and they should at least consider doing something constructive instead of just nothing. Did you know that in Luton allotments are known as leisure gardens? Now there's a thought.

One of the things that is dear to all our hearts is the prospect of even more houses being built on 'greenfield' sites in and around the town. Readers may recall that Berkhamsted's 'share' of all the county's housing 'need' was 300 dwellings. At the borough local plan sub-committee on 2nd September it was reported that now only 190 are 'needed' to be built in the town. The town, by the way, includes Northchurch for some reason. This estimate only goes up to 2011 and to remind those of you who have been taking notice, SERPlan is looking at the needs up

CUTTING COMMENTS

Allotments and housing attract the attention of independent councillor **Norman Cutting**.

to 2016. Why do I think those 110 will suddenly return to haunt us? One of the things that really does concern me is that the policies now being presented by borough will mean a reduction in employment land provision. This implies that the occupiers of these dwellings will either find employment in the service industries or offices locally, or, more likely, commute elsewhere because suitable work is not available nearby. The 'community spirit' that is so lacking in this day and age, will either return slowly because unemployment starts to rise or continue to decline with even more commuters 'bed & breakfasting' in the town.

One of the subjects on the deferred finance and policy committee held on 1st September was what to do about the Internet. Readers may remember that I have plonked an experimental site on the 'net' comprising council and visitor information together with other bits and pieces. After a lot of discussion, one of the borough members informed the town council that he understood the borough council were setting up their own site and we should find out if we could get a 'mention'. He either forgot or didn't know that borough have been thinking about this for over two years and was exactly the reason why I believed we should take the lead. This all means that I will now develop the existing site along the lines that I would like to see it go which will include expanding the existing picture gallery to illustrate local issues. If you want to have a multimedia experience, then visit <http://berkotc.connect-2.co.uk> while it lasts. ❖

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The Care Project is a European-funded initiative to train people in the Dacorum area without employment and between the 50 to 64 age bracket, in carework - and it's all free!

In conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire we at the Care Project are offering National Vocational Qualifications to level 3, a well-recognised qualification. Training is primarily for people wanting to take a new direction in employment, and we will be offering work experience and support for those that wish to go on to work within the care industry. However we are also happy to take anyone between 50 and 65 onto the course providing they are not working, to experience carework and lifeskills training.

The induction course involves first aid training, moving and handling, confidentiality and health and safety. The NVQ is a very flexible qualification, and is unit based. Special interest in certain units can be accommodated, and as far as possible work placements will be given to candidates with interests in each area. We have a wide variety of care placements

THE DACORUM CARE PROJECT

Interested in care work? The Dacorum Care Project is offering free training.

available, including work within people's own homes, with people with physical or learning difficulties, with the elderly and with children in respite care.

The training involves giving up a morning a week to

learn the 'theory' for each unit, and then work experience to make up to at least 15 hours. Work experience placements will give candidates further training, and enable theory work to be put into practice.

The training suite is in Hemel Hempstead in the newly equipped offices at The Bridge, 1-11 Bridge Street (above the old Shoe Express shop; the entrance is next to Karen's, the baby shop).

To complete the course at 15 hours a week it is anticipated will take a year. However candidates can complete the course faster if they wish to put in extra effort.

Even if people in the area are only interested in the induction course, we can still help! What do you have to lose?

Contact the project manager, Kim Alexander, for more information or an informal chat, on (01442) 266076, or leave a message at reception on 266039. ❖



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WISHFUL THINKING

Stephen Halliday points the finger of blame for football hooliganism to the media.

Is it my imagination or does the football season start earlier every year? This year it seemed that the World Cup matches had scarcely finished before the domestic season began. It set me to reflecting on the problem of football-related violence which has disfigured the game for the past two decades and made me ask myself why *English* hooligans are apparently worse than other people's. As the World Cup tournament in France approached it was assumed that English fans would misbehave and the violent scenes which preceded England's game in Marseilles justified the worst fears. A few days later some German football followers were responsible for the near-death of a French policeman. Interestingly the misbehaviour of the Germans came as a surprise to the authorities whereas violence by English fans was expected.

Until about twenty years ago football violence was something which happened in other countries. I remember going to watch a game in 1967 in Split, Yugoslavia, between Tottenham Hotspur and the local team and being surprised to find that the pitch was surrounded by a wire fence to prevent enraged spectators from running on to it and attacking players. Within a few years such precautions were being introduced in England. How did this situation come about? Drink of course plays a major part but I believe there are other causes as well. The problem seems to have coincided with a much greater level of competition between English and foreign teams in international games and in European club competitions like the Europeans Champions' cup. In fact the first really serious case of violence occurred when Liverpool played an Italian side in the final of that competition in

1985 in Brussels, leading to the deaths of several Italian spectators.

I believe that one of the reasons that English hooligans are worse than others lies with the popular press which in this country seems to be more chauvinistic and spiteful than elsewhere.

One of the rioters in Marseilles explained to a television reporter that 'We [the English] used to rule half the world so we have to show who's boss'. Leaving aside the inaccuracies in this strange claim I am left wondering why he adopted this view. I think we can safely assume that he is not a student of our imperial history but he probably reads *The Sun*, *The Mirror* or *The Star*. I examined a copy of each of these during the World Cup and was surprised to discover how much they had changed since I read the *Daily Mirror* when I was a student. They contain hardly any news at all. They mostly consist of cartoons, horoscopes, accounts of the activities of 'Gazza' and lurid sex stories which would make Bill Clinton turn pale. Mass-market publications of this kind are much more common in England than elsewhere. Most newspapers in France and Germany, for example, are regional publications which are a cross between the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Gazette*. The main exception is a German publication called *Bild* ('Picture') but it doesn't have the nasty chauvinism of our own popular press. Headlines like 'Gotcha' or 'Up Yours Delors' are mercifully absent.

I suggest that the unusual nastiness of English football hooligans owes much to the ignorance, vulgarity and misguided chauvinism of our mass-market newspapers. However there is some good news. Their circulation has been falling for some time. Let's hope they disappear altogether. ❖

TUESDAY CLUB

The guest speaker for our meeting on 6th October will be Mr Christian Scharsach who will give us an illustrated talk on osteopathy, its practice and history.

We meet in the Court House at 8:15pm on the first Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome. Please contact Angela Morris on 866992 or Margaret Barnard on 862794 for further information or just come along on the night - you will be made very welcome. Copies of our new programme are available in St Peter's, All Saints' and on the noticeboard in the Court House.

THE BRITISH SUGARCRAFT GUILD (CHILTERN HILLS BRANCH)

The branch will be having a stall selling Christmas fare at the Community Market in the Old Town Hall on Saturday, 7th November between 9:00am and 12noon.

The Guild meets regularly at Lagley Hall in Douglas Gardens, Berkhamsted on the third Saturday in the month at 2:30pm, with demonstrations, workshops and a sales table on offer, together with refreshments. New members are welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER MARK!

Father Mark Bonney won the EIG Cup for the top individual in the Ecclesiastical Insurance group Inter-Diocesan Golf Tournament held at Frilford Heath Golf Club in July. This year's success is the fifth time Father Mark has won the trophy in the last nine years and is also the fourth time in the last five years.

RNLI BERKHAMSTED BRANCH

Several forthcoming events involve our local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution:

<i>30th/31st Oct & 13th/14th Nov & 27th/28th Nov</i>	Court House sales
<i>14 Nov</i>	Sale of souvenirs at Berkhamsted School (Kings Road campus)
<i>20th/21st Nov</i>	Collection at Waitrose
<i>4 Dec (eve)</i>	Festival of Light Berkhamsted High Street

Congratulations to the branch for being chosen to receive an award by the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers as the best example of regional fundraising for their golden jubilee appeal.

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SACRED HEART CHURCH PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

This year our Advent course will take the different form of three weekly workshop evenings, all to be held on Wednesdays at 8:00pm at the Church Hall in Park Street, Berkhamsted. Each event will comprise a short talk on a chosen subject, a workshop to give practical application of the theme, an exchange of reactions and ideas and a closing prayer.

On 11th November the theme will be *Understanding The Gospel Stories* (preparing our minds for Christmas), on 18th November we ask *Why Christmas?* (preparing our hearts) and on 25th November we shall be *Getting Ready For Christmas* (preparing our homes). which will conclude with a shared meal.

Everyone is welcome - particularly the parents of young (and not so young) children. For more details contact Sylvia Ross (863872) or Margaret Steed (875544).

NSPCC CHRISTMAS FAIR

A Christmas Fair in aid of the NSPCC will be held at the Aston Clinton Sports & Social Club on 11th November between 9:30am and 2:30pm. The club is opposite the Bell Restaurant in the middle of Aston Clinton. The

entrance fee of £1 includes coffee or tea.

LEPROSY MISSION COUNTDOWN TO CURE CAMPAIGN

Our Christmas Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale is taking place on Saturday, 24th October. Our friends from St Peter's church have very kindly offered the use of part of the Court House for our venue this year.

As well as cakes and so on, items suitable for Christmas presents will be very welcome for the bring and buy table: for example, unwanted gifts, greetings cards, and items made by our talented craft folk would sell well. Rev Graham Wright will again have Leprosy Mission goods for sale. The variety of items has increased and includes very attractive products made by leprosy patients trained in various crafts at TLM rehabilitation centres to enable them to start small businesses and earn a living for themselves and their families. TLM Christmas cards and calendars are very good quality and value. Please make a note of the

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Oxfam is holding one of its popular Linen and Lace events from Monday 5th October to coincide with the Bayeux Tapestry Finale exhibition.. Those who appreciate fine embroidery will find plenty of examples and there will be a selection of tapestries to be worked for those inspired to try their hand.

The Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted High Street is open from 9:30am to 5:00pm six days a week. For further details call 864225.

NORTHCHURCH ST MARY'S CHOIR CONCERT

On Saturday, 3rd October the choir of Northchurch St Mary's will present a concert of vocal music, including Pergolesi's *Magificat* and favourites such as *Brother James' Air*, *Blessed by the God and Father* and *Rejoice in the Lord always*. Admission is free.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Charity Christmas cards will be on sale between 10:00am and 4:00pm at the Court House on the following dates (all Fridays and Saturdays):

*30th & 31st October
13th & 14th November
27th & 28th November*

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



The August meeting opened with the vice president, Mrs Joan Goode, welcoming members and reminding them of outings and meetings in the near future. These were the Herts Federation autumn council meeting on 22nd October, an outing to the V&A museum on 2nd November and the Potten End ramble on 12th September.

Our speaker for this evening was a local osteopath, Mr Tim Hanwell, who practices in the town. He was accompanied by 'Victor', a skeleton, and to start his talk, he traced the

history of osteopathy. An American, Andrew Taylor Still, born in 1828, decided in 1874 to break with orthodox medicine and opened a school of osteopathy in 1892 to treat patients with massage and manipulation. It was brought to the UK a little later and students now have to enrol for a four year degree course.

Mr Hanwell noted that 117 million working days are lost every year and 60 per cent of the population will suffer back pain at some time. He told us that anyone could be treated, and to reach a diagnosis he starts by taking a detailed history from the patient and is then able to treat the pain. He urged us all to 'use our body or lose it'. A variety of complaints are treatable: tension headaches, tennis elbow, back problems, frozen shoulders and stiff necks. He went on to give some tips when gardening, sitting at a desk with a computer, telephone and so on, and taking part in sporting activities. He also touched on osteoporosis which affects five percent of the population, and advised us all to take part in weight bearing exercises.

Mrs Jane Crellin thanked the speaker for a very interesting talk.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

At our September meeting it was with great anticipation that we sat through the business matters of our meeting to listen to our speaker for the afternoon, Mrs Ann Kettleborough, who spent part of her working life as housekeeper to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia.

On display before us was a huge selection of treasures of gold, silver and exquisite jewellery for us to see and handle. Mrs Kettleborough explained her various duties during her stay at the Royal Palace of the late King and also her travels with the Saudi royal family around the world. An excellent speaker who kept her audience enthralled and was kind enough to answer many questions from members. An appreciation was given by Margaret Rainey.

A warm welcome will be given to visitors and new members to our meeting on 7th October at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm when our speaker will be Mrs Janet Deneen speaking on *Hertfordshire Homelife*. ❖



reviewnorthchurch

Revd Peter Hart
explains why silence
during a service isn't
everything.

The church is still. People kneel or sit quietly to pray. A child cries. How do you react? The sermon is reach-ing an interesting point. A baby gurgles and drops a toy. How do you feel? The hymn is announced and the people behind you ask several times what number it was. How do you respond?

There are many things during a service which annoy us, disturb our pattern of thought and interfere with our enjoyment of the service. Rustling papers and books falling off pews can be very distracting, just as howling babies and whistling deaf aids can quickly destroy our concentration. These interruptions to the service happen in all churches, and how we deal with them speaks volumes about our understanding of worship and the body of Christ.

When we gather for worship, are we there for our own benefit, the good of others, or some other purpose? Is worship an individual act that occurs within a group of like-minded people, or is it a community event, which is the sum of responses of all those present? We are instructed by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12 to 'discern the body of Christ' when we celebrate communion together - that means recognising the people present in church as Christ's body, just as much as the bread which is shared. How are we 'discerning' if we are internally urging that parent to take their

talkative child outside? How are we recognising Christ in others, if all we want is for them to be quiet?

There is a great dichotomy within western spirituality between silent worship and communal involvement in the liturgy, and no fair balance can ever be struck between the two. Silence in worship is really only possible when a few are gathered with the intention to be silent, and even then, the sound of someone's breathing can be frustrating. When a large body of people of all ages is gathered together in a sizeable building, with service sheets and hymn books, silence and stillness are unobtainable. Instead, ways of dealing with the presence of others have to be discovered and worked at.

Church worship is a communal act of sharing - shared liturgy, shared singing, shared inner responses. The Church sits together within its holy space and welcomes the contribution of all - be it stillness or restlessness, coughing or crying. This is a positive approach to the small irruptions into the flow of our worship, a generous acceptance of the presence of others, a joy in their inclusion within the body of Christ.

The next time a baby squawks when you are in church, or a book falls from a pew with a noisy thud, stop yourself before you tut or squirm, and instead, thank God that another person is present with you to worship, and recognise in them a glorious member of the body of Christ. ❖



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SUNDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am	Eucharist			
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House			
		11:00am	Celebrate Together (2nd Sunday only) - A service for all ages			
		6:00pm	Evensong [except 1st Sunday]			
	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am	Eucharist [except 4th Sunday, Methodist rite]			
		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>					
Mondays	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP 8:00-9:00pm in the Court House as announced.					
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					
Wednesdays	MEDITATION GROUP: meets about twice a month as arranged at Jenny's 57 Meadow Road and at Ruth's 1 Montague Road. <i>Everyone is very welcome to join us for about half an hour of quiet prayer.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown 863268					
Wednesday	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall. Contact Chris Billington 866038.					
2nd Wed	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981					
4th Wed	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm in the Court House. The meetings are usually addressed by a guest speaker and the group attracts senior members for whom lifts can be arranged. <i>New members and visitors always welcome.</i> Contact: Vera Pullen 862196					
Thursday	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) 863804					
Thursday / Friday	THURSDAY / FRIDAY STUDY GROUPS: 9:30-11:30am. Two separate weekly meetings for informal Bible study and support. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens 866531 for Thursday or Gillian Malcolm 874993 for Friday					
Friday	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am in the Court House. Weekly meetings with a short service on 1st Fridays in St Peter's. Katy Bonney: 864194					
Friday	CHOIR: Boys 7:00-8:30pm (& Tuesday 5:15-6:30pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Contact: Adrian Davis 864722 or Jean Wild 866859					
3rd Saturday	ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast followed by prayers. <i>Share the concerns of individual churches and of our town. All will be very welcome.</i> Meetings rotate between local churches.					

reviewdiary®isters

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

Oct / Nov 1998

OCTOBER

2	7:30pm	All Saints' Harvest Supper	
3	7:00pm	St Peter's Harvest Supper	
4	9:30am	Harvest Festival Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
4	10:00am	Joint Harvest Festival Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
4	3:00pm	Hospice of St Francis Annual Thanksgiving Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
17	8:00am	ABC Prayer Breakfast	<i>KREC</i>
31	7:30pm	Atlas Copco Band concert	<i>All Saints'</i>

NOVEMBER

1		All Saints' Day	
	9:30am	Eucharist - Preacher: the Revd Derwyn Williams, Chaplain to the Bishop of St Albans	<i>St Peter's</i>
	6:30pm	Joint Eucharist - Preacher: the Revd Dr Keith Straughan	<i>All Saints'</i>
2		All Souls' Day	
	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist (Durufle Requiem) Preacher: the Revd Peter Hart	<i>St Peter's</i>

Registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

23 August George Alexander Lewarne, Jack Andrew Ward

Weddings (*St Peter's*)

8 August Nicholas John Sandeman & Jill Garrett
 22 August Andrew Leigh Case & Linda Ann Baker
 Malcolm Martin & Diana Celia Joan Lidderdale
 29 August Paul Adrew Dell & Debbie Wallace

Funerals

6 August John Edward 'Jack' Thomas Chilterns Crematorium
 13 August Percy Tom Numm St Peter's church (committal at Kingshill)

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)	Elizabeth Figg (866161)
Youth activities	Carole Dell (864706)	Christina Billington (866038)
Church maintenance	John Cook (866278)	Mike Limbrick (384682)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (863241)	Currently vacant
Flower arrangements	Gwen Beddall (862845)	Jayne Harris (873974)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	Sylvia Banks (871195)
Service recordings	Tony Blair (864660)	Ian McCalla (384574)
Intercessions	Rev. Mark Bonney (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	<i>Tony Roberts (865679)</i>	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)	Still currently vacant
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Rodney Cottrell (384963)
Hospice contact	Angela Morris (866992)	May Kempster (863037).



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Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

Contacts

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Friday 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
 11:00am Celebrate Together (2nd Sun) Evening Prayer: Mon-Fri 5:30pm
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon Sat 5:00pm
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints') Holy Days - see weekly Notices
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 (4th Sunday - Methodist rite)
 9:15am Family Eucharist (except 1st Sunday when Anglican-Methodist
 Family Service at 10:00am)
 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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