

# Berkhamsted *review*

*In this issue*

May 2001

What sort of  
society do  
we want?

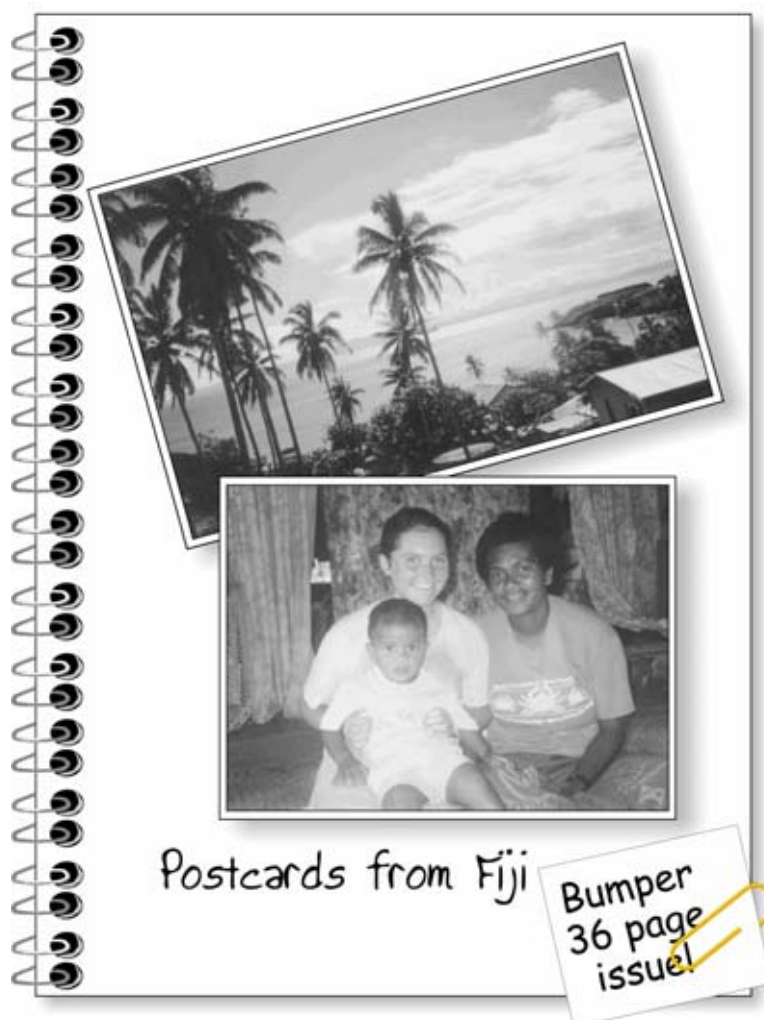
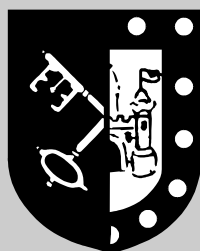
The Rex:  
enough  
support?

Plague, panic  
and prayer

Peter Pan:  
a local child

A Fijian  
experience

This month's  
Notes & Events



*for Town and Parish*

*25p*



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

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

Here we are bang in the middle of the season of growth and renewal. Nature is performing its annual marvel, even if the fields still look more suitable for rice than wheat after recent downpours. And growth and renewal are key themes of the Church year in this Eastertide.

Developments in our town crop up in several articles this month, with plans afoot for redevelopment of the *Rex* cinema and the old Waitrose premises in the High Street – both long-lived eyesores which will benefit from their own kind of renewal and growth.

Speaking of growth, you'll have spotted that this month's magazine has itself sprouted an extra four pages – 36 in total. This reflects the burgeoning amount of editorial we're seeing, supported by our advertisers which means the cover price remains – *still!* – at 25 pence.

It would be great to see our readership growing too, as new people come to live in our town. Do make sure your friends and neighbours know about your magazine!

*Chris Smalley*

*Cover: Sights from Fiji, where tropical scenery vies with abject poverty. See the article on page 23 of this issue.*

*Photos: Susannah White*

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

#### **What sort of society?**

With the prospect of a general election, **Fr Robin Figg** asks what sort of society we want.

#### **The *Rex* - enough support?**

**Ian Reay** assesses the options for the potential re-opening of the *Rex* cinema.

#### **Plague, Panic and Prayer**

**David Simmons** commends prayer as a solution to current disasters, natural and man-made.

#### **Peter Pan: A local child**

**Michael Garrick** writes about his forthcoming musical.

#### **Berkhamsted: the last 150 years**

Has our town changed over the last 150 years? **Jenny Sherwood** takes a look.

#### **A Fijian experience**

**Susannah White** recounts her experience of life and Church in Fiji.

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

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*Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this Review and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor*

**Next copy dates (all Fridays): 4 May 1 June 6 July** (please note early June date)



***As an election approaches, Fr Robin Figg asks what sort of society we want to live in.***

## ***review*** leader

We have celebrated Easter and proclaimed the message of new life that the risen Jesus came to bring to the world. The darkness of Good Friday was gloriously transformed into the light of Easter Day. Through the events surrounding his trial and subsequent crucifixion Jesus showed that he was not afraid to engage with all the political and religious wrangling of his day, remaining steadfast in his stand for truth and justice.

If the pundits are correct we will soon be embroiled once more in the fervour of a general election campaign. We will be invited to engage with the political wrangling of our day with our leaders earnestly telling us why we should vote for their particular party – or rather, why we should not vote for the opposition.

What should be the Church's role in all this? Should the Church even have a role? Surely the answer must be yes. The Christian faith is an incarnational faith; God is involved in all of life. Christians at all levels have a right, a responsibility even, to engage seriously with the political debates of our day. As we listen to the speeches, read the articles, we must be asking ourselves some key questions. What sort of society do we want to live in? What kind of people do we aspire to be? On what basis can we, as widely differing individuals, join together to our greatest mutual benefit within a single society? How can individuals and the state work best together to build up our common life?

In his book *The Politics of Hope* Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, invites us to think of what binds us together into a good society not in terms of a contract but of a covenant. A contract, he says, is

rooted in self-interest, whereas a covenant has a moral basis and is maintained 'by an internalised sense of identity, kinship, loyalty, obligation, responsibility and reciprocity'.

The idea of covenant is fundamental to the Christian story. Historically the word describes the relationship established by God with humanity and the world. The religion of Israel has its origin in the covenant under Moses, while Jesus came to initiate the new covenant. It is a covenantal relationship between people, not a contractual one, which builds community.

Perhaps another key element in the building of healthy community is the ability, the willingness, to listen to, and learn from, each other. Another writer, A Fairchild, said, 'The most distinctive mark of a cultured mind is the ability to take another's point of view; to put oneself in another's place and see life and its problems from a point of view different from one's own. To be willing to test a new idea, to be able to live on the edge of difference in all matters intellectually; to examine without heat the burning issues of the day, to have imaginative sympathy, openness and poise of feeling, cool calmness of judgement, is to have culture'. If our election candidates can take on board even some of this the quality of the debates should improve beyond measure!

Locally, we will have the chance to weigh up our prospective Members of Parliament on Wednesday 30th May at an election forum to be held in Berkhamsted Baptist Church. If we are truly interested in the future of our society we ought to give high priority to this meeting. Then we will be well prepared to carry out our duty of voting on Thursday 7th June (assuming the pundits are right...).





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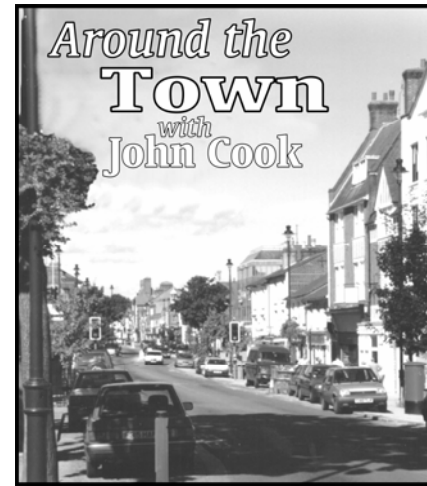
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### Footballing Heights

'BERKHAMSTED TRANSPORTED TO NEW HEIGHTS' screamed the headline in *The Times*. Well, perhaps screamed is an exaggeration. This piece of journalese actually appeared near the bottom of page 7 of the sports section on 26th March, after Berkhamsted Town, the Lillywhites, had won through to the final of the FA Vase – the amateur equivalent of the FA Cup.

1,523 people went along to Broadwater, most of them to support our heroes and see them defeat the Bedlington Terriers 2-1. The opposition fans were there in fair numbers too, good-natured, foul-mouthed Geordies who had travelled all the way down from their Northumberland town, managing to find Berkhamsted and its football ground behind the flats in Lower Kings Road, squeezed in there between the railway and the canal. The Broadwater ground was hardly designed to cope with such a gate, but we all got in.

Whether or not the Lillywhites win the final at Villa Park on 6th May, Berkhamsted has taken another step towards becoming a well-recognised place on the map of amateur sports. Even Northumberland has now heard of us. Another accolade has been added to those gained in the last year or two by the ladies: our women footballers getting into the first

division of the women's league and the girls of the Collegiate School winning the national schools lacrosse championship in 2000. And finally, our appealingly named Ashlyns Academicals were only narrowly beaten in the semi-finals of the Herts Senior Cup.

### Eyesores going?

For years now there have been two prominent blots on our High Street – the old Waitrose building and the *Rex*. Now there are promising signs that we may not have to put up with either for too much longer.

You have to have lived in the Town for a quarter of a century to remember that what became the extended Waitrose was three separate shops, one of which was Woolworths. Now progress is being made to fit out one of three units – the one next to WH Smiths – as a large hairdressers, and there is a planning application in for the other two to be turned into a Woolworths. The frontage will be divided by the entrance lobby to Fitness First, but it will be a pretty big shop, selling rather a different range of goods from the one which disappeared back in the 70s.

It was a good few years before the old branch closed that Woolworths had given up calling itself *The 3d and 6d Store*, selling nothing costing more than sixpence (2½p to our younger readers); but it did still have old-fashioned ways. It had small wooden counters, and if you bought light bulbs the assistant would test every one before your eyes. Also if you risked purchasing an electric appliance there you had to buy the plug separately and fix it on yourself when you got home.

Now we look forward to seeing what the new one will have to sell, and hope that the selection will be rather more interesting than the Hemel Hempstead branch has to offer.

### The *Rex*

There were more people than you could easily count – perhaps three hundred – when the doors of the *Rex* were thrown open to the public on 27th March so that

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we could see the condition of the inside and hear what James Hannaway had to say about his ideas for bringing it back into use.

Essentially the position is that Nicholas King Homes, in implementing their planning permission to build 32 flats on the site, must restore the cinema and try to find an operator for it. James Hannaway's concept is to use just the balcony as cinema seating (300), but with the big screen restored.

The old stalls area will be made available for other activities, and there will be a bar/restaurant. We have to wait and see whether he will succeed.

Anyway, it was good to have the chance to look at the art deco features for which the building was listed. They are generally in pretty good shape, and it is heartening to think that with a bit of luck the building will be properly restored soon to something like its previous glory after all those years of disuse. But it is funny how memory can deceive. Not having seen it for many years I was surprised how small the foyer area seems and how narrow the two staircases are that lead up to the balcony. The graffiti artists had been at work there, but only inflicted superficial damage. How limited their vocabulary is.

#### Local Statistics

The graffiti in the *Rex* were probably perpetrated by one or two of the 12.9% of Dacorum's population who have literacy skills well below average. This figure was among the statistics put out by the borough council in a document last year. Another statistic that took my eye was that 29.9% of people in Dacorum have moderate or severe difficulty with figures. Unemployment was 1.7%, compared with the national average of 4% of which three-quarters were male (these figures are probably a bit lower now). In Dacorum



*A good vantage point of the Valley from St Peter's tower.*

there are 135,000 people and 56,688 homes, of which 12,000 are owned by the council. There are 4,555 lone parent households.

The report says that there are substantial variations across the borough, and unfortunately there are not separate figures for Berkhamsted. But, they do show that although we may live in one of the most prosperous areas of the country, we have our share of social problems.

#### Our Valley

'The town occupies the most spectacular valley in Hertfordshire, displaying impressive slopes which at the narrowest point rise 300 feet on either side.' So reads the introduction in Scott Hastie's book *Berkhamsted, An Illustrated History*. This description may come as a bit of a surprise to those of us who live here and take the Town and its setting rather for granted. Spectacular and impressive could perhaps be more appropriately applied to the Grand Canyon or Cheddar Gorge; even so, the description is right in that as far as I know there is no more striking valley in the county. The problem is to find a suitable viewing point from where it can be fully appreciated. The Ashlyns Estate or one of the houses near the crests on either side of the valley could be the best places; but perhaps readers might like to write in and say where they think it is best to stand and admire it.

The beauty of the next valley to the south – that along which the Bourne Gutter intermittently flows – might once have rivalled that of the valley of the Bulbourne, before its tranquillity was destroyed by the bypass and its scenery marred by electricity lines and pylons. Even so, it still has charm, especially when the Gutter appears and can be seen meandering its way along the bottom, as it is doing just now. ❖

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**Margaret Burbidge** introduces us to the M.U.'s new worldwide president, Trish Heywood.

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At the beginning of the year the new world wide president of the Mothers' Union took office. Trish Heywood was elected by all the diocesan presidents around the world and is the leader of the million or more members in 60 countries. She was commissioned in St Margaret's, Westminster in March by the Archbishop of Canterbury. A widow, with two sons and two grandsons, Trish has been a M.U. member for 30 years and until the end of last year was provincial president for Scotland. She has visited the M.U. in Uganda, Rwanda and Jamaica, so already has experience of members overseas and the significance of the M.U. in their lives. Trish's work as world wide president will bring more travels, both overseas, where membership is growing rapidly and in this country. She believes the M.U. is a force to be reckoned with!

Trish takes up office at the beginning of this celebratory year; it is 125 years since the M.U. was begun by Mary Sumner. This history is not to be ignored for the work of the past is the foundation for the fruits of the future. The M.U. will continue to support marriage and family life and seek to be relevant in changing cultures and societies.

Following her predecessor, Christine Eames, is a hard act, but however impossible the new task may at times seem to be, Trish will be supported and helped

## FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

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A ringing outing with a difference,  
reported by **Priscilla Watts** of  
St Peter's bellringers.

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On Saturday, 7th April, the bellringers of Berkhamsted set off for their first ever outing to London. There we were joined by friends including previous Berkhamsted ringers Judith Burbidge, Roger Turner and Gareth Bennett.

The first tower was St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, just round the corner from Liverpool Street station. This was one of the many city churches, but, unfortunately, we were not able to see inside the building which is kept locked on a Saturday, the bells being reached by side stairs.

From there we went to lunch at the Olde Cheshire Cheese off Fleet Street where two members occupied the seats once occupied by Dr Samuel Johnson and James Boswell. The menu included old-fashioned steak and kidney pudding.

Our next church was St Clement Danes, the RAF church where a wedding was beginning as we left. Our ringing included an all-ladies band spurred on by the peal board in the ringing chamber commemorating the first ladies' peal on ten bells in 1926.

We then walked across the river to St John's, an early nineteenth century church, in the shadow of Waterloo station. The next destination was the London Eye where our organiser, Christine Sworder, managed to arrange for us to have sole use of one capsule. The day was finished off at a Pizza Express which was as modern and streamlined as the Cheshire Cheese was old and traditional. ❖

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Now that there are two planning permissions granted for the reconstruction of the *Rex* cinema we might hope that soon a derelict building which has been an eyesore at the eastern end of the High Street since 1988 will finally come back to life. But life, as we all know, is not simple and because of the Grade II listing of the building the planning permissions specify that the building is used as a cinema for at least five years. English Heritage has, in effect, demanded this by listing it. But whether it would be possible for such a venture to be supported by enough interested cinemagoers remains a doubt. Without enough of such interest, any scheme, however imaginative, is bound to fail.

At a public viewing of the *Rex* at the end of March I joined several hundred people who wandered, waving torch beams into the dark, through the interior of the building. It reminded me of a spooky old cave - there were bird droppings over the floor and dead pigeons lying about on old carpets. Despite this I was struck by the decorations in the main auditorium - ornate stone like shells arranged in formation along the walls - and could see the reason for the enthusiasm of the conservationists. If all else fails the décor should be removed and placed in another location where it can be seen.

The new owners of the site, Nicholas King Homes, are trying to find a partner to run the cinema and a licensed restaurant along side thirty-two flats and maisonettes. They are talking to several groups who are thinking of running the cinema, two of which are locally based. The Rex Film and Arts Trust who have assembled an impressive amount of expertise, want to build a three-screen cinema. One Screen Cinemas, based in Tring, want to reopen the single main auditorium but with viewing only from the balcony. They would flatten the floor of the main auditorium to use for dancing, banqueting or concerts. Nicholas King Homes may also be talking to a national chain.

But what, realistically, are the prospects for a revival of the *Rex* as a cinema. It closed in 1988 at the end of a forty-year period of decline in British cinema. Between 1950 and 1985 two thirds of cinema screens in this country disappeared. It appears though that, just as the *Rex* closed, the industry started to experience a boom brought about by the multi-screen concept. Since the mid-eighties the number of screens has doubled. Unfortunately, just as the *Rex* may be about to be fitted out again there are signs that this boom may be faltering. Last year was a bad year for cinema, with few successful Hollywood blockbusters. There is now talk of consolidation in the industry and the possibility of closing multiplexes.

But neither of the two locally based organisations that want to run a cinema at the *Rex* are expecting to make it work just by appealing to the audiences for mainstream new films. The Film and Arts Trust expects to attract, as well, devotees of classic and special interest films. Both expect also to cater for other functions such as conferences, workshops, concerts and lectures. This sounds very attractive and I hope that it can be made to work. If it can't then in five years time the town will be faced with another problem as the film and arts centre closes. There will be strong pressure to de-list the building and convert the rest to more accommodation. It would be a pity to lose the art deco even though, apart from torch bearing surveys, it has not been seen since 1988. ❖

## council & news views

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Town councillor **Ian Reay** is hopeful about the future for the *Rex* if new plans for the cinema work in practice.

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Do you remember that week towards the end of February when everything seemed to be going wrong? There was that unique rail crash at Selby, the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, on top of the misery for thousands from recent floods and from snowstorms bringing down power lines. And there were natural disasters around the world. 'How awful it all is' became a common phrase in conversations and a degree of panic set in. Even the idea that we might be being punished or warned because of our foolishness surfaced, as it were, from the historical depths of our collective subconscious.

But, as with most situations in this modern world of short-lived attention, we have moved on. Elections may have been postponed, but life goes on for most of us with only relatively minor inconveniences - for some dogs and their owners, anglers, and those of us who like walking in the countryside. We learn to live with the terrible suffering of parts of the farming communities, both humans and animals. We may console ourselves that our local rivers are in full flow, even if the quality of their wildlife is very poor. Things don't seem so bad when summer is just around the corner.

But the underlying condition of the world remains very serious indeed. I make no apology for returning to a theme of my article last November (though I promise not to refer to it again). On the one hand we have the serious urgency of the global environmental and social justice issues, reflected on a small scale in this country. On the other hand we have the inability of human wisdom in the shape of

governments and experts to find workable solutions rapidly enough. This has also been seen in this country in the reactions to the foot and mouth disease, when there were delays, a lack of control and a damaging emphasis on the financial and economic factors rather than on social ones.

And what do we, the ordinary people do? Panic? Rush around from one single-issue campaign to another? Bury our heads in the sand and get on with our lives? Do 'our little bit' for the environment? Or, quite likely, a mixture of all these? If we believe in God who creates the universe and who also relates to a sparrow, we must surely make greater use of our unique contribution, prayer, through serious, informed, systematic and regular meetings for prayer, worship and the sharing of information. Just as monastic prayer over the centuries, silently and in a sense secretly, offered the needs of the world and its peoples to God and has been a channel for His grace, so now we need groups of ordinary Christian people to join together in prayer for environmental and related issues. Only two things are needed; a concern for the damage and suffering being inflicted on our earthly home and its peoples, and a belief in the power and effectiveness of prayer.

One such group meets regularly in Berkhamsted. There is another in Oxford, and probably more are dotted around. If you would like more information (without any long term commitment in advance), you can just sample a meeting. Look out for our notices headed 'PrayerWatch', or give me a ring on 864634. We would love to have your support. ❖

In the last of his series of articles on the evolution of the Underground, **Stephen Halliday** reveals how the idea for the modern system evolved.

## Plague, Panic and Prayer

---

Recent times have seen plenty of disasters, natural and man-made. **David Simmons** urges us to use the power of prayer.

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## TRANSPORT in London

---

Crystal Ways

In 1855 Parliament appointed a Select Committee on Metropolitan Communications which sat for three months and considered a number of radical solutions for mass transport in London. Several of them involved trains which were to be propelled by atmospheric pressure, an idea which briefly attracted the interest of many eminent railway engineers, to their cost.

The idea had been patented in 1838 and required a cast-iron tube to be laid between the running rails. Within the tube was a piston which was attached to the underside of a passenger train. At the end of the line a stationary steam engine pumped out the air in front of the piston, the resulting vacuum causing the piston, with train attached, to be drawn forward into the vacuum by the air pressure behind it. The system was very attractive for railways which were being built in enclosed spaces since no smoke or steam was generated by the train itself. However, the idea depended for its effectiveness upon the creation of an airtight seal around the piston and this proved to be its fatal

weakness. The inventors of the system, Samuel Clegg and Jacob Samuda, built a two-mile demonstration railway at Dun Laoghaire in Ireland which worked intermittently and impressed several visitors, notably Isambard Kingdom Brunel who insisted to critics that 'mere mechanical difficulties can be overcome' and adopted the system for the South Devon Railway in the 1840s. Leather, beeswax and tallow were employed to create the critical airtight seal, but the beeswax and tallow melted in hot weather, the leather became stiff and hard in cold or wet weather and the system was reluctantly abandoned by Brunel. A similar fate befell the London-Croydon-Epsom railway whose 'airtight' pipe provided a comfortable home for rats.

Despite these setbacks the 'atmospheric' system of propulsion was proposed for two of the schemes which the Committee examined at length. One was a proposal from an architect, Mr William Moseley, called the *Crystal Way*. Moseley proposed to build a railway twelve feet below street level between St Paul's



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Cathedral and Oxford Circus, with a branch to Piccadilly Circus. It would be covered by a wrought iron 'superway' across which pedestrians could pass for a toll of one penny, the trains being visible beneath them. The walkway would itself be enclosed within a glass arcade (hence the name *Crystal*) and on either side would be arcades of shops, houses and the occasional hotel. However, the Committee was more impressed by a similar scheme put forward by the 'apostle of glass' Sir Joseph Paxton, MP. Four years earlier Paxton had made spectacular use of glass in creating the pavilion for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Contemptuously dismissed by *Punch* at the time as the 'Crystal Palace' the pavilion had been a triumph so the Committee paid careful attention to Paxton's proposal for a 'Grand Girdle Railway and Boulevard under Glass' which he had patriotically named the 'Great Victorian Way'.

Paxton's solution was a railway, almost twelve miles long, built above ground but within a glass arcade, with shops and houses on either side. The line would link all of London's railway termini and would cross the Thames three times on enclosed bridges. Like Moseley's system, the trains would be powered by atmospheric pressure. Goods trains would only be allowed to run between nine in the evening and early the following morning: a suggestion that was to recommend itself to many urban planners struggling with heavy goods vehicles in the twentieth century. Paxton insisted that, for those fortunate enough to occupy residences within his boulevard, it would 'almost be equal to going to a foreign climate [and] would prevent many infirm persons being

obliged to go into foreign countries in the winter'. The cost was enormous: £34,000,000. In comparison, Brunel's Great Western Railway cost £6m and Bazalgette's main drainage just over £4m. Paxton acknowledged that the cost was too great for a company to bear and suggested that it be underwritten by public funds: a most unattractive proposition for Victorian politicians who were wedded to laissez-faire economics and still cherished the hope of abolishing income tax.

Nevertheless, the Committee was even more impressed by the evidence presented by Charles Pearson, campaigning for his Farringdon terminus. In his evidence Pearson gave some hint of the commercial pressures which supported his plan when he claimed it was 'monstrous that commercial men should be tolerating a system where the poor are living upon ground which is worth £750 per acre per annum, when they might be transferred nightly in twenty minutes to land that is to be obtained for £200 an acre'.

In their conclusions the Committee recommended that 'the different metropolitan Railway Termini should be connected by railway with each other, with the docks, the river and the Post Office, so as to take all through traffic off the streets', adding that the work should be 'carried out by private enterprise'. They particularly commended 'Mr Charles Pearson's plan for a railway from Farringdon Street, communicating with the Great Northern station [Kings Cross] and the Metropolitan Railway'.

These few sentences formed the blueprint for London's first underground railways into which Pearson's scheme would shortly be absorbed. ❖

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Why Peter Pan? Because of the *Rex* cinema. You see, J M Barrie (Peter Pan's immensely successful author) was a very frequent visitor to its site in the 1900s, when elegant Egerton House rather more gracefully crowned the same stretch of God's good earth. There he drank deep of the inspirational waters plentifully on tap from the beautiful but ill-fated Llewellyn-Davies family: Arthur, handsome London solicitor, dead at 43; Sylvia, delectable wife who followed him three years later at the same age; and their five 'lost' boys (whom Barrie virtually adopted) - George (killed in the trenches), Jack, Peter (who committed suicide beneath a Sloane Square tube train), Michael (drowned at 21 in the Thames) and Nico. They were Eton-no-expense-spared-products every one.

Pan was 'an amalgam of all five of you' said Barrie, though it was notably Peter who later declared the story bearing his name 'that terrible masterpiece'. Mrs Darling gazes winsomely out of the eyes of Sylvia in contemporary photographs as does the family dog, Nanna.

Barrie himself was five feet tall, childless and deserted by his wife for someone presumably more substantial (though hardly more financial: in one year, a crooked agent cheated him of £26,000 - in old Edwardian money - and he didn't even notice!) but his character delineations are intriguing: '[Mrs Darling] was a lovely lady with a romantic mind and such a sweet mocking mouth. Her romantic mind was like the tiny boxes, one within the other, that come from the puzzling East. However many you discover there is always one more; and her sweet mocking mouth had one kiss on it that Wendy could never get... [Mr Darling] got all of her, except the innermost box and the kiss'.

And how about vengeful and possessive Tinkerbell, shiny naughty fairy 'inclined to embonpoint'? 'Tink', Peter rapped out, 'if you don't get up and dressed at once (to guide Wendy and the boys home) I will open the curtains and then we shall all see you in your négligée'.

'Hook was not his true name... He had been at a famous public school and its traditions still cling to him like garments, with which indeed they are largely concerned. Good form! However much he may have degenerated he still knew that this is all that really matters'. In his last moments, 'Pan, who and what art thou?' he cried huskily. 'I'm youth. I'm joy', Peter answered at a venture'.

Will the Wreck's saviours venture similar elation in their project? For example, how rich in motifs can their refurbishment areas truly be! Apart from the very-likely-appropriate *Neverland*, they could consider *Shadow Soaps*, *The Wendy House*, *Tinkerbell's Titbits* (for the café), *The Crocodile Complex*, *The Lost Boys Bar*, *Developers Hook*, *Mrs Darling's Secrets*, - and even, in the more likely outcome of a cadet-Stringfellow takeover, *Pan Demonium*. ❖

*Michael L Garrick, honorary president of Berkhamsted Jazz Society, has an incurable habit of responding to literature with new music. For example, St Peter's hosted his Jazz Praises in 1987, Mr Smith's Apocalypse in 1988, the Collegiate chapel Judas Kiss (1990) and the Centenary Hall Bovingdon Poppies on Remembrance Day 1993. On 6th May 2001 his orchestra presents a Peter Pan suite at the Civic Centre.*

## PETER PAN A LOST CHILD

---

Michael Garrick links a new production based on J M Barrie's mercurial character to the *Rex* cinema.

---

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Update on the  
Berkhamsted Walk

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**There will be a walk on  
Sunday, 13th May!**

Refusing to let the incidence of foot and mouth  
disease ruin what has for the last 32 years been  
the principal event on the local walking calendar,  
the organising committee for the Berkhamsted  
Walk has devised an alternative route to the one  
described by Alex Evans in his article in the  
*March Review*. Whilst we are fully aware of the  
seriousness of the disease and its devastating  
effect on the lives of those living in the  
countryside, postponement of the walk to late  
summer or autumn would conflict with other  
major fund raising events taking place in the area

## review letters

### The Town's Fortress

*Brian Hunt, chairman of Berkhamsted Crime Prevention Panel, writes:*

Having read the recent article in the *Berkhamsted Review* by John Cook, former councillor and town mayor, the dilemma is whether to dignify what is an ill researched piece of journalism with a reply. Reluctantly in the interests of truth and equally importantly, police morale, I have decided to bite the bullet.

The article criticises the design and appearance of the police station, which it must be admitted is not the most aesthetically pleasing of buildings. The current police station was designed and constructed as the troubles in Northern Ireland were beginning to escalate. The Home Office design criteria for such new projects required them to withstand a terrorist attack, hence the rather austere appearance and the internal screen behind which the friendly desk sergeant no longer sits. The sergeant now spends his time fighting crime and has been replaced by friendly and helpful support staff, some of whom are ex- police officers.

John Cook admits that he is not qualified to say which is the most cost effective way of combating crime, but cannot resist a cheap jibe by stating that at that time. Cancellation of the walk would represent a loss to the Children's Society of £5,000-£6,000, funds which are vitally needed to continue the Society's work with children and young people.

The new routes of 10 or 13 miles involve roadside footpaths, quiet country lanes and some public footpaths in the neighbourhood of Hemel Hempstead and Potten End, with the longer walk taking in part of the Nicky Line towards Redbourne. There will be the usual checkpoints every

the only visible evidence of foot patrols is by the traffic warden. *This is simply not true.* There is a valid debate to be had regarding the deployment of beat officers as well as the recruitment and retention of police officers, the disparity in the pay scales between the Metropolitan and Hertfordshire forces and the decision to phase out police housing. All these issues need resolving and I suggest that should he wish to carry out his threat to storm the station after an episode of Coronation Street he will find officers there willing to discuss the matter with him. He could fit in a full evening's viewing and call after midnight, for yes, the station is manned throughout the night, only the enquiry desk closes at midnight.

I would hope that in his role as town councillor, Mr Cook exercised better judgement than he has shown in the composition of this article. Unfortunately judging by his desire to convert the police station into yet more bastions of bureaucracy - I doubt it.

Finally, don't take my word for it, come and see for yourselves. The police station is open to the public on Saturday 28th April between 9:00am and 12 noon – Mr Cook, we look forward to seeing you!

*25 Upper Hall Park  
Berkhamsted HP4 2NP*

three miles or so and marshals to help walkers across the busier roads..

So dust the cobwebs off your walking boots and pick up a sponsor form. Here is the ideal opportunity to get rid of the pent-up energy of the last few weeks. Discover some unknown paths and help us raise money for the vital work of the Children's Society. For more information phone Kathie Lally on 863526. And if the countryside is opened again before 13th May we shall revert to the original route. ❖



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# Parish Youth

## Work: The challenge we face

---

**Tim Hennessey** points to some home truths in our approach to youth work in our parish.

---

This issue dates back to 1993 when Roger Davies was the rector and Matthew Baynes was the priest in charge at All Saints'. A small working party drew up a job description and terms of employment for a parish youth worker, in consultation with both the diocesan youth officer and the Church Army. The aim was to make an appointment by September that year. The salary of the youth worker was ultimately to come out of parish funds, but initial support was to be based on individual pledges by a number of people, plus proceeds from that year's Petertide Fair.

After a couple of false starts, in 1996 Christina Billington was employed on a part-time basis until October 1999 when unfortunately due to illness she was unable to continue and it was decided to tackle this issue afresh. A new group was convened to study the needs of the parish concerning youth work and make suggestions for the future.

In April last year, the study team presented their initial findings to the PCC. They felt it was necessary to provide an overall policy involving all youth organisations at both churches and this could only be done by the employment of a full-time youth leader. The review had obtained information about successful youth organisations in other churches in the area, notably Northchurch Baptist Church and St Michael's Sunnyside which both had full-time charismatic youth leaders in the late 20s / early 30s age

group. The group made five main recommendations:

1. The PCC should continue its present level of expenditure on youth work.
2. That youth work should encompass the age group of 18-29 as well as those presently covered.
3. The youth worker should be involved with schools.
4. Music and other activities should be encouraged to widen the net of children, including consideration of the choir.
5. Holiday clubs should be encouraged.

While at this stage the policy aspects had been covered it was the resource issue that now required further study.

At the end of September last year John Malcolm facilitated a very successful and affirming PCC away day in Redbourn. Here we were encouraged to think strategically against the chilling background of a dramatic fall off in Church of England numbers. At the conclusion of the day, we collectively identified that it was only through investing in the young people of the parish that we could be assured that there was a future for the Church of England in Berkhamsted.

Towards the end of last year the youth work study team presented their further research more focused on the resource aspects. They considered options ranging from a full-time worker, through levels of part-time and sharing down to relying on volunteers, or even doing nothing. The All Saints' area committee felt very strongly on this issue and recommended to the PCC that the only solution to address the issue of youth was to have a full time worker. However, due to worries over how to finance the position the PCC was unable to agree a way ahead other than recognising that 'doing nothing' was not an option.

*(continued on p24)*

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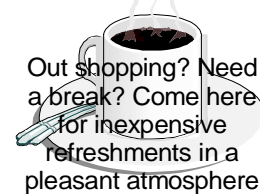
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I returned last July from a year abroad, working in Fiji. I would like to share with you my first real experience of living in a rural, tight-knit community, and tell you about a family I met there.

Fiji is everything you imagine the tropics to be, from deserted sandy beaches to crystal clear waters alive with beautiful fish and coral. Yet it is also that which people do not often expect of the tropics; Fiji is a very poor country. Outside of the main towns a hand-to-mouth existence is commonplace for hundreds of subsistence farmers. But knowing little of traditional Fijian life, I left the UK armed with the ubiquitous Lonely Planet and my new diving mask and fins. I was to work with thirteen other volunteers for an English conservation organisation, Greenforce, under the direct auspices of the National Trust for Fiji. Our job was to conduct scientific research on the marine life around a very small, remote island called Yadua. Since 1998 a three-year baseline survey has been counting everything that moved - and many things that didn't - and I initially contributed three months of my life to it. Though I had never dived before the training we received soon taught us that scuba diving in the South Seas is remarkably similar to swimming through a fish tank!

The results of our fish and coral surveys were to be used to substantiate an application making the coral reefs around the island into Fiji's first World Heritage Site. But after a few weeks on the island it soon became clear that our job was not just about conservation and science. Our island was shared with the village of Denimanu; population 170 and an hour's walk away from our camp. Ultimately the aim of the project was to provide these families with a future and allow them to be able to fish their reefs for more than just the next five years. So much damage has been exacted on reefs around the world from the Caribbean to parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, that it is becoming increasingly important to preserve that which is still pristine. There are forty children at the

primary school aged between four and thirteen. Over the last three years we have given several talks and poster presentations to explain our presence on their island. This is mainly because education should not just be about a curriculum but should also be directly applicable to their lives; sustainable fishing techniques is one such subject.

For us the main social event of the week was going to the Sunday service at church. Although we could understand little except '....Jesu...', the services were always refreshing; often strange yet strangely familiar at the same time.

One of the lay preachers in the village is my friend Pita Biciloa. Most of the families in the village are related in some way, but I knew Pita, his wife Elesi and four children best. In Fiji, it is customary for the eldest son of a family to live with and work for his uncle. One of his nephew's, Mosese, now helps Pita with his plantation and fishing as he turned sixteen this year. However, following a tragic accident last May, the future of Mosese and his two brothers has undergone a dramatic change. Pita's cousin, Laitia, had been brought up as Pita's elder brother following the untimely death of Laitia's father. And unbelievably Laitia suffered a similar fate when he was involved in a boat accident.

*(continued overleaf)*

## *Life and the Church in Fiji*

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After spending a year living  
and working in Fiji,  
**Susannah White** writes  
about her experience.

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### Parish Youth Work:

*the challenge we face (continued from page 21)*

At the last PCC in February, we were given an excellent presentation by Gill and Simon Faulks, the youth workers from Sunnyside. Our aim was to follow their presentation with a discussion leading to a decision on the way ahead. We did agree that the best solution for this parish would be to appoint a full-time worker, but there was no clear solution for the funding problem, given that a full-time post would cost about £27,000 per annum.

Where we go from here depends on a number of factors. The parish accounts show two funds for youth work: a restricted fund containing some £7,000 pledged specifically for such a purpose, and a general youth fund standing at about £30,000. One might conclude that this is sufficient to finance a youth worker for one year, but before making an appointment we would need to be certain that we could commit to this level of funding over a number of years. To fund a full-time post would require an increase in

giving by at least 25 percent. Other, equally difficult routes could be a reduction in outward giving, or a reduction in the amount going into the building fund. These are very difficult choices. In an attempt to try and find a solution, the PCC is also exploring the idea of approaching local businesses with a view to sponsoring parish youth work within Berkhamsted.

In summary, we want a parish youth worker, as demonstrated by work going back nearly a decade. We need a youth worker to ensure the future of this parish - but are we prepared to, or are we able to afford one? I would like to ask you to lobby members of the PCC with any views or ideas that you may have on this important subject. ❖

*Do you have a view on this important subject? As well as talking with members of the PCC, why not write in and express your opinion in the Review? Our Letters page is waiting! – Ed.*

---

### *Life and the Church in Fiji (continued from page 23)*

I had been invited to Laitia's house for Sunday lunch every week after church. In the January before he died, Mosese's father Laitia proudly told me of his plans to send Mosese's brother to secondary school. This was a big decision to make: aged 13 his son, Laisenia, would have to live on the mainland and Laitia, who had no set income, had to put all his money into school fees. But this is the only option for those who want to continue their education and his very intelligent son desperately wanted to learn and would be able to provide for his family in the future. But two months after this huge emotional and financial commitment, Laitia's son found out at school that his father had died. Being their uncle, Pita is now responsible for his nephews as well as his own four children. Last summer I asked Pita if I could help in any way. At

Christmas I received a letter from him asking for any contribution that I could make to help pay the school fees. £150 a year isn't much by western standards but is a lot to ask of families without regular incomes. But Pita and I are determined to fulfil his brother's wish of completing Laisenia's education. All Saints' have already generously donated £150 which will be enough for the rest of this year. I am very grateful to be able to return some of the love shown to me by this village and also to be able to share this with you. ❖

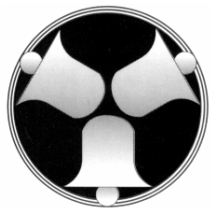
*If anyone feels they would like to contribute a small sum towards the next four years of Laisenia's schooling, please send cash or cheques (payable to Susannah White & Adam Hughes) to myself or my mother, Felicity White at 68 Cross Oak Road.*

reat Berkhamstead, a market and Union town and railway station in Dacorum Hundred, head of Union of own name. Market day Saturday and yearly fairs on Shrove Tuesday and Whit Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A statute fair at Michaelmas. Petty Sessions of magistrates for division held weekly at the Kings Arms and meetings of the Board of Guardians held weekly at the Union House (workhouse) on Mondays. Population 2,802. Gas Works (Mill Street), Mechanics Institute and Police Station... Straw plaiting, malting, iron foundry, wharfs, some business in making of spoons, scoops, shovels and bowls of beech, powder and shaving boxes. Nursery. Living of St Peter's valued at £407 per annum, in patronage of the Crown. Market House' So runs the entry for Berkhamsted in Kelly's Directory of 1850.

What a different town Berkhamsted was then from the one we know today! In 1850 it still retained its mediaeval character, in that it was centred around Castle Street, Mill Street, the High Street and its alleys. Apart from a few large houses and farms on its edge, there was little else. Although the canal and railway had already arrived, gas lamps lit the streets, and continued to do so for another 100 years. Water was drawn from wells, since the waterworks was yet to be built. Letters, however, were delivered at 7am, 8am in winter, with a second delivery from London at 11:30am, and the police station had a resident superintendent!

Today Berkhamsted and the village of Northchurch are geographically one and have a combined population of almost 20,000. Of the large houses only Ashlyns

Hall remains. Many of our old buildings in the



*The Hospice of*  
**St Francis**

town centre have gone. Yet there is still history to be found in our old town, if one knows where to look. The Berkhamsted Heritage Walk bears witness to this.

In January 1950 a group of members of the Citizens' Association, concerned that little was being done to protect and preserve items relating to Berkhamsted's past, formed the Berkhamsted and District Local History Society, with the specific aim of encouraging and promoting an active interest in the history of Berkhamsted and the surrounding district. The following year the society held its first history exhibition in Victoria School. Since then many maps, photographs and other documents have been collected and are now safely stored under appropriate conditions in the Dacorum Heritage Trust's museum store. In the last fifty years, however, many fine buildings have been destroyed and the need to fulfil the wishes of those founder members, Miss Russell, Edward Popple and Percy Birtchnell, is even more vital today.

This year the society, now the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society, is holding another exhibition, which traces the historical development of the town from 1850 to the present day. Older and long-term residents of Berkhamsted will be able to take a 'trip down memory lane', whilst newcomers and children may learn something of the heritage of the town in which they live. All will be made aware of how much Berkhamsted has changed even in the last few years. *Berkhamsted- the Past 150 Years* will be held in the civic centre between 11th and 16th June 2001. Do not miss this valuable opportunity! ❖

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*We set out here extracts from  
the Spring hospice newsletter  
If you wish to see the full  
newsletter copies may be  
obtained from the churches*

'G

## Berkhamsted

### The past 150 years

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**Jenny Sherwood**, chairman of the Berkhamsted local history and museum society, invites you to their new exhibition.

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*Dr Ros Taylor, Medical Director writes:*

**What is it that makes our hospice different from a hospital?**

I am often asked this question. One of the big differences is that we have more nurses and volunteers caring and giving time to each patient than can possibly happen in a busy hospital. This time is given not only to the patients but also to those people who are close to the patient. The cup of tea that is offered to all of our visitors is an essential part of hospice care - an acknowledgement that the visitor too is carrying some burden of the illness. In the hospice we also try to be a bit more creative and flexible in our approach to dilemmas - we use conventional medication to help symptoms but we also have a growing team of complementary therapists, and this approach is still rare in hospitals. If you haven't felt like eating all day but just fancy a pancake in the middle of the night, then it will appear! If you are missing your dog, then he can visit along with your other visitors!

As they say, it is the small things in life that make a difference. Perhaps this is even more so when patients and families

are facing a struggle with a life threatening illness. It is this attempt to bring 'snatches of happiness' (quoting from a relative) that is perhaps one of the unique trademarks of the hospice movement.

Meanwhile, our life at St Francis is full of projects for the year 2001 and we look forward to your continuing support in all we do.

**A Site in Sight!**

We are still thwarted in our search for appropriate land to buy and on which to build a much-needed new hospice for our local population. We are speaking to *everybody* who could possibly help us - MPs, planners, the NHS and you, of course. We are looking for a minimum 2-3 acre site in or around Berkhamsted but so far we have been frustrated by planning restrictions or cost of land. It is a long, slow process but we have not lost our momentum and space restrictions in our present building are becoming more critical as our team grows. There is now talk of a Portakabin in the car park...

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**VOLUNTEERS - THE GIFT OF TIME**

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The hospice has had a tremendous response to its earlier request for volunteers. During 2000, about 80 new people joined the team, which now has something approaching 300 individuals in a wide variety of roles.

We are always keen to welcome newcomers and in particular: shop helpers in Abbots Langley and Highfield, relief drivers for day hospice on Tuesdays and Thursdays, gardeners, box co-ordinator for Tring, and a treasurer for the Friends. Also the bazaar group would like to hear from people with sewing / craft skills and perhaps new ideas, to work with them or at home to produce items for sale at the Christmas bazaar.

Whatever their role, all our volunteers are an essential part of hospice life and, indeed,

the hospice would not be able to run in the way it does without them. Our grateful thanks go to all of them.

*Liz Daniel*

## Introducing Dr Suzy Jordache

Although it has been two years since I joined the hospice team to work two sessions a week, now I look back I can see the extent to which this decision changed my life. I count myself very, very lucky to have found St Francis.



My primary role is that of physician but often I am drawn towards the psychological issues that create the most

distress for our patients and their families. I have found this work immensely challenging and a privilege. My learning curve remains very steep and, at times, my six years' experience in psychiatry does not seem to help at all!

It is my belief that it is the patients who can teach us the most. I can remember so many individuals, couples and families who have bravely shared and explored their feelings. It is their insight and work that has enabled me to understand the problems they face and to use that knowledge in helping others.

I look forward to working in this amazing place for many more years to come. My aim is to be as confident and successful in treating anger and fear as Ros is in treating pain and constipation!

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### A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS - *THE ST FRANCIS HOME BOXES SCHEME*

The boxes scheme started in 1984, based on the simple concept that a small cardboard box is provided for the home and in this supporters place their loose change or any spare coins. It is then collected twice a year.

We rely heavily on a volunteer 'army' of collectors who call upon each box holder, empty the contents and issue a receipt. The collector counts and banks the funds and a bank receipt slip is passed to a local co-ordinator who collates the total collection for the area. They in turn pass these details to the boxes organiser at the hospice. From this information, the organiser reconciles the bank account and declares the half-year total to the press.

When the scheme started the total collection was £20,000 per annum. This figure has risen steadily and for the past few years has averaged in excess of £70,000 per annum. With the recent changes in Gift Aid, we are now able to reclaim the tax from the box holder's contribution providing they are a tax payer. If only 50 percent of all box holders completed their declaration card, this could amount to a further £9,800 that could

be claimed back from the Inland Revenue and benefit the hospice. To help us achieve this very valuable sum, we have also requested details of our box holders names and addresses, which will remain confidential to the hospice itself. If you do not wish to be part of the Gift Aid Scheme or do not want to give your details, please inform the hospice or your box collector direct. Any personal information on individual supporters which is retained by the hospice can be seen by that individual on request.

We are very grateful to the many people in the community who support the boxes scheme. However, it would not be so hugely successful if it was not for the many collectors and co-ordinators who put in that extra effort to make the scheme run so smoothly.

We are asking for your help to ensure that we can continue this scheme to benefit those patients and families who will look to us for their care in the future. Thank you for your continued support.

*Barbara Jackson*  
*Home Boxes Scheme Organiser*

**You're making a difference!**

Christian Aid Week this year is a celebration of making a difference and focuses on people in Uganda, Brazil and Bangladesh. Debt campaigning by people in the UK and Ireland has made a real difference to people's lives. One example is Uganda where debt relief means that children can now go to primary school without having to pay fees.

In Brazil, Christian Aid's partner the Rural Landless Workers' Movement, has set up tea-growing cooperatives; whenever people in other countries buy fairly traded products, such communities benefit.

Even though the amount you give, the campaigning action you take, the prayer you say may seem to be a drop in the ocean, together all these things really are making a difference.

Last year Christian Aid Week raised a record £12 million of which £600,000 came from the tax reclaimed on people's donations. If you are a UK tax payer, Christian Aid can reclaim an extra 28 per cent over and above the amount you give, whether that is £1, £10, or £100. All you need to do is to make sure that you fill in your name, address, and the amount you are giving on the red Christian Aid Week envelope.

*UK taxpayers, help make an extra difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.*

**What happens when debt is cancelled?**

The efforts of the worldwide Jubilee 2000 campaign to cancel the debts of the poorest countries are beginning to bear fruit in the lives of ordinary people. Ten-year-old Herbert Asio from Uganda is just one of them. Uganda is currently benefiting from debt relief amounting to around £25 million. This is placed in a special fund, the Poverty Action Fund (PAF), which is being used to increase the

incomes of the poorest people and to improve their quality of life. For Herbert and his family this is beginning to make a tremendous change.

Herbert attends Asuret Primary School and for the first time in his life he can go to school without his mother having to pay fees. Younger children have brand new classrooms. At the moment there are 16 classrooms for 1,300 children, and thanks to PAF the school plans to build a further seven rooms within five years. Herbert's headmaster, Elieru John Brown is proud of the school and what is happening there. He says: 'Pray for peace in our country. Where there is peace, there is development and poverty will gradually disappear.'

At home, Herbert lives with his mother Grace who is a farmer. She is benefiting from PAF in her everyday life and in her work. Money has been allocated to repair water sources, and Grace now has water close to her home. And thanks to advice she has received from a PAF-funded local agricultural extension officer, Grace is able to make her five acres of family land much more productive. ❖

**Grace's prayer**

*O Lord, Creator of all the earth,*

*Thank you for the mercy you have always had for us Ugandans, and for giving us your Son to sacrifice his life for us.*

*In the same way, Father you touched the hearts of our brothers and sisters overseas to work for our families, our schools and our health.*

*Father as time goes by, may we also be able to help our needy brothers and sisters. Lord, give us the Spirit of love through all our lives. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

# THE CASTLE UNDER WATER

*Photos: Jill Johnson*



For the first time in years both moats which surround Berkhamsted Castle were full with water following recent downpours. Wellington boots were strictly the order of the day to reach the castle green (above)!



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### THE LEPROSY MISSION

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A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped in any way to raise the wonderful sum of £488 at All Saints' hall on 31st March (Sunday club £50; bric-a-brac and plants £49; coffee £20; donations £45; boxes £119; TLM goods £205). Area organiser, Rev. Graham Wright (based in Peterborough) was delighted to meet so many people.

Many thanks for the stamp albums and collections received recently. Please keep all stamps for the collection point in St Peter's church and in the porch at All Saints' church. £300,000 has been raised by the Leprosy Mission Stamp Bureau since 1971. Used phone cards, postcards, coins and anything considered collectable are all welcomed.

*Pat Hearne and Meg Harper*

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### THE LIFE BEYOND?

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Martin Nathanael, formerly a parish priest within the Anglican deanery of Berkhamsted, is now working independently as a complementary therapist, meditation teacher and healer. He will be leading a day seminar at the Friends Meeting House, Berkhamsted on 2nd June entitled *Life beyond Death*. Full details can be found on page 18 of this issue.

As a seven year old boy, Martin nearly drowned, an experience which, he felt, revealed to him glimpses of the life beyond. As an adult, he spent a number of years researching the 'near death experience' (NDE) and related matters. There is now massive evidence, increasingly of a scientific nature, that we all survive the death of the physical body. Martin

will present some of this evidence along with parallel insights from Christian and other spiritual sources. His main concern will be to show how all this points to the way we need to live in this life in order to make full use of a life beyond. Participants will also be given an opportunity, with the help of some profound meditational practices, to access that deeper life which indwells all of us and through which we can all realise that we are, in truth, immortal beings.

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### WEA BERKHAMSTED BRANCH

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#### Summer Day School Tour of Oxford Colleges, Tuesday 5 June 2001

Do join us on Tuesday, 5th June 2001. We shall meet at 9:00am in the St John's Well Lane car park to travel by coach to Oxford. The tour starts at 10:30am at Christ Church College and takes us to Oriel College, the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Library. Lunch at the King's Arms will give us time to visit Blackwell's book shop. During the afternoon we'll take in Wadham, the University museum, and spend time at Keble College. The coach will return us to Berkhamsted for 6:00pm.

We shall be led in style by Andy Gunn, tutor for the WEA, the Open University and the Oxford University extra-mural department.

All this (excluding lunch) costs £15.00! Please book quickly to avoid disappointment. Send your cheque, made payable to WEA Berkhamsted Branch, to WEA Oxford Colleges Day School, 3 Admiral Way, Berkhamsted HP4 1TE and enclose a sae if you would like a receipt.

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## Dear Editor...

Have you got a point you'd like to make? Or a comment on something you've seen in the magazine? Then pick up a pen and write to us!

This is your magazine - we want to hear your comments, arguments and criticism. Don't leave it to someone else - our address is inside the front cover. And don't forget you can also email your letter to us, at [review@c-of-e.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:review@c-of-e.freeserve.co.uk).



# review notes&notices

## FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE PLANT FAIR

The past five years have seen the National Trust Ashridge Spring Plant Fair become an established, well supported and mainly locally attended event. Of the fifty properties that participate, in terms of income generated we are the second largest. It is organised by the Friends of Ashridge volunteer group who rely for its success on a team of over 70 people who either act as growers, helpers or both. In addition the event is supported by 10 local nurseries, several of which have been with us since the beginning and we can boast that we have not had a single drop out--just one case of forgetfulness!!!!. Even the weather has always been kind although we had a near miss in 2000 when on the night before Martin Cramer and his scouts guarding the plants against unwelcome visitors were subjected to a torrential thunderstorm.

Profits are for the benefit of the estate and its users. Major contributions have been made towards the purchase of a batricar (electric mobility vehicle) and provision of fencing for a major conservation project on the Ivinghoe Hills nature reserve.

This year the foot and mouth restrictions have had a say in the event. Due to the closure of the estate we have had to seek an alternative venue and just when we thought we had exhausted all possibilities a chance conversation with Jill Masters of Bingham's Park Farm resulted in a very public spirited offer of the farm shop car park. The spaciousness of Monument Green will be missed and whilst the content of the event remains unchanged some constriction will be inevitable. Gardeners are assured of a good selection of plants at reasonable prices. Please note that this year we are open from 2:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday 13th May.

The first meeting for the new PCC in April began as is customary with the election of various officers to serve for the coming year.

Peter McMunn was elected lay vice-chairman of the PCC, with Richard Foster continuing as honorary secretary and Michael Robinson as honorary treasurer. Judith Limbert was elected as honorary electoral roll officer. The standing committee was confirmed to consist of the stipendiary clergy, the churchwardens and their deputies, the honorary secretary and treasurer.

The stewardship, finance, outward giving and youth work committees were formed, and representatives appointed to the Joint Council for All Saint's.

Reports from the deanery and diocesan synods were heard, with Fr Mark summarising the deanery plan for the

## NEWS FROM THE

P • C • C



better deployment of clergy. He noted that some smaller outlying parishes face great challenges in justifying full-time clergy, even

given support from other parishes, and that forward planning was essential in this area based on clergy retirement.

The diocesan synod had considered at some length the Winchester Report on marriage in church after divorce. It had agreed that there were circumstances where this could happen, but had been unable to support the procedure proposed in the report in deciding such cases.

The notion of a 'Friends of St Peter's' was tabled in order to assist with the finances in maintaining the fabric of the building. Advice would be sought in Tring where a similar scheme is running.

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## BERKHAMSTED W.I.

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Members enjoyed Wendy Austin's talk on Tring Park at their February meeting. This popular speaker's historical understanding is well known, as is her local knowledge and the quality of her slides. Above all she communicated her deep and genuine affection for this area, holding the audience's interest and leaving us - as always - wanting to learn more.

March's speaker was an enthusiast of a different order. Ken Squires entertained and amused us with his *Life with a Rolls Royce* (in fact several!). As well as factual information about car development and the motor trade, we thoroughly enjoyed his anecdotes about his experiences as a driver. The Rolls opens many doors - even the gates of Buckingham Palace - but it was the many 'incidents' while getting brides to and from a church that caught the imagination of our audience.

Our competition, *A Wedding Memento*, was particularly apt. Entries ranged from a wedding hat (photographs of course) - even cartoons were displayed - to menus. Joan Goode won the Berkhamsted Bursary, and will choose a course of study at Denman College this year.

The W.I. offers many opportunities to follow your interests. Why not join us on the third Wednesday of the month in Gable Hall at 7:30pm? President Jane Crellin and members promise you a warm welcome. *M J Downey*

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**Rev. Peter Hart, rector of St Mary's, Northchurch, is on sabbatical leave for three months. *Northchurch Review* will return in August.**

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### ***Organising an event?***

Then let our readers know what's going on! The *Review* is your magazine - use it to tell people of forthcoming events, and don't forget to tell us how your event went afterwards.

Send full details to **David Woodward,**  
**3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1JD**  
(862723) (copy dates inside front cover)

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

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During April we celebrated our 12th birthday with nearly a full membership attending our anniversary meeting at which we puzzled over quizzes and played bingo games.

A special cream tea and birthday cake were prepared by the committee and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competition for the prettiest umbrella (April showers) was judged as was also the flower of the month.

Our next meeting on 4th May will be concerned with resolutions with W.I. adviser Ann Parsons at the Court House at 2:00pm.

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## NORTHCHURCH W.I.

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Many members of Northchurch WI were compelled to change their opinions of journalists after Mrs Maureen Dobkin's talk entitled *My Life as a Journalist*. After winning a competition while still at primary school, she had decided that a writing career would be for her, although other adventures came first before a period as a freelance journalist and then an appointment to a local newspaper. It was most interesting to hear about interviews with the famous and newsworthy from another perspective and members were encouraged to 'have a go'!

After a coffee break, Mrs Underwood proceeded with the business part of the meeting and told members that Mrs Eykell was making good progress after breaking her pelvis in a fall.

Mrs Christine Flanagan reported on the arrangements for members to attend the Pendley Theatre in Tring to see a performance of *My Fair Lady*, and suggestions are needed for the venue of the annual outing in August.

Several members attended the Spring council meeting in St Albans in April.

The bulb catalogues for 2001 were distributed; orders must be received by the May meeting for delivery in September.

Meetings are held in the Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the second Monday in the month, commencing at 7:45pm. A warm welcome is extended to all. ❖

|                      |   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
|----------------------|---|-------------|---|---------|---------------------|--------|----|
| SUNDAY               | St Peter's:   | 8:00am      | Eucharist   |         |                     |        |    |
|                      |   | 9:30am      | Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House   |         |                     |        |    |
|                      |   | 6:00pm      | Evensong [except 1st Sunday]  |         |                     |        |    |
|                      | All Saints'   | 8:00am      | Eucharist [except 1st Sunday]   |         |                     |        |    |
|                      |   | 9:15am      | Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall ( <i>This service will be replaced by a family Eucharist or, All Saints' being shared with the Methodists, a 10:00am United Service as announced</i> ) |         |                     |        |    |
|                      |   | 6:30pm      | Evensong [1st Sunday only] Other Sundays Methodist service  |         |                     |        |    |
|                      |   | 7:30-9:30pm | Youth Fellowship ( <i>contact Carole Dell 864706</i> )  |         |                     |        |    |
| MONDAY               | St Peter's  | 7:30am      | Morning Prayer (MP)   | 5:00pm  | Evening Prayer (EP) |        |    |
| TUESDAY              | St Peter's  | 7:30am      | MP  |         |                     |        |    |
|                      | All Saints'   | 9:30am      | Eucharist   |         |                     |        |    |
| WEDNESDAY            | St Peter's  | 6:45am      | Eucharist   | 7:30am  | MP                  | 5:00pm | EP |
| THURSDAY             | St Peter's  | 7:30am      | MP  | 11:00am | Eucharist           | 5:00pm | EP |
| FRIDAY               | St Peter's  | 7:30am      | MP  | 9:15am  | Eucharist           |        |    |
| SATURDAY             | St Peter's  | 7:30am      | MP  |         |                     | 5:00pm | EP |
| 1st Sunday           | SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH: 12:30pm in the Court House<br><i>For anyone on their own on a Sunday.</i> Contact: Joan Morris 863780   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Mondays              | GRIEF & LOSS VISTORS GROUP 8:00-9:00pm in the Court House as announced.   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Mondays (except 1st) | HOME GROUP: 8:00pm at 9 Hall Park. Contact Victoria Macdonald on 384953.  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 1st Tuesday          | TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm in the Court House <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i><br>Contact chairman Angela Morris 866992 or secretary Joan Gregory 864829.  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Tuesdays             | CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP:: 10:00-11:30am All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or Short service as announced. Special activity weekly. Gillian Malcolm 874993 or Jenny Wells 870981.  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Tuesday              | MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:15pm third Tuesday at 61 Kitsbury Road. Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells 870981   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Tuesday              | TUESDAY STUDY GROUP: Tuesdays 1:15-3:00pm for informal Bible study. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens 866531<br>HILLSIDE GROUP: 8.00pm [alternate weeks] at 32 Hillside Gardens for <i>Bible study.</i> Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely 875504    |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 2nd Tues             | MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Margaret Barnard 862794   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 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. Carole Dell 864706  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 2nd Wed              | MEN'S DINNER & DISCUSSION: 8:00pm at Peaches Bistro.<br>For information and booking: Rodney Cottrell 384963 or Steve Spall 873470   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 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   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 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 P (10:00am). Nicole Addy 828541  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Friday               | ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm (& Tuesday 5:15-6:30pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Contact: Adrian Davis 864722 or Jean Wild 866859  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| 3rd Sat              | ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.   |             |   |         |                     |        |    |
| Sunday               | YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP 7:30-9:30pm in the Court House.<br>Contact Carolyn Gunn 875865  |             |   |         |                     |        |    |

# 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 every weekday and 5:00pm Evening Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (**please note the changed time**); there is 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:00pm Evening Prayer on Saturdays. A priest is available for confessions by appointment (phone 864194).

## MAY

|    |         |  |                                      |
|----|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | 6:15am  | Madrigals from St Peter's Tower followed by breakfast in the Court House                 |                                      |
| 3  | 8:00pm  | All Saints Area Committee meeting  |                                      |
| 4  | 10:00am | Little Fishes Toddler Service  | <i>St Peter's</i>                    |
| 6  | 10:00am | Joint Communion Service of Thanksgiving  | <i>All Saints'</i>                   |
| 7  |         | <i>Bank Holiday – no Eucharist with Prayers for Healing</i>                              |                                      |
| 8  | 10:15am | Chuckles Service <i>The House on the Rock</i>  | <i>All Saints'</i>                   |
| 9  | 8:00pm  | St Peter's Area Committee meeting  | <i>Court House</i>                   |
| 13 | 10:30am | Children's Society Berkhamsted Walk sets out from the Court House ( <i>see page 18</i> ) |                                      |
| 19 | 8:00am  | ABC Prayer Breakfast   | <i>Kings Road Evangelical Church</i> |
| 20 | 9:30am  | Sung Eucharist with Celebration for Preb Stephen Wells, Priest for 50 years              | <i>St Peter's</i>                    |
| 22 | 10:15am | Chuckles Service <i>The Lost Coin</i>  | <i>All Saints'</i>                   |
| 24 | 8:00pm  | Ascension Day Parish Eucharist.<br>Preacher: John Malcolm                                | <i>All Saints'</i>                   |

## JUNE

|    |         |   |                                 |
|----|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1  |         | <i>Half-term – no Little Fishes</i>       |                                 |
| 4  | 8:00pm  | Eucharist with Prayers for Healing        | <i>St Peter's</i>               |
| 9  | 7:30pm  | Bridgewater Band concert                  | <i>St Peter's</i>               |
| 12 | 10:15am | Chuckles Service <i>The Loving Father</i> | <i>All Saints'</i>              |
| 13 | 8:00pm  | Parochial Church Council meeting          |                                 |
| 16 | 8:00am  | ABC Prayer Breakfast                      | <i>All Saints'</i>              |
| 23 | 10-3pm  | PETERTIDE FAIR                            | <i>In and around St Peter's</i> |

## Weddings (St Peter's)

6April Jonathan Lee Harding and Helen Sheila Cabey

## Funerals

|          |                         |   |
|----------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 March  | Winifred Evelyn Goodwin | Chilterns Crematorium                               |
| 6 March  | Dennis Sells            | St Peter's (Chilterns Crematorium, Ashes Kingshill) |
| 28 March | George Albert Philpot   | Chilterns Crematorium                               |
| 18 April | Aline Ingeborg Maidman  | Chilterns Crematorium                               |

Young people

Churches

Contacts

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2001-2002

The churchwardens and PCC members for 2001-2002 are: (phone nos in brackets)  
PCC 2001/2002

**Churchwardens:** Chris Smalley (826821) and Peter McMunn (874894)

**Deputy wardens:** Carole Dell (864706) and Kevin Elliott (863167)

**Deanery Synod members** (ex officio PCC members):

Eric Brown (864077), Alan Conway (865798), Rod Cottrell (384963),  
Ron Fisher (865846), Jenny Wells (870981)

**PCC members:**

Andrew Beaumont (877404), Rachel Below (862316), Christopher Clegg (875818),  
Barbara Conway (865798), Christine Dipper (873006), Sheila Dawkins (874108),  
Richard Foster (863359), Christopher Green\* (863241), Tim Hennessey (865729),  
Stephen Lally (863526), Helen Nicholls (873162), Michael Robinson (863559)

(All parish clergy are, ex-officio, members of the PCC. \*Christopher Green is a member ex officio  
as chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Priscilla Watt (863804) is minutes secretary).

**Area Committees:** (in addition to those PCC members normally worshipping at the respective church)

**St Peter's:** Marjorie Bowden (871283), Graeme Davies (878213),

Judith Limbert (873626), Christopher Morris (866992), Tracy Robinson (863559)

**All Saints:** Peter Drury (384794), Jean Merrett (866263), Isobel Saffrey (873192),  
Philip Wilton (875147)

Further information on parish activities and personnel may be obtained from the parish office  
(secretary: Jean Green 878227) which is usually open 9:30am-5:30pm Tues/Wed and 9:30-1pm Friday  
(ansaphone at other times). Any parishioner may attend PCC meetings as an observer subject to  
notifying the PCC secretary in advance of their wishing to do so.

*review* registers



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Enquiries:  
Berkhamsted (01442) 877060

Headteacher Mrs N Boddam-Whetham



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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  
 Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise. Tel: 385566  
 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  
 Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981  
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227  
 Stewardship Recorder: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway. Tel: 871598  
 Churchwardens: Chris Smalley, 18 Osmington Place, Tring. Tel: 826821;  
 Peter McMunn, 37, North Road. Tel: 874894  
**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: Terry Charlston Tel: 01582 462024  
**Sundays**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sun BCP)  
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with crèche,  
 Sunday Schools & Pathfinders  
 (in the Court House) followed  
 by coffee in the Court House.  
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon  
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints')  
**Weekdays**  
 Holy Communion  
 Wednesday 6.45am  
 Thursday 11.00am  
 Friday 9.15am  
 Morning Prayer: Mon-Sat 7:30am  
 Evening Prayer: M,W,Th 5:00pm  
 Sat 5:00pm  
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices  
**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'

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn Tel: 874894  
**Sundays**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday - Methodist rite)  
 9.15am Sung Eucharist with Sunday schools & Pathfinders, then coffee in the Hall  
 11.00am (Methodist Morning Service)  
 6.30pm Evening Service (1st Sunday - Anglican rite, other Sundays Methodist rite)  
**Weekdays**  
 Holy Communion: Tuesday 9.30am Holy Days - see weekly Notices  
 (All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)  
**Methodist minister:** The Revd Martin Turner, 32 Finch Road Tel: 866324



## WAY INN - A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

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