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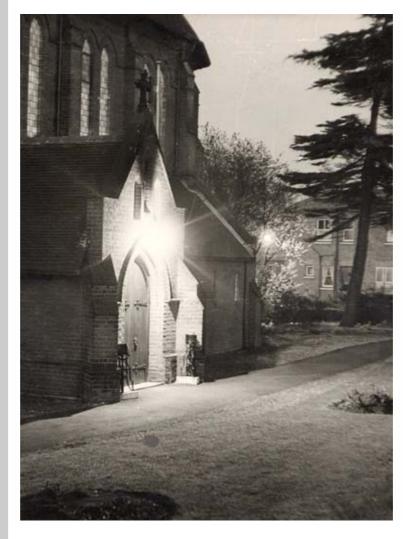
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Donkey legend

Remembering

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This month's Notes & Events





for Town and Parish



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

Welcome to the November issue of the Berkhamsted Review.

Christopher Smalley

Just as the November Review was about to be published came the distressing news of the sudden and tragic death of Christopher Smalley.

It is impossible adequately to record the scale of our loss. Chris was not only Churchwarden of St Peter's and a tireless leader in many parish activities. He was not only a man of many parts: entrepreneur, information technology expert, cyclist, magazine producer and myriad other things. He was strong in his Christian faith. He was to many readers and to many members of our church, a good friend and a valued colleague in numerous enterprises.

It is doubly sad that Chris was cut down at the very outset of his married life. We can only offer Rowena our prayers, our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy, and our practical support in this time of acute distress.

We shall hope to pay proper respect and tribute to our friend and to attempt to make a more measured appreciation of his life in our next issue.

David Woodward

Cover photograph: All Saints Day, by Christina Billington

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... 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): 8 November 6 December 3 January



reflects on

Fr Mark Bonney

TIME

reviewleader

I find *time* a fascinating thing to reflect upon. Depending upon the nature of our activity we perceive time as passing quickly or slowly, though in

scientific terms it passes at exactly the same rate all the time (but then science actually only deals with one level of reality!)

The passage of time is marked in both linear and cyclical ways - our calendar age moves on in a straight (and relentless) line (how ever much I might wish it. I'll never be 18 again). The times and seasons, both liturgical and natural, assail this linear pattern in a cyclical fashion (so Christmas will be upon us yet again very soon). How we combine the two is itself interesting - the familiar of the cyclical is ideally a springboard for growth as we move in the linear way. Autumn, Winter and Summer, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter aren't to be met with a sigh of, oh ves, been there, done that, got the T-shirt, but as an opportunity to enter ever more deeply into the wonders and truths of life that the world and the Christian faith have to offer us. This month marks the end of the Christian liturgical year - we celebrate the saints, pray for the departed, rejoice in the Kingship of Christ, and then Advent comes round again calling for Christ to be born again within us ever deeper in our hearts.

A very obvious thing about time, be it in its linear or cyclical form, is that we can only experience it once, and we can only experience it now. Obvious, yes, but we often talk of people who live in the past - or of those who will live in the future - and in so doing the present moment passes them by and is gone for ever. In our spiritual lives it is only in the present moment that we will encounter God. There can be a temptation to look back to wonderful times in the past, or to look forward

and think when this or that has got sorted out then it'll be all right. Looking back and remembering is important (and we do a lot of that in November!), and a degree of planning for the future is necessary, but *now* is the time of spiritual encounter with God and with each other.

We remember the past, we hope for the future, but we live and experience only in the present. This, together with the linear and the cyclical aspects of time are part of the wonderful mystery of time, and are beautifully summarised by T S Eliot at the end of his *Four Ouartets*

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

May this end of the church year and the beginning of another, be a fruitful part of our exploring in answer to the drawing and calling of Love.

Father Mosk

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for young people aged 12+ will begin on Wednesdays 5pm - 6.15pm in the Court House on 15 January 2003. If you wish to join this group, which will be led by Fr Mark, please give your name to him (864194)

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Building Styles

The flats on the site of Callaghan's garage are finished and starting to fill up; those on the big Wellcome site in the High Street have been occupied for a year or two. Other blocks are beginning to take shape now in Randulph Villas in Ravens Lane and Manor Street, and work has started on Regency Court opposite the entrance to Rectory Lane. Incidentally, both these fancy names are for marketing purposes only: the permanent names have to be agreed by the local authority and will be different. This is just as well as Randulph was a name plucked out of the history books by the developers because he lived in the castle in the early 12th century; but they didn't check his credentials. He was in fact a right rogue but that's another story.

All these new buildings are in the conservation area, and there is a similarity about their architectural style. This style evolved from negotiations between the

developers and the planners so as to blend comfortably into our townscape. The character of our conservation area is very predominantly Victorian, much of it late 19th century or very early 20th century. In connection with a Citizens Association initiative I have over the last two years photographed the frontages of nearly all the buildings in the conservation area, and this is what struck me when doing this exercise. What a huge amount of building went on in the Town over those few decades.

So is it right that the designs of new buildings should ape those of over a century ago in order to blend in; or should we be more bold and adventurous and allow buildings in a modern style, at the risk of disturbing the architectural harmony of the Town centre? As I implied, what is built is often a compromise between the developers' aspirations and the planners' wishes; but the general public does have a chance to have its say. Every week the Gazette publishes a list of all the new planning applications. You can go and see the plans in the Civic Centre and put your comments in writing; and you may be allowed to speak to the Town Council's planning committee or the development control committee at the Borough. Our elected Borough Council can override the recommendations of the planners, but the applicant also has the right to appeal against its decision.

But of course this only applies to future planning applications, and it is difficult to see what other major developments will take place in the conservation area in the future: there are no major sites left to be developed as far as I can see.

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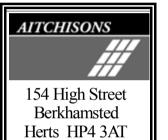
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Commercial Changes

How things can change, though, in a short time. Not long ago we were congratulating ourselves that there were very few empty shops in the Town centre. Now there is cause for concern at the sudden closure of two shops in Lower Kings Road, and the news that Woolworths have pulled out of plans to take the old Waitrose shop in the High Street. But on the brighter side, there are no fewer than three sizeable industrial buildings under construction in North Bridge Road, presumably with the welcome prospect of more local jobs there.

Railway Improvements

All the present disruption to our trains arising from the work on modernising our railway reminds me of what happened when the job was done the first time over 40 years ago. A twelve-year programme of work was already under way in 1959 when orders came down from on high that that timescale was far too long to take to electrify and modernise the West Coast Main Line and its branches, and plans should be drawn up to do it in drastically reduced time. A small working party three senior engineers and an operations expert - were given six weeks to produce proposals as to how to do this, with, a very junior engineer, me, acting as its secretary.

So a plan was devised to allow the modernisation of the line from London through Berkhamsted to Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool to be done in five years. High voltage electrification was new to this country then, and it was an adventure. To cut a long story short it worked, and the project was pretty well completed to time and budget; new stations, notably Euston and Birmingham New Street, followed soon afterwards. To allow the work to be done, the London to Birmingham trains were diverted to the Paddington line and the Manchester trains

to the St Pancras Line, which could be done when it was all British Railways. There was much disruption to services, particularly at weekends, but the job was done without closing the main line for long periods. And now it all has to be done again, and while it is going on, for the next few months Berkhamsted has no trains at all at weekends.

Switchback Roads

The electrification gave rise to the problem of raising the roads over the bridges that had to be lifted to get the electrification wires under them. We had no legal powers to do anything outside what are known as the limits of deviation of the original railway, and in many cases raising the road approaches to the bridges could only be done by negotiation with the local authority. As there were 700 bridges this added up to quite a task.

I found myself in the early 60s with the responsibility for the civil engineering works on the project in the Midlands, but not for the section of line that included Berkhamsted. Here, I never cease to marvel at what my colleagues got away with when the Town's two road bridges over the railway - in Ivy House Lane and Billet Lane - were raised. The result was a real switchback in both cases, and these are with us to this day; Ivy House Lane is particularly bad, with that very awkward junction with Bank Mill Lane. But I suppose now we could call them *traffic calming measures*.

Drawing Berkhamsted

Finally, Margaret Casserley tells me that her daughter Mary will be publishing a book shortly consisting of line drawings of every building in the High Street. She will be exhibiting her original drawings in the Deans' Hall from October 29th to November 2nd, and I very much look forward to going to see it.



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To meet the Lions at one of their meetings, phone Lion Roy Thame (Membership Director) on 873909.



THE MOTHERS' Union

This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!

Margaret Burbridge reports on the recent national meeting of the Mothers' Union



The cathedral was full to capacity and the singing almost raised the roof. The gospel was read in Welsh and during the intercessions candles were lit for MU project work (including the literacy and development programme, which was supported by the Petertide Fair) and also for those people throughout the world living with HIV/AIDS. In his sermon the Bishop of Llandaff spoke of the subtle difference between hearing and listening. He said it is through really listening that God can be revealed to us. not only through the Bible and worship, but by being attentive to each other in our every day lives.

In St David's Hall the following morning, members from all over the British Isles and a few from overseas assembled to hear **Trish Heywood**, world wide president, speak of her visit to five African countries where she met many members in their own towns and villages. MU, she said, is not just an aid agency or a

missionary society: faith and work are shared bv people across cultures, particularly empower women and their families who so often are marginalized in their communities. Trish's visit to Africa included the MU provincial president's meeting Johannesburg. Three members who attended spoke movingly of the issues discussed. What should be our response when 30,000 children day in die everv developing countries and 183 million children are malnourished? The need for peace and reconciliation is vital

in the violent world in which we live today. We have to have courage and remember our strength comes from God. Then the lights in the hall were dimmed and the speakers holding tiny torches sang This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine.

A novel way was devised to present the reports of MU work. Each member was given a sheet of paper coloured into different shapes and with words in odd patterns all over it. Following instructions we folded and creased to produce a gismo. This was fun and in a light-hearted way cleverly showed all that MU had been involved with in the last year. The closing worship united us in our commitment to all that MU stands for, but the prayer that came together on the top of the gismo speaks of the MU vision for the 21st century: Lord empowered by your love and supporting each other we reach out as vour hands across the world today.





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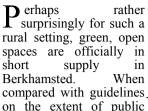


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open space recommended has a deficit. This is why the town council is finding it so difficult to

get agreement on a

suitable place to put a

skateboard park in the

town. After the Lagley Meadow plan was withdrawn, because it would not have got planning permission, the council looked at a number of other sites. These were Kitchener's Fields, Velvet Lawn, Ashlyn's School, Canal Fields, The Moor and Butts Meadow. Butts Meadow came out as the favourite but this site is opposed by some residents nearby. Any site which is not too remote is on green space in the town green space that would be fenced off and covered in tarmac. It would also be close to houses, and residents understandably want to protect their peace and quiet and are fearful of the noise and possibly other bad behaviour that might go with it.

rather

in

When

This lack of green space, which is causing such difficulty for skateboard enthusiasts, is also a good reason why it is important to protect the green land that surrounds the town. Recently the planning inspector reported on the borough's local strategic plan. In order to meet government targets on housing, the inspector has removed some parcels of land from the Green Belt on the edges of Berkhamsted - although he has said that there should not be any building on these plots before 2006. In fact the town has come out of the inspection reasonably unscathed, although not without some disappointments. For example, there was a risk that a large chunk of Green Belt might have to go between the London Road and Bank Mill Lane. The inspector has,



A green and pleasant land? for urban areas the town Ian Reay reports on the latest attempts to reconcile safeguarding the Green Belt with providing space for other needs.

however, decided that only the derelict site of New Lodge should be excluded here. He also wants tree screens to be used to obscure building on this site. The rest of the remaining area of land alongside the A4251 will remain Green Belt. I am not happy with the high density of housing that he has recommended for New Lodge - but this is in line with new Government policy. The

biggest disappointment is what is proposed for the land at Durrants Lane up to the corner with Shootersway. I am very unhappy that such a substantial chunk of land has been removed from the Green Belt on this hillside, but the inspector has at least said that the field on the corner. and Cox's Dell further down the hill. should remain as open space. inspector's recommendations now mean that Egerton Rothesay school could, after 2006, move onto a neighbouring site, releasing the present school site for housing. This would clearly have a big impact on the residents of Coppins Close, Chalet Close and Ridgeway.

One piece of good news - I am surprised that the inspector recommended that land on New Road, Northchurch, between the allotments and the railway line, which was listed for removal, should be kept in the Green Belt. He clearly felt that enough Green Belt land is already being lost around the town. Now that the building at Castle Village on the top of Berkhamsted Hill is nearing completion it is time to draw a line there and resist any further encroachments. The hillside and fields around the castle should be protected. This is agricultural land but is currently owned by the Castle Village developers. This would seem to be an ideal site for designation as public open space.





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Chanterye

Words and Music from the Middle Ages

Chanterye is a versatile group devoted to presenting cultural aspects of medieval life to modern audiences. Originally a small handful of musicians, in the last two years the group has expanded to take in actors, dancers and other entertainers. At its fullest, Chanterye now numbers some two dozen performers, allowing the production of surviving drama, and the dramatic recreation of scenes from medieval life. They performed a large-scale program, 'Gaudeamus', at St Peter's, Berkhamsted in November 2001.

Chanterye's concert on 23 November in St Peter's gives a flavour of the music of the later Middle Ages and of some of the English poetry and correspondence of the time.

No-one in the audience needs any prior knowledge. A narrator helps to set the scene, and translations or précis of texts will be in the programme.

An important devotional aspect of religious life in the Middle Ages was the cult of Mary, the Mother of Christ. Several pieces of music relate to this. And some of the shorter Marian poems will be read in Middle English pronunciation.

In addition to the narrator and reciter, there will be four singers, and instrumentalists who play on the harp, psaltery and dulcimer, amongst others. All wear examples of later medieval clothing.

Please see the advertisement on page 18 for details for the concert on 23 November.



The end of last term was an exciting time at Victoria. The term ended with a theatre visit for the children and a barbeque run by the Victoria School Association. All classes had a school trip related to a curriculum area and the whole school took part in a Jubilee tea party.

There have been lots of improvements including complete resurfacing, construction of two stages and the painting of coloured markings for games in both playgrounds.

As always Victoria children raised funds for others with the Jump Rope for Heart sponsored event. They are currently about to take part in sponsored aerobics sessions to raise more funds for charity.

The children are now settled back in school after the long summer holiday and took part in their harvest festival service at the beginning of October.

Their literacy skills have been helped by the author Anthony Lishak, who spent the day in school in September working with the children.

Janet Robinson, Headteacher

Member of Parliament and Witness to more Rebellion

In 1386 Chaucer was returned to Parliament as one of the knights of the shire for his county of Kent. There is no record of Chaucer's own contribution to the proceedings of this Parliament but he witnessed the opening phases of a process which would lead, eventually, to the

deposition of the king. Richard had, since the beginning of his reign, been in dispute with his uncle John of Gaunt and other powerful nobles about his distribution of patronage to favourites, one of these being Michael de la Pole, Richard's chancellor, into whose family Chaucer's granddaughter would later marry.

This so-called *Wonderful Parliament* impeached de la Pole, confiscated his lands and sentenced him to prison. Richard ordered his release as soon as Parliament dispersed and this provoked his opponents to raise a further charge of treason against the king's associates in the Parliament of 1387.

The opposition was led by the king's uncle Thomas, Duke of Gloucester and Richard's cousin Henry, son of John of Gaunt and the future Henry IV. The defeat of the king's forces at the battle of Radcot bridge led to the execution of a number of Richard's circle upon the authority of the Merciless Parliament of 1388. A prominent victim was Nicolas Brembre who had supported Richard's attempts to defy the decisions of the Wonderful Parliament of which Chaucer had been a member.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Public Servant and Poet

Stephen Halliday concludes a story of one of England's greatest writers with strong links to Berkhamsted.

Clerk of the Works

Amidst all this turmoil Chaucer continued to prosper. He had given up the post of Controller of Customs in 1386. It was about this time that he began The write Canterbury Tales so it is possible that he relinguished his arduous post in order to devote more time to his poetry. Possibly he just wanted to distance himself from public office at a time when

association with one faction or another at court could prove fatal, as Brembre had discovered. However by 1389 Richard had temporarily out-manoeuvred his enemies and regained power.

In July of that year he appointed Chaucer to the position of Clerk of the Works. In this capacity Chaucer was responsible for maintaining and extending the fabric of the Tower of London, the Palace of Westminster and eight other royal residences. He had the power to hire masons and other skilled workmen and. where necessary, impress labourers into royal service. He purchased materials, organised their transportation and storage and supervised the timely completion of the work to the required standards. This was an exacting task. At this time much building work was in progress at Westminster under the supervision of Henry de Yevele, the master mason responsible for the magnificent structure of Westminster Hall which was completed a few years after Chaucer left office. Chaucer would certainly have had dealings with this celebrated mediaeval architect. Chaucer's responsibilities also extended to organising the erection of the scaffolding for jousting tournaments at Smithfield. The work required Chaucer to travel about

with considerable sums of money to pay for labour and materials and was thus not without its hazards. On at least one, and possibly three, occasions in 1390-91 he was robbed by footpads.

In 1391 he retired from the clerkship and was appointed instead to the post of Deputy Forester of the royal forest of North Petherton near Bridgwater in Somerset. He would have been responsible for administering the complex and contentious body of laws known as "forest law" which protected royal hunting rights, secured the king's income and often proved a source of contention between the king and local magnates. In view of the importance and delicacy of the task it is possible that he lived in the area, though no record of this has yet been found.

The Prelude to the Canterbury Tales

It was at about this time that Chaucer embarked upon the work for which he is chiefly remembered, The Canterbury Tales. For at least twenty-five years he had been writing or translating poetry which had its roots in traditional mediaeval allegories of courtly love such as the Roman de la Rose which he had translated from the French original.

The Canterbury Tales represents a radical departure from a tradition of alliterative, allegorical, religious poetry. Chaucer had already written Troilus and Criseyde, set in the Trojan war. This tale of love, treachery and death is quite different from his dream poems and, in the words of Sir Roy Strong, "to its audiences, when first read to them, must have had all the qualities of a best-selling novel".

The Canterbury Tales

Chaucer's rhyming couplets and resolutely secular, sometimes bawdy tone set a course which would be followed by later poets in the centuries that followed. He also incorporated in his tales many characters who can, with some confidence, be recognised amongst his contemporary acquaintances.

He started to write the tales in the 1370s, the Second Nun's Tale and the Monk's Tale being adaptations of poems he had written in about 1375. Most of them appear to have been written between 1387 and 1395. The setting of the Prologue at the Tabard Inn, Southwark, was one familiar to Chaucer who, as a resident of Greenwich, would have passed through the borough many times between his home and his work at the royal court.

A Faithful Courtier, a Grateful King

The completion of *The Canterbury Tales*, in about 1399, also marked the end of Richard II's reign. In 1397, in an act of revenge against the principal actors of the "Merciless Parliament". Richard had them arrested and, in some cases, executed. He exiled his cousin Henry, heir to John of Gaunt and when Gaunt died in 1399 Richard confiscated his lands. This prompted Henry to return to England with a handful of followers to reclaim his inheritance and, upon learning how little support Richard had, Henry laid claim to the crown. Richard surrendered to Henry in August and the following month was deposed in Henry's favour. A rising in support of Richard a few months later was easily suppressed, following which Henry had the former king murdered. The change of monarch did not long affect Chaucer's fortunes who rapidly switched his loyalty to the new king. Chaucer did not enjoy his wine or his income for very long. He died, according to his gravestone, on 25th October 1400, aged about sixty. A tomb, paid for by an admirer, marks his grave in Westminster Abbey, which is now situated in what has become "Poets' Corner" of which he was the first occupant.

Public Meeting

Thursday 7th November 2002 at 7:30pm Berkhamsted Town Hall

on the

Proposed Expansion of

LUTON AIRPORT

Presentation by County Council officers

The implications for communities in Dacorum will be explained and information will be given on how to respond to the consultation

November at the Way Inn



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Liz Baxendale recalls the donkey legend

I've adopted a little grey donkey, He is old and's been badly abused But he lives out his days now in comfort And will never again be ill-used. They sent me a photo' of "Harvey" In South Wales on a green mountainside There's a depth in his eyes A look that is wise As if he's a secret to hide. And, like every other grey donkey Down his back is a cross marked in fur, And Harvey, I'm sure, with all others Knows exactly why it is there. For long, long ago his ancestors Became part of God's Wonderful Plan For one carried Mary to Bethl'em That first Christmas, when God became man. And later, when that Holy Family Fled to Egypt from Herod's great might And then, safely home, back in Nazareth, There'd be jobs for a donkey to do Carrying wood to the workshop for Joseph, Giving rides to the Infant Christ too. Wherever Christ went He'd see donkeys Often struggling under great loads. And his sandaled feet, and their stout little hooves Trod the same dusty, long, stony roads. 'Twas a donkey that shared Jesus' triumph To Jerusalem bearing the King While the palm branches waved, His long furry ears Heard the people "Hosanna!" sing. And they do say that where Christ's hands rested On the back of that donkey so grey The sign of the cross - a small miracle came And has been on each one since that day.

So when Christmas comes
Think of the donkey
Who stood by in that cold cattle stall,
And watched over the newly born Christ Child,
And witnessed God's love for us all.

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families were large, and most babies were born at home. It was a fascinating time.

CALL THE MIDWIFE

Local author, **Jennifer Worth**, writes about nursing nuns in her new book

an indelible impression upon me, a headstrong young girl, and changed my life for ever. Their story needs to be told and that is what I have tried to do. This is a book about people: Cockneys, nuns, clergy, nurses and midwives. Some of the

service to God and

service to mankind left

stories are tragic, some funny, some shocking.

The nuns are the true heroines of the book. They had worked in the London docklands since the 1870s when no-one else would go into the area (except the police!) They had worked through epidemics of cholera and typhoid, through two world wars, and during the Blitz had delivered babies in air-raid shelters, church crypts and underground stations regardless of the dangers. Their selfless calling of

Call the Midwife is published by Merton Books, PO Box 279, Twickenham, TW1 4XQ (020 8892 4949) It is on sale at The Mustard Seed, 38 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, (price £14.99) or may be ordered from any local bookshop. I would be happy to sign any copy brought to my address: The White House, 282 St. John's Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead (phone 264766) ❖

All Saints' in Former Times





These two pictures show All Saints' Church in the late forties we think (left hand picture), and in 1975 just before the building was reconstructed in its present form. Can anyone help us with a more precise dating of the older picture?

Reproduced courtesy of Christina Billington, who also supplied the cover photograph



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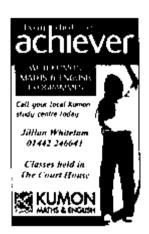
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Rev Peter Hart reminds us that November is a good month to think about remembering

meetings.

reviewnorthchurch

As we grow older, a curious process sets in: we start to spend more time remembering the past than actively exploring the present. When I was young, I

present. When I was young, I could not see the attraction that memories held for my grandparents, as they spent hours dredging up names and places from the past, and then arguing about fine details of events which had happened at least forty years before. Now, as I am a little more mature, I find myself prey to exactly this form of activity, remembering details of our children's early years, endeavouring to put names to faces of long-forgotten university friends but never reliving moments from past PCC

Over the last few months at St Mary's, we have held simple lunches in the Parish Rooms on a Tuesday, and many of these have turned into fullscale reminiscence sessions. On several occasions, past residents of the parish have serendipitously been visiting a grave or a distant member of the family, found the welcome of lunch, and conversation immediately heads off to the past. A few moments are spent, perhaps, on what each one of us is currently engaged in, but in the main, it is memory which spurs the debate.

Why is this? We have even gone so far as to alter the dynamic of these Tuesday lunches, by inserting an Alpha video after three quarters of an hour, to guide people's thoughts and ideas, but even there reference is made to past Church events and practices, and what former Rectors used to say from the pulpit. What is this pull of the past?

Memories, when good, can be gilded and comforting. Memories, when sad or painful, can be disturbing and hard. At this time of year, the Church calls us to remember, just as our national memory calls us to honour the sacrifice of thousands in harsh conflicts around the world. memory of those who have died can be bittersweet - happy memories tinged with the pain of separation. However, we do not remember them without a spiritual context - the context of the fellowship of the saints. The Church's remembering at All Saints-tide and All Souls-tide adds hope to memory, draws support from faithful service completed finds inspiration in the companionship of past generations in the faith. We are not alone, we are not the only ones ever to try to live for Christ in this world, ours is not the sole struggle to understand our place in God's love.

Through this season of remembering, may the communion of all the saints give us joy, hope and a spirit of perseverance, and may our memories spur us to continue faithful to Christ, whatever the past and whatever the future.

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Tuesdays 1:30-3pm starting 5 November led by Martin Wright (866161)

Wednesdays 8-9:30pm, starting 6 November led by John Malcolm (874993)

Please contact the leader of the course whose timing suits you best

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OR could you volunteer once or twice a month to help us?

Please contact The Handyperson Scheme Organiser, Age Concern Dacorum, Half Moon Yard, High Street, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3AE (259049)

The answer's not on the ceiling. Did anyone ever say that to you as a child? In fact, recent research into learning strategies seems to indicate that that is exactly where it is, or at least that raising your eyes a few degrees above the horizontal helps you to access visual images stored in the brain.

And good mathematicians and spelling experts use visual memories to remember mathematical facts and spellings.

This was just one of the fascinating ideas shared by Special Needs teacher Shirley **Jaworska** at the inaugural meeting of The Learning Group, in her presentation called Maths — A View to a Skill. Group members were challenged to analyse their own thinking strategies. They were also thoroughly entertained. Shirley has trained in Neuro Linguistic Programming, or NLP, and uses these skills in working with local children. Dr Richard Bandler. creator of NLP, has described the discipline as an attitude and a methodology, leaving behind a trail of techniques. The attitude is one of insatiable curiosity about human beings; an attitude shared by the members of The Learning Group.

The Group was formed by a handful of Berkhamsted parents and teachers with the common goal of helping their own and other people's children to learn easily. Speakers have so far been drawn from within the group, sharing their knowledge and experience with other members in a formal but friendly setting. However any local person with skills or ideas, or both, is welcome to address us. And anyone interested in learning is very welcome to join us. The Group plans to meet regularly for an evening every half term.

THE LEARNING GROUP

Jillian Whitelam introduces a new group which now meets in Berkhamsted and focuses on learning about learning The next meeting of The Learning Group will be held on Wednesday 13th November. when Jillian Whitelam will Spelling present: Magically with NLP. Good spellers generally share a common strategy, which can be learned. and taught. Jillian is an instructor

Kumon, Berkhamsted, where she and her associates use NLP techniques to help children learn fun and easy ways to improve their maths and English skills. Jillian finds that children are very good at NLP. Would you like me to spell that word forwards or backwards? is a question her students ask, and they can do it.

For the first meeting in the New Year the group has invited **Nicky Bennett-Baggs** and her colleagues to describe how people can learn quickly how to control and correct their dyslexia by doing a dyslexia correction programme, using the very simple Davis techniques. Nicky is a facilitator for the programme. She is also a dyslexic herself, and has a dyslexic son who feels he has benefited immensely from the programme.

We hope that **Jeff Lewis** from the NLP Education Network will speak to the group later next year about some aspects of the training and support his organisation provides, working with teachers in mainstream education to add NLP to their other skills.

To join The Learning Group, or to learn more about NLP, please call **Jillian Whitelam** on 246641 or email: kumonberkhamsted@aol.com



CHRISTIAN AID GETS YOU INVOLVED

How would you like to play a football game where your opponent plays downhill, while you have to play uphill? The other team also has a six foot goalkeeper with tiny goalposts and was allowed to commit any number of fouls. Very unfair wouldn't it be? But that is what international trade is like for poor countries like Zambia, Uganda, Bangladesh and Bolivia. The rich countries (such as the UK and USA.) and the large corporations are the team with the easy options. Christian Aid is campaigning, with other organisations, to get unfair trading rules changed. A football match with rules like those described above was actually played in High Wycombe in July and refereed by the **Bishop of Buckingham**, to demonstrate how poor countries are penalised.

You can do something for Christian Aid, and for the disadvantaged countries of the world, by supporting their annual Christmas fair on 14 December in the Court House.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.



Our president Liz Baxendale welcomed members and three visitors to our October meeting and with secretary Janet Mitchell took us through the business matters of our institute.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Mr Runnalls Davis, lecturer and photographer of canal presentations. He gave us an illustrated talk entitled Idle Women which was the name given to young women who were recruited during the second world war to run the working boats on the canal during wartime. It was left to the wives of the boatmen to carry on this industry of moving cargoes with the help of these trainee girl recruits. Later on as the war progressed the boatmen were no longer recruited and their job became a reserved occupation. It was these men returning from military service. who called the girls idle women, although the work was heavy involving carrying and coping with weighty loads in all weathers. On display was a selection of canal boat ornaments including ribbon plates and brass. An appreciation was given by Janet Mitchell.

Mr Runnells Davis judged the competition for a boat and during tea the raffle was drawn.

Next month on 1 November we hold our annual meeting at the Court House at 2pm.

CALLING CARERS

Dacorum Age Concern are launching a new carers support group open to people of sixty years and over. This is a free support group offering help and advice to carers in the Dacorum area.

The group meets every other Monday in the Salvation Army coffee lounge Waterhouse Street, Hemel Hempstead between 1pm and 3pm.November's dates will be the 4th and 18th.

The group enables people who are involved in caring for a loved one, to meet together on a regular basis to exchange information, advice and support and to enjoy the company of those who understand.

By sharing experiences and gaining practical suggestions, hopefully carers will feel less isolated and more able to cope with demands of caring.

Please do join us and have a coffee. We shall have speakers from social services and Breakaway for Carers joining us over the next few weeks.

We look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact **Nicky Flynn** or **Tracey Tucker** of the carers support team on 259049 or at Dacorum Age Concern, Half Moon Yard, High Street. Hemel Hempstead. HP1 3AE

WILDFIRE - STEPHEN'S STORY

If you like singing, acting, dancing or playing an instrument, then you might be interested in taking part in Wildfire, the story of Stephen. This is the latest musical to be written by **Roger Jones** whose work in recent years has included the shows Apostle. Snakes and Ladders, Saints Alive and While Shepherds Watched (the last two of these were performed in All Saints Church).

Singers are wanted for this new show. If you are interested or would like to know more before committing yourself, come along to a taster evening with the composer. You can meet **Roger Jones**, hear the music and find out more about what promises to be an exciting show coming to this area early next year.

The evening is being held at St Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26th November.

If you would like more details or would like to attend, please contact **Viv Dottridge** at 3 Kitsbury Terrace, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EE or ring her on 862145.

NATIONAL TRUST FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

Gardens of Desire is the title of an illustrated talk by Richard Wheeler to which you are cordially invited. Richard Wheeler has been regional land agent for the National Trust and long-time managing agent for the Ashridge estate as well as having responsibility for the Stowe gardens restoration. He is a frequent leader of walks, particularly those involving the Parkland and Ashridge College gardens. He always impresses with his depth of knowledge, as well as with his wit and humour.

When he was first approached about this talk his only question was *Do you want the factual one or the rusque one?* You will have to come along to find out what the answer was. Make a date for 14 November at 8pm at the Civic Centre. Tickets cost £3. Please ring **Steve Powell** (01525 384139) to reserve a ticket.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Friends of Ashridge invite you to join them at the visitor centre, Monument Drive on Saturday 7 December from 10:30am to 12:30pm for Christmas cheer. There will be a cake stall, a plant stall, bric-a-brac, a book stall and a traditional raffle .The National Trust shop will be open. Entrance costs £1.50, which includes coffee and a mince pie.

CHRISTMAS WALK

Walk off some of that Christmas excess by joining the traditional Christmas walk on Saturday 28 December. Meet at the Monument Green at 10am, and after due exercise return to the visitor centre for mulled wine and a mince pie. Tickets cost £4 (Friends of Ashridge £3). Please book by contacting **Steve Powell**, 17 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3JT (tel: 01525 384139).

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

November's meeting of the citizens association features a talk *Underground to*

Everywhere, London's underground railway in the life of the capital by **Stephen Halliday**. This illustrated talk is based on Stephen's recent book, extracts of which will be familiar to readers of this Review. The meeting is at 8pm on Thursday, 14 November in the Great Hall, Berkhamsted town hall.

BERKHAMSTED TOWN CENTRE ADVISORY FORUM

The next meeting of the Berkhamsted town centre advisory forum will be at 7 30pm on Wednesday, 4 December in the Sessions Hall, Berkhamsted town hall. The forum is a gathering designed to give residents of our town the opportunity to take part in wellinformed discussions on topics of current interest in our community. The interest and importance of the meeting is in direct proportion to the number of ordinary citizens who bother to attend. This is one of those occasions where your attendance could make a difference. Representatives of all local councils will be there as well as members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens Association, the Access Committee and the Police Please do come along.

OXFAM URGES US TO GIVE TWICE THIS CHRISTMAS

A new range of creative Christmas gifts at reasonable prices is now on offer at the Oxfam shop in the High Street.

All for under £10, products in the innovative range include plenty of items for the home such as mulled fruits pot-pourri and a charming Indian lantern as well as children's gifts such as science kits or jungle pencil boxes.

Food is not forgotten. There will be an interesting range of gifts with an edible element ranging from candy cane stocking fillers to fireside cookies and chocolate coated fruits.

As well as the traditional Christmas cards and gift wrappings, there is an attractive and reasonable range of tree decorations.

All purchases will help to raise funds for the charity's urgent overseas aid programme, currently under pressure from drought in Southern Africa. So give twice this Christmas by buying your gifts from Oxfam. For further details, please contact

Audrey Hope (tel: 864537)

LIGHT UP A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

Light up a Life is a nationwide initiative run by the hospices at Christmas. Since 1998 the Iain Rennie Hospice At Home has illuminated trees across the areas where their nurses are caring. Large numbers of people attend the special outdoor dedication ceremonies and watch as thousands of tiny lamps are illuminated, each one dedicated to someone special.

You may sponsor as many lights as you like for any number of reasons, but most people choose to light up a life

- * in memory of a friend or relative
- * as a special Christmas present, perhaps for someone overseas
- * as a gift to someone who has lost someone close to them
- * for a special friend or relative

Among this year's ceremonies are events at:

Hemel Hempstead Old Town at 6pm on Saturday, 23 November as part of the Victorian evening

Tring Church Square at 6pm on Thursday, 28 November.

We should like to invite you to help the IRHH by sponsoring a light (or lights) on one of our Light up a Life trees. In doing so you will be honouring or remembering someone special in your life as well as supporting the work of the Iain Rennie Hospice At Home. Your gift in honour or memory of someone close will help to illuminate our trees and Light up a Life for someone special.

With each donation we can send a personal dedication card for you to keep or to pass on to the person you have honoured. If you are able to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your application, this will help to keep our administration costs to a minimum.

The Iain Rennie Hospice At Home is a registered charity providing specialist nursing care for terminally patients in their own homes

within the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

Almost everyone with a terminal illness prefers to spend their last days at home, close to loved ones and in familiar surroundings. Four out of five patients cared for by our nurses are enabled to die in this way.

Last year our nursescared for 632 patients with a life-threatening illness, mostly cancer. This year, on current trends, that number will rise to nearly 700. At any one time the nursing teams are caring for up to 150 patients, helping them to cope with the physical, emotional and practical problems of an illness for which a cure is beyond reach.

We are a local charity and we rely heavily on fundraising and donations to raise the £1.7 million needed each year to enable our work to continue.

If you would like to Light up a Life, please contact our office at 52a, Western Road, Tring, HP23 4BB or phone us on 890222 (fax 891276)

IAIN RENNIE HOSPICE AT HOME QUIZ 2002/3

Quiz addicts are invited to while away the long winter evenings by entering this year's Iain Rennie Hospice at Home quiz. The quiz is divided into twelve sections, with twenty questions in each, covering subjects as diverse as advertising slogans, songs from shows, memorable dates, prefixes and suffixes, places and sport.

Entry costs £1 and copies can be obtained from IRHH shops in Tring and Hemel Hempstead, or by sending £1 and a stamped addressed envelope to 52a, Western Road, Tring, HP23 5AH.

You have until the end of February to complete the quiz and the prize is a £50 M&S voucher, plus five lucky number prizes. Last year's quiz raised over £1600 towards nursing terminally ill patients in their own homes.

HARVEST COLLECTIONS

The Harvest collection this year was made in aid of the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest for the Hungry appeal and the sum raised was £1161. This amount included the collections from both churches, the reclaimed income tax on Gift Aid donations, and the surplus from the harvest lunch at St Peter's

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will be held, for *12 plus* year olds, on Wednesdays, 5pm to 6pm, commencing on 15 January. They will be led by Father Mark, who will be happy to receive names on 864194.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALES

Charity Christmas card sales will be held in the Court House on the following dates:

Friday, 8 November
Saturday, 9 November
Friday, 22 November
Saturday, 23 November
1 pm to 5pm
1 pm to 4pm

Please note that these times are slightly different to the ones printed in last month's Review.



reviewpoetry

THE KEY TO LIVING IS GIVING

BY HELEN STEINER RICE, SENT IN BY MAVIS HAILE

A very favourite story of mine Is about Two Seas in Palestine... One is a sparkling sapphire jewel, Its waters are clean and clear and cool,

Along its shores the children play And travellers seek it on their way... And nature gives so lavishly Her choicest gems to the Galilee...

But on to the south the Jordan flows Into a sea where nothing grows No splash of fish, no singing bird, No children's laughter is ever heard...

The air hangs heavy all around And nature shuns this barren ground... Both seas receive the Jordan's flow, The water is just the same we know,

But one of the seas like liquid sun, Can warm the hearts of everyone... While further south another sea Is dead and dark and miserly. It takes each drop the Jordan brings And to each drop it fiercely clings... It hoards and holds the Jordan's waves Until like shackled captured slaves

The fresh clear Jordan turns to salt And dies within the Dead Sea's vault... But the Jordan flows on rapturously As it enters and leaves the Galilee

For every drop that the Jordan gives Becomes a laughing wave that lives For the Galilee gives back each drop, Its waters flow and never stop...

And this laughing living sea That takes and gives so generously We find the way to Life and Living Is not in keeping but in giving!

Yes there are two Palestinian seas And mankind is fashioned after these!

Calling all Journalists!

Do you have a contribution for the Review? Our subject areas are diverse - from church matters to the secular, serious and light-hearted. Don't wait for someone else to write about your pet subject! Photographs and drawings are

always welcome, both for inside the magazine and for the cover. We can handle contributions in many formats: paper (typed, double spaced if possible but handwritten not refused) and word processor disks (most common PC formats). If you're 'online' then you can email copy to us at woodies@chyverton3.freeserve.co.uk

review diary

Please see page 29 for a full list of regular services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches. A priest is available for confessions by appointment (phone 864194).

	NOVE	MBER					
	1	10.00am	Little Fishes service	St Peter's			
	1	8.00pm	Festival Eucharist for All Saints' Day	All Saints			
	2	6.00pm	Solemn Requiem (Chiltern Chamber Choir will sin	ng) St Peter's			
	4	8.00pm	Eucharist with prayers for Healing	St Peter's			
	9	8.00pm	Berkhamsted Music Society concert	St Peter's			
	10	3.00pm	Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance	St Peter's			
	10	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	St Peter's			
	12		Chuckles Service Daniel & the Lions	All Saint's			
0	14		Day of Prayer	All Saints'			
21	16	8.00am		St Andrew's URC			
	16		Sing-a-long Supper Social Event	All Saints'			
	20	8.15pm	St Peter's Area Committee	Court House			
- 23 I	21	8.00pm	All Saints' Area Committee	All Saints' Hall			
ا ف	23	7.30pm	Chanterye concert of words & music	St Peter's			
<u>a</u> I	24	9.30am	Brother Tristam (SSF) to preach	St Peter's			
∺I	26		Chuckles Service Baby Moses & the Princess	All Saints'			
ညီ၂	27	8.00pm	Joint Council (Anglican-Methodist)	All Saints'			
ี ยั	30	12.30					
A		-3.30pm	Children's Advent Activities Workshop	All Saints'			
November / December 2002	DECEN	DECEMBER					
4	1	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	St Peter's			
Ŏ	1	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	All Saints'			
윤	2	8.00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	St Peter's			
8	3	8:15pm	Parochial Church Council	All Saints'			
ا <u>تو</u>	6	10.00am	Little Fishes service	St Peter's			
≥	8	6.00pm	Taizé style evening worship	St Peter's			
유	8	7.30pm	Berkhamsted Choral Society concert	St Peter's			
ZI	10		Chuckles Service Christmas Story	All Saints'			
·	15	4.00pm	Joint Christingle Service	All Saints'			
	15	6.30pm	The Bishop of St Albans celebrates 125 years of the Deanery	St Peter's			
	21	8.00am		h Baptist Church			
	22	6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service	All Saints			
		(No Evensong at St Peter's)					
	23	7.30pm	Chiltern Chamber Choir Monteverdi Vespers	St Peter's			

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

22 September Olivia Susan Morton, Thomas Peter Walker, Anna Charlotte Hall

Baptisms (All Saints')

Louis Elliot Andrew Green 8 September

Blessing (St Peter's)

28 September John Davies & Michelle Jack

Funerals

30 August Olive Joan Gammage Chilterns Crematorium 6 September Arthur Edward Thompson West Herts Crematorium 11 September Muriel Joyce Renwick Chilterns Crematorium St Peter's Church (burial at Kingshill)

11 September Richard Thomas Dovle 13 September

Dorothy Flora Kathleen

Everington Chilterns Crematorium Claude Agate Chilterns Crematorium

4 October Christopher Smalley St Peter's Church 24 October

THE PARISH OFFICE is usually in operation Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am to 5:30pm and Fridays 9:30am to 12:00noon throughout the year. Please get any notices for the weekly pew leaflet to the parish office by 2:00pm on the Wednesday for that Sunday's leaflet. It is greatly appreciated that most people do abide by the deadlines, because re-arranging the pew leaflet can be difficult to achieve later in the week. Thank you.

Jimmy Young, parish youth worker, can be contacted on 876736



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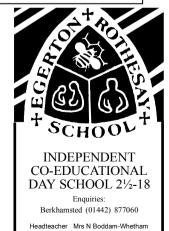
DAVID GIDDINGS

LANDSCAPES

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Berkhamsted

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The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Friday pm / Sat am) The Revd Martin Wright, 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 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: John Malcolm, Landswood, Shootersway. Tel: 874993

Christopher Smalley (see page 2)

Parochial Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton Tel: 822607

Council: Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

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Director of Music: Adrian Davis 864722 Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild. 866859

ı	Organist:	Terry Charlston Tel: 01582 4620	24		
ı	Sundays	•	Weekdays		
ı	8.00am	Holy Communion (1st Sun BCP)	Holy Communion		
ı	9.30am	Family Sung Eucharist with crèche,	Wednesday	7:30am	
ı		Sunday Schools & Pathfinders	Thursday	11.00am	
ı		(in the Court House) followed	Friday	9.15am	
ı		by coffee in the Court House.	Morning Prayer: M	1-F7:30am, W7:00am	
ı	11.30am	Eucharist (1st Sunday in month)	Evening Prayer:	M,W,Th 5:00pm	
ı	6.00pm	Evensong & Sermon		Sat 5:00pm	
ı	•	· ·	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

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn Tel: 874894

Sundays

8.00am Anglican eucharist only as announced

9.15am Sung Eucharist with Sunday schools & Pathfinders, then coffee in the Hall

11.00am (Methodist Morning Service)

Anglican service only as announced (otherwise Methodist Evening Service) 6.30pm

Weekdays

Holy Communion: Tuesday 9.30am MP/EP see p29 Holy Days - see weekly Notices

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Anglican priest-in-charge Rev Martin Wright (see *Contacts* above);

Methodist minister: Rev. Paul Timmis, 32 Finch Road, Tel: 866324



WAY INN - A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

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