

Berkhamsted

review

in this issue

In this issue

Are you Willing

August 2004

Hobson's Choice

Graffiti Ancient and Modern

John Nash

New Leader at the Abbey

Cycle Round the See

This Month's Notes and Events



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the August 2004 issue of the Berkhamsted Review

We have just said goodbye to our Rector of the past eight years, **Fr Mark Bonney**. We include two pictorial tributes to him and his family and wish them every blessing in Salisbury. As we go to press, we hear of the imminent departure of another friend and contributor, **Revd Peter Hart**, Rector of Northchurch. We wish him and his family well in their new role, and thank him for his contributions, notable for their clarity and their attractive presentation of Christ's gospel. But life is not only about farewells. **John Cook** records the installation of the new Dean of St Albans, and enlightens us by telling us what deans actually do.

Fr Martin Wright points out in his leading article that we must all think very hard about where we are going and what we are doing. We must be honest enough with ourselves to answer truthfully the question "*Is Christ calling me?*" Martin points out that even the apostles had weaknesses of character and could make excuses. But willingness to respond to God's call is what counts in the end. Let us all think about it!

David Woodward

Cover photographs of Petertide 2004

by Rowena Pike

In this month's issue...

ARE YOU WILLING?

Fr Martin Wright asks each of us to think carefully about whether God is calling..... **p3**

HOBSON'S CHOICE

Ian Reay thinks that local council tenants may soon be facing a Hobson's choice..... **p5**

GRAFFITI ANCIENT AND MODERN

Gerry Morrish takes a nostalgic and curious view of graffiti..... **p11**

JOHN NASH

Stephen Halliday begins the story of John Nash, builder of much of Regency London and of Regent Street in particular..... **p14**

NEW LEADER AT THE ABBEY

John Cook describes the installation of the new Dean of St Albans and tells us what deans do..... **p17**

CYCLE ROUND THE SEE

We give details of the sponsored cycle ride on 11 September in aid of our historic churches and tell you how you can take part..... **p16/27**

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

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Next copy dates (all Fridays): 6 August, 3 September, 8 October



Are you willing?

Fr Martin Wright asks each of us to think carefully about whether God is calling

In a recent sermon I took the opportunity to talk about vocation. It was prompted by the discussions being held in the Deanery which faces cuts in stipendiary ministers and possible wholesale reorganisation of parishes through the shortage of men and women putting themselves forward particularly for ordination. Our Lord needs workers who are prepared to give up their own agenda and get on with the job of preaching the Kingdom. You may remember the gospel story when Jesus appointed seventy disciples to go out into the villages and towns ahead of him to prepare the people for his coming. But Jesus wanted to point out to them that it wasn't going to be easy because, *'The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few'*

This is very much the problem that the church faces today. We have known for years that fewer and fewer people are committing their lives to the vocation of ministry, whether lay or ordained. There are, unfortunately, too many other distractions in peoples' lives. The number of men and women coming forward for ordination or other licensed ministry is still fewer than those reaching retirement age. As each minister leaves a parish, so the church has to consider whether they are replaced or whether congregations face sharing their minister with one, two, three or even six other parishes. This is as true here in the Berkhamsted Deanery as it is in the rest of the country. As we enter the vacancy situation following Fr Mark Bonney's departure, and also the departure shortly of The Rev'd Peter Hart from St Mary's, no one knows what the future holds for this parish, or the deanery as a whole.

I am assured that it is not a question of money for training or for payment of stipends. It is simply a shortage of suitable

review leader

people putting themselves forward and most main stream Christian churches are in exactly the same position as the Church of England - the labourers are few.

So this is an unashamed appeal for anyone reading these words to follow any thought you might have about a vocation to ministry. Apparently, the Bishop of St Albans' first comment when asked by a parish, *'When are we going to get a replacement minister?'* is to ask, *'When did this parish last put forward someone for ministry?'* If today's church cannot find people to go forward then the situation can only become more difficult.

We all have doubts about what God is asking us to do in our lives. When Jesus called his twelve disciples to help him they must have had doubts. But if we are each called by the Lord at baptism to be his disciple, we cannot make the excuse that we are not suitable. God calls each one of us to make a difference to the world; God wants to use us in his plan for the salvation of the world. St Paul wrote, *"I am the least of the Apostles...I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace he has given me will not be fruitless."*

When Jesus chose his apostles, they weren't ready. They all had various weaknesses which would appear to make them unlikely candidates for discipleship.

Peter was unfaithful, weak, bad tempered and lacked courage. James and John were ambitious and perhaps followed Jesus for their own glory. Philip was blind to what was happening around him and lacked insight. Judas was untrustworthy being more interested in money than the kingdom. Matthew had been a crook and lacked an honest past. Thomas was a doubter. Andrew appears to have been a cynic and lacked maturity. →p13

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If you want to understand how little central government trusts local government you only have to look at the present government's policy on council houses. Firstly, central government now sets the level of rents, which for the most part are set to rise above inflation for the foreseeable future. Of this rent central government takes 41% as a kind of tax, and tightly controls how the remaining 59% is spent. This tax will increase over the next 7 or 8 years from 41% to 51%.

Under the Right to Buy scheme council tenants can purchase their homes. Central government has always taken an element of the money received from these sales. Soon, however, this cut will increase and they will be taking three quarters of the money paid by tenants who buy their council houses.

Now the government is requiring local councils to review how they manage their stock of council houses. The borough council along with others across the country is required to do a *housing options appraisal*. Because of local circumstances in Dacorum, the options boil down to just two. We can stay as we are, with all the restrictions that are imposed, or sell the entire stock to a Housing Association at which point all the restrictions and taxes will be removed - although the rent levels will still be required to rise at the same rate. It appears that the Government trusts housing associations to manage public housing whilst it clearly does not trust the elected (and therefore locally accountable) local councils.

Dacorum Borough Council manages over 11,000 council homes. If these were sold to a housing association they would be

Ian Reay's & news views

A Question of Trust

Ian Reay thinks that local council tenants may soon be facing a Hobson's choice

valued at about £180m. Of this the government would take its cut of a little over £34m. The reason it would make financial sense for the council to sell is purely because the housing association would have all of the rent income to use for maintenance and improvements whereas the council only has 59% - going down to 49%. The tenants would consequently receive a much improved service from a housing association. At the same time the huge capital sum received by the council could be used to build more affordable homes. There is currently a shortage of affordable homes in the borough of crisis proportions. The money could also be used to improve neighbourhood warden services and street cleaning.

Of course the council could do all these things anyway if the government simply left it to spend its own money according to its own local priorities. But as long as the stock remains in council ownership it is prevented from doing this.

The sale of the housing stock can only take place if the residents vote for it in a referendum. But the Government has so weighted the choices that residents would be mad to vote against. On the other hand they may be so satisfied with the service that they are currently receiving from the borough council that they will vote for the status quo, without realising the benefits that will be foregone.

There are a series of discussions about this taking place with residents at the moment. I will be fascinated to see the outcome. ❖

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In many parts of the world people do not live with such certainties. Disasters, whether man made or natural, can have a catastrophic effect on communities and the speed with which help can be distributed to those most in need can be vital to ensure problems are overcome. Just such emergency financial help is provided by the Relief Fund operated by the **Mothers' Union**. With its networks of workers already in place across the world the organisation is particularly well placed to be able to assess the need for help where it is most needed. Food supplies, equipment or medicines can quickly be bought locally and distributed to those worst affected. With a little immediate help, local communities can do a great deal to help themselves as well as being reassured that elsewhere people know and care about their plight.

So far this year the **Mothers' Union Relief Fund** has helped:

The Philippines: At the end of December 2003 parts of the Philippines were devastated by landslides caused by heavy rain; up to 200 people are thought to have been killed and many more left homeless. In January a grant was sent to the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church Women to purchase emergency supplies for those worst affected and help them rebuild their lives.

Tanzania: During the last year the diocese of Masasi has been affected by severe drought, food shortages and famine. Crops failed and families were left with no food and no seeds for the next planting season. The local Mothers' Union was able to buy food and seeds with a grant from the Relief Fund,

MOTHERS' UNION

Kathy Lally describes the work of the Mothers' Union Relief Fund



targeting in particular the most vulnerable people in the diocese including the elderly, orphans and widows.

Burundi: During the recent conflict in Burundi many people fled from the diocese of Buye to refugee camps in Tanzania and Rwanda.

Now returning home with very few possessions, these people have been helped with items of clothing, water jerricans, soap, blankets, kitchen utensils and plastic sheeting. Many of those who have been helped by the **Mothers' Union** are now taking part in their literacy and development programme.

Congo: In the recent ethnic conflict some parts of Katanga diocese were occupied by the rebels for over five years and great hardship was endured by the people. Although the situation remains unstable, the **Mothers' Union** is using a grant to carry out training for its members in peace-building and conflict transformation skills so that they can then spread their knowledge to others in their community through locally held talks and initiatives and reinforce the peace efforts.

Did you know that....

£1.20 in Burundi will buy a hoe to help grow food for a whole family.

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Photograph: Tony Firshman

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Graffiti today seem to be largely the preserve of a youthful subculture which the rest of us know little about. We rarely see the youngsters armed with spraycans, but the results of their handiwork are all too evident on the walls of shops, public buildings, and even occasionally private houses. There is an astonishing display along the railway line into Euston: every accessible surface is covered with designs and lettering in lurid colours. Some of these productions do show artistic ability, but most are mere scrawls which disfigure the environment. They are rarely intelligible to older people, but seem to be akin to the territorial scent marks left by animals, or else stem from boredom or bravado. Whatever the cause, most would agree that they do nothing to enhance the attractiveness of Berkhamsted.

So what can be done? If possible the graffiti should be cleaned off or overpainted right away, as the culprit may then conclude that his activities are pointless. The use of anti-graffiti paint may foil him, but I don't know how effective it is. To catch him in the act and make him clean up the mess himself would perhaps be the best deterrent, but such simple solutions are viewed with disfavour these days, and are liable to be regarded as breaches of human rights or some such nonsense. And maybe we could do much more to encourage young people to channel their energy into more constructive and worthwhile pursuits, as of course many already do.

Our reactions to ancient graffiti are totally different, partly I suppose because we do not feel threatened by them. Visitors to Pompeii, for instance, are fascinated by the messages and slogans painted on walls which were preserved by the layer of ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. They have an immediacy which brings the past vividly to life. 'Do not relieve yourself here as the stinging nettles are long' – a heartfelt plea if ever there was

GRAFITTI ANCIENT AND MODERN

Gerry Morrish takes a
nostalgic and curious view of
graffiti



one! We have nothing quite so old in Berkhamsted, but the Collegiate School contains some 16th century graffiti where pupils carved their names. The earliest dated name is that of Edward Saltmarsh, with the date 1595. Interestingly the headmaster at that time was William Saltmarsh, to whom Edward was presumably related. William must have viewed such carvings with a tolerant eye or the boys would hardly have dared to reveal their identities so nonchalantly.

St Peter's too has a graffito, which bears no date but from the style of the lettering can be dated to the late 16th or early 17th century. It can be seen on one of the pillars in the north aisle, the second one from the west end. In deeply incised letters there is the name Robert Clarke (sic), surmounted by an intricate design, which may have some significance of which I am unaware, the whole being enclosed in a cartouche. The carving was done with care and must have taken a considerable time. How could Robert have done it unobserved? And why do it in church? Perhaps it was the result of a childish dare. One wonders what the repercussions were, if any.

I recently visited St Mary's at Ashwell near Baldock in east Herts. This church is well-known for its abundance of mediaeval graffiti, some as early as the mid fourteenth century. The guidebook lists no fewer than thirty, though many are badly worn and difficult to decipher. All are in Latin, some in Latin hexameter verse. In the Middle Ages no ordinary villager would have understood Latin; only the parish priest would have possessed the necessary knowledge and literary skill to write in it. The inescapable conclusion is that it was the priest who adorned the walls and pillars of his church with the graffiti we now see. Many of them are of a kind we would expect in the circumstances - denunciations of vice and encouragements to virtue, though how the illiterate peasantry →p13

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The event as always will additionally have available children's books, toys and baby equipment for sale. Please make a note in your diary now.

Nicky Evans

←p3 Revd Martin Wright

Simon the Zealot was a militant and had a belligerent streak. Luke wasn't tough enough and he couldn't face the hard confrontation that the gospel asks. Mark was a neurotic who lacked joy and optimism. Bartholomew and James the Less were shy introverts and lacked charisma.

And so today, two thousand years on, Jesus calls us. And we, like the disciples, may lack courage, motivation, insight, integrity, honesty, trust, maturity, optimism and charisma. So we might think we aren't ready either, but the thing is...Jesus doesn't call those who are ready; Jesus simply calls the willing. If you think that God might be calling you, pray about it, then speak to me or your own minister about it and become one of the willing ❖

←p11 Gerry Morrish

could possibly have made sense of them is hard to fathom. Could the priest have written them for his own benefit, perhaps as sermon notes? Parchment and paper were very expensive in mediaeval times, so maybe it made sense to use the walls and pillars as notebooks!

We may detect the priest's hand also in a delicately incised and finely detailed drawing of a large church, commonly thought to be old St Paul's as it was in the 14th or 15th century, well before the Great Fire of 1666 which destroyed it. Then there are the famous graffiti relating to the Black Death which ravaged the area in 1348 and 1349. These are not easy to decipher and are variously interpreted, but they poignantly evoke the anguish of the catastrophe: 'only the dregs of the people survive to tell the tale' one inscription bitterly comments. It is a relief to turn to some less serious writings, such as '*these corners do not fit properly – I spit!*', though which corners are meant and who was *spitting are matters for debate*. The guidebook implores visitors not to make their own contribution to the graffiti, and I'm glad to report that I resisted the temptation! ❖

JOHN NASH AND REGENCY LONDON

Stephen Halliday begins
his tale



As a speculative builder, this gentleman amassed a large fortune”

(Annual Register, 1835, obituary of John Nash)

....the most inspired planner that London has known. (Pevsner's Buildings of England, Cities of London and Westminster, Penguin, 1978, page 87

John Nash (1752-1835)

is remembered principally as the architect of Brighton Pavilion and the creator of Regent Street. It is not clear that he should be regarded as an architect at all. He described himself as a carpenter and most of his work

would classify him as an urban planner (a discipline then unrecognised) or a speculative builder. In connection with the latter activity he has acquired a slightly shady reputation for murky financial dealings. If there is any truth at all in this charge then he must be adjudged a failure in the matter since he died penniless, having sunk most of his money in the great London building projects which are his memorial. He was certainly well-connected. The Prince Regent, later George IV, was his greatest, and certainly his most extravagant, patron. He was also a close friend of the artist J.M.W. Turner who painted for Nash two pictures of Nash's house on the Isle of Wight. These are now in the Tate gallery.

John Nash was born in 1752, probably in Lambeth though a claim has also been entered for Cardigan, in Wales, the ancestral home of his mother. His father was a millwright - a profession which demanded

much skill and which produced many self-taught engineers. In 1767 John Nash was articled to a well-known architect Robert Taylor. In 1778 John Nash's uncle Thomas died. Thomas, his father's brother, had made a great fortune, £1,000 of which he left to his nephew.

Speculative Building

For the next six years Nash, describing himself as a carpenter, became a speculative builder, constructing and sometimes converting properties which he purchased in London. In 1782 he acquired a terrace of houses on Great Russell Street

between Bury Place and Bloomsbury Square, added some Corinthian columns and stucco to the brick façade and adopted three of the houses as his residence. This was Nash's first use of *Parker's stucco*, a material with which his buildings were to become most strongly associated. It had become viable as a building material as a result of improvements in the manufacture of cement by a man called Parker in the 1780s.

Nash's enterprise was not a success. In October, 1783, his bankruptcy was announced in the London Gazette and he left London for Carmarthenshire, close to his mother's family home. For the next twelve years he re-built his reputation and his finances by undertaking a series of less risky if more prosaic projects.

Return to London

In 1796, his fortunes restored, Nash returned to London and re-opened a practice which involved designing and building country houses in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The work involved much travel. He told the diarist Joseph Farington that at this time he had “travelled in the three Kingdoms Eleven thousand miles in the year and in that time he had expended £1,500 in chaise hire”. He also took as articled pupils two of the sons of Sir Humphrey Repton (1752-1818) who was already very well established as a landscape gardener. It is not known how Nash came to be acquainted with Repton but it may have been through Repton’s contacts that Nash gained many of his country house commissions. The two were certainly closely associated for the period 1796 to 1800. Again it may have been through Repton that Nash came to design a conservatory for the Prince of Wales, a drawing of which he exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1798. Over the next three years Nash was paid £264 and sixpence from the privy purse for commissions he undertook for the prince.

In December 1798 Nash married Mary Bradley, daughter of a not particularly prosperous coal merchant. At this time Nash became wealthy. He bought a fine house in the fashionable heart of Mayfair and built himself a country home called East Cowes Castle on the Isle of Wight. Another property of his was occupied over the next few years by five children called Pennethorne who were supposedly distant relatives of the new Mrs Nash. It has been suggested that the wealth was brought to the marriage by Mary and originated with the Prince of Wales whose mistress, according to some accounts, she had been. Some have even suggested that the prince was the father of the children and Mary Nash the mother. No evidence has been produced either for the sudden wealth or the exotic explanations but a royal connection would explain how it was that, in 1806, Nash was appointed architect to the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests. This was not a well-paid post but it was coveted since the holder was, in effect chief architect to the government. He had access to influential figures in the government and was well placed to gain access to contracts for designing and constructing crown properties.

Marylebone Park

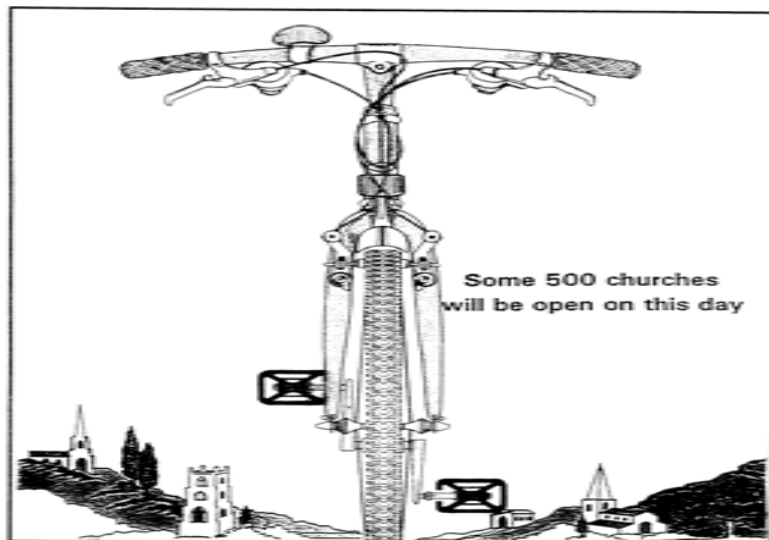
It was in his capacity as architect to the Commissioner that he became associated with the project with which he is most often connected, which included the building of Regent Street. In 1794 a Scotsman called John Fordyce had been appointed to the post of Surveyor-General of His Majesty’s Land Revenue, in which capacity he was responsible for all crown lands. He proposed that a map be made of all the crown’s estates in London since some confusion existed over questions of ownership and boundaries. His attention was drawn to Marylebone Park, an area which had been a royal hunting ground in the time of the early Stuarts. In 1794 the park was used as a dairy farm supplying milk, butter and cream to the London markets. It was held under a lease due to expire in 1811, at which time the park would revert to the crown. It was on the northern edge of the built-up area of London at that time and Fordyce recommended that a plan be drawn up to develop the area. The task was awarded to Nash in his official capacity.

Fordyce died in 1810 before the lease expired and Nash submitted his first proposal to the Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval. Perceval was shortly to achieve the unenviable distinction of being assassinated in that office. Nash prepared a new design, incorporating only eight villas within the park. This was essentially the plan which was eventually adopted. The Commissioners were particularly impressed by the prospects of increased crown revenue which Nash’s plan envisaged. Rents of £54,429 were predicted in return for an investment of £12,115 though, like most of Nash’s financial predictions this one was wildly optimistic. The Commissioners’ enthusiasm is not entirely concealed by their portentous language:

.....although Mr Nash had considered beauty and ornament to a very considerable degree, he had still made it a principal object of his attention to form a Plan with a view to a very great increase of Revenue.

Next month: the building of Regent Street

This article is taken from **Stephen Halliday’s** book *Making the Metropolis: Creators of Victoria’s London* on sale at the Bookstack.



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ST ALBANS ABBEY

A New Leader by John Cook

St Albans Abbey was as full to bursting on 2nd July for the appointment ceremony of the new dean, Jeffrey John, as had been another abbey - Westminster - for the coronation of the Queen more than half a century before; and the proceedings were perhaps even more complex at St Albans. As with most such events in our Established Church, it was complicated by obscure tradition and a penchant for elaborate ritual. By the law of the land, deans are appointed by the crown, but at St Albans the dean is also rector of a parish, and as such he is appointed by the bishop; so when a vacancy occurs the Queen and the bishop have to agree who the new one will be.

Well, that's the theory. These days presumably the sovereign's role is entirely left to those who have the responsibility to advise on filling the jobs that are in the gift of the crown, in particular the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments, and that gentleman played a prominent role in the Abbey on the day when the dean was installed.

The dean (could be male or female these days) is not just appointed to the position: he is involved in a ceremony, or rather a series of ceremonies, at which he is first instituted, then installed, then collated, then inducted, then admitted. I guess that not many of us could explain the exact distinctions

between each of these uniquely Anglican processes, so no wonder that in the ceremony there were lawyers in wigs to see that it is all done properly.

The service included processions of visiting bishops, clergy (numbering 260), the Lord Lieutenant (knocking on a bit now, and struggling rather with the large sword he was wearing), the mayor, MPs, and many more, including nearly everyone on the payroll of the Abbey down to the assistant librarian. Even though one had a slight uneasiness, feeling that this might all be a bit OTT and disproportionate, I suspect that most of



us rather relished it.

Anyway, that being over, what does the Dean now have to do? In a word his job is to run the cathedral (the official title of which is the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, although for old times sake most people just call it the Abbey), and a small parish. There is more to making it all work than may appear at first sight. To begin with there are at least three services every day of the year. Although St Albans does not have a choir school, evensong is sung pretty-well every day, and this is made possible these days by the weekday services being shared between the boys of the cathedral choir and the →p19

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thriving girls' choir. Usually on Saturdays and Sundays the boys are joined by the men. How good are they? In my view it is no exaggeration to say that the choral singing at St Albans is among the best in the world. Sunday evensong is a good time to go and see if you agree with me.

If you pick up a copy of the monthly music list in the Abbey (or view it on the website) you can get an idea not only of the breadth of the music but also the variety of services, concerts etc that make it such a busy place. Various local schools make use of the building regularly or for special occasions, as do other organisations such as the Freemasons. Every year the University of Hertfordshire almost monopolises the nave for a week of degree-awarding ceremonies. Other denominations are encouraged to use the Abbey, and there are regular services by Lutherans, Orthodox and Free Churches. Every Friday at noon a full sung Roman Catholic mass more than half fills the large Lady Chapel. The main service of the week for Anglicans is the Sunday morning Family Eucharist, which nearly fills the nave.

Special services throughout the year are too numerous to list; the patronal festival on St Alban's Day is one, but most popular of all are the services of Nine Lessons and Carols before Christmas. You have to get a ticket if you want to go, and the cathedral is full on two successive days. It probably could be on a third if that would not be just too much for the choir.

Another area in which St Albans excels is in teaching children. The Abbey's education centre has won awards for the quality of its work. A visitor to the building on most weekdays is likely to see parties of children, often dressed as monks or abbots or pilgrims, being taught by specialist teachers about the

history and present use of the church, and more.

Each of the five canons has special duties both within and beyond the walls of the cathedral. There are two minor canons, four virgers and administrative staff, but the paid staff are outweighed ten to one by the army of volunteers: welcomers, bookstall helpers, flower-arrangers, guides etc. What I think the Abbey is striving to be is a centre of excellence - in prayer, in preaching, in music - and to be a place of pilgrimage and of welcome. Early indications are that the new dean is very much committed to these objectives.

Where does the bishop fit in? His responsibilities are essentially for the diocese at large, the running of the cathedral resting not with him but with the dean and his team. But within the Abbey is the bishop's throne - the cathedral - which he doesn't often sit on but which symbolises that this is the principal church of his diocese.

Finally a word about pilgrimage. Since Britain's first saint was martyred there 1700 years ago St Albans has been a place sought out by pilgrims. After the Reformation and Alban's shrine had been destroyed and his bones smuggled out of the country, the flow of pilgrims was reduced to a covert trickle; but now there are quite a few, although very different from the mud-splattered and credulous medieval people who would have come in the past. Every day dozens of visitors are moved to light a candle at his restored shrine. As for his bones, a church near Cologne, St Pantaleon, claims to have them, and as a nice ecumenical gesture a couple of years ago that church gave one of them back. It is now buried in an unmarked spot near the restored shrine in the Abbey back in St Albans after its exile of 450 years





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D DAY AND HOME FRONT COMMEMORATION

On the 26th September 2004, The National Trust at Ashridge is planning to host a World War II re-enactment on the meadow adjacent to the Ashridge Visitor Centre near the Bridgewater monument. The displays will be from 11am to 4pm with battles at 12 noon and 3pm. There will be souvenir stalls, refreshments and a brass band. Admission will cost £3 for adults and £2 for children.

The plans for the weekend include two re-enactments of battles that occurred on European battlefields during World War II. The battles will be re-enacted by the Living History Association with actors representing British, American and German troops.

We are organising a special re-union for all nursing, military and house staff who were stationed at Ashridge during World War II on 26 September 2004 to coincide with the D-day commemoration event. The event is taking place between 10 am and 5pm.

The main focus of the re-union will be guided tours of the Ashridge Management College. These tours are only for those attending the re-union. Their staff for no charge is kindly providing the guided tours of the college. We hope that these tours will bring back many memories for those attending the re-union.

We are writing a book on the basis of the memories provided by those attending the re-union and they will be given a copy of this booklet. We are continually adding to our archive of information on Ashridge during World War II and our National Trust Archivist, Rachel Edmonds, who is compiling a history of Ashridge during the war, will be there on the day to collect more information and memories.

There will also be stalls selling military memorabilia and a rally of vehicles used during the War. We have also invited the Chelsea pensioners to attend, together with all of the armed forces, the local sections of the Territorial Army, army cadets, and other appropriate organisations.

The Ashridge Estate has a particular connection to D-day. In 1944, many of the invasion troops were billeted in the woods at

Ashridge. Ashridge College was also an emergency hospital during the war, with over 3000 births and 12,000 operations taking place at

Ashridge during the war, including receiving many casualties direct from Dunkirk. Local personnel as well as those stationed on the Estate during the War have valuable memories that need to be archived before this is no longer achievable. The holding of this event provides a stimulus for collecting these memories and focussing on the events that occurred in this area during a period of national crisis.

Our main aim in holding this event is to educate, inform and entertain those that attend and to develop community links with local partners and neighbours as well as raising funds for an estate that is entirely self funding.

OTHER ASHRIDGE EVENTS THIS AUTUMN

Saturday 21 August at 8pm

Glis Glis Walk and Talk
Admission £10 for visitors, £8 for Friends of Ashridge

Saturday 9 October at 8am

Family Deer walk
Admission £4 for visitors, £3 for Friends

Saturday 16 October at 7am

Looking at Deer
Admission as above

Saturday 13 November at 2pm

Badger Tea and Talk, followed by a substantial countryside tea
Admission £14 for visitors, £12 for Friends

Saturday 20 November at 2pm

Glis Glis Tea and Talk, followed by a substantial countryside tea
Admission £14 for visitors, £12 for Friends

Sunday 28 November from 12noon to 4pm

Tree Dressing: a family activity making Christmas tree decorations

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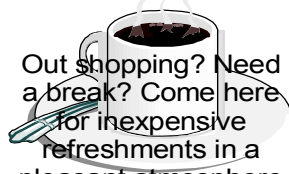
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There they were again, three of them, bright eyed and glossy. This was the third morning that they had perched on the fence eyeing the neighbouring gardens. At least two did the watching, the third preferred flying to the top of a neighbouring roof and sliding down the tiles. On the fourth morning the duck appeared, padded around the garden, decided that '*we would do*' and laid her eggs under a small bush.

I say '*garden*' but ours is more of a pub back yard, not a lot of privacy for a mother-to be. From now on watering, and gardening had to be done causing the least disturbance. Twice a day the duck would go for a walk leaving a blanket of feathers and leaves over the eggs.

There was a problem, we were due to go away for a few days, what would happen if the eggs hatched. Mike Hart who had kindly agreed to water the hanging baskets now found himself Duck Monitor. Each visit he looked carefully under the leaves to see if all was well. We came

NATURE NOTES FROM A HACK YARD

by Joan Cook

and the mother hissed, gathering the babies under her feathers. Time for Duck Patrol. I don't know how many of you have tried to shepherd duck and ducklings to the water but it is no easy job.

John got a large broom and swept them all out into Chapel Street, mother flapping her wings and shouting, ducklings struggling to keep up. One kept falling over and had to be helped, two others fell down a gully which meant lifting the grating up to retrieve them, all this causing much amusement and comment from passing motorists. Eventually we arrived at the edge of the canal and with a great deal of noise Mother Duck launched herself into the water followed by all eight babies.

I wonder if she will be back next year?

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Revd Mark Bonney in a possibly unfamiliar guise

by Alma Duncan Rafter

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review northchurch

"Simply the next in a long line of changes"
Revd Peter Hart
reflects on the stability of August which is, this year, and always followed by the changes of the Autumn.

August is a strange month. As a child, you finish school in July, go on holiday, feel that you have nothing to do and that the summer is going to last for ever, and then September comes, the weather changes and you are back in school with a new teacher, new classmates sometimes and certainly a new timetable, and you look back on

August as a month when everything stops. As a teenager, August is just not long enough, as all the festivals beckon and sad parents refuse to let you go, you try to get a tan but people chase you with suntan lotion, you try to earn some money but all the students are back from university and you can't get many hours to work, and certainly you don't touch a school book. As an adult, August is the hardest month, as you have to work through extremes of heat, vaguely wandering tourists bar your way and you can't get near your favourite coffee stall for hordes of grockles. September comes as a relief, as normality returns. For the retired, August is to be enjoyed in trips and summer sunshine, and September brings the possibility of a late holiday. Nothing really happens in August, but come September, everything is different.

And so it shall be here in the parish, for all will be normal in August, and then in September I shall be gone. I have been

appointed Vicar of St Luke's Kew with St Philip & All Saints Kew, two parishes next to Kew Gardens. We shall be moving as a family once the summer is over and the new school term begins. Things will be different. A range of priests and readers will be taking services. Decisions will have to be taken regarding a new Rector. Discussions will occur about the description of the parish and how best to lure a new incumbent to the green fields and tree-covered hills of Northchurch. There are hints of things going on in the Deanery, changes afoot at St Peter's and Berkhamsted Baptist Church as well. The autumn is going to be exciting! But nothing will change in August.

August is not to be a nostalgic month. I have been a parish priest for long enough to know that I have simply followed others and worked alongside the people of God in this place, and that someone else will follow me and work alongside you all for another productive period of time. In the grand scheme of things, from God's perspective, this is simply the next in a long line of changes. But every departure is a death, and every leaving is sad, and I shall miss you all and know that there were things that could have been done better, or differently or not at all. But my prayers will remain, as I know your prayers for me and the family will remain, for in Christ there is no separation and in God's kingdom there is continuity and joy. God bless you all.

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GRAHAM GREENE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 2004

Graham Greene was born on 2 October 1904 at St John's House, Chesham Road where his father was the housemaster. In January 1911 his father was appointed headmaster and the family moved to School House.

The Centenary Festival is from 29 September to 3 October and is organised by the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust. It will comprise a mixture of films, talks and other events held in the town hall or in Greene's old school. The wide and varied programme for this celebratory occasion will include the following speakers:

Sir John Mortimer

David Lodge on Greene and the Anxiety of Influence

Brigitte Timmermann on The Third Man

Alexander Kulpak on The German Connection

Tom Aitken on lost childhood in the cinema of Greene

Cedric Watts on Conrad and Greene

Judy Adamson on Greene and his publisher, Max Reinhardt

Richard Greene on Graham Greene's letters

Bruce Kent on More Power, Less Glory

Louise Denny (Greene's niece) on a literary relationship

Neil Sinyard on Greene's relationship with Charlie Chaplin

Robert McCrum on Greene and Wodehouse-two Edwardian schoolboys

Norman Sherry on volume three of his biography of Greene

The Tablet sponsors a discussion chaired by **Mark Lawson**

AN Wilson and Ian Kerr will be on the panel

Films include **The Third Man** (Graham Greene's best known screen play), and

The Comedians, the film of his novel set in Haiti. There will be other films based on his short stories. There will be a showing of the BBC Arena video **Shadowing the Third Man**. Festival visitors will have an opportunity to see a performance of *Travels with my Aunt*, which is being presented during the festival by the Ad Hoc Theatre Company at the Court Theatre, Pendley.

CENTENARY EXHIBITION

27 September to 2 October

During the festival there will be a special centenary exhibition comprising Greene's awards and medals with other memorabilia. We will also display some of Greene's cartoons as well as the internationally travelled Third Man exhibition from Vienna

The latest information about festival activities can be found on www.grahamgreenebt.org

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Saturday 11 September

in aid of Beds and Herts historic churches

Here is an enjoyable way to raise some money to help us to improve the facilities at All Saints, St Peters and other local churches whilst having fun. The annual historic churches sponsored bike ride takes place on Saturday 11 September. This year, in answer to requests from several people, we are organising escorted group rides for the Pathfinder games club and for others young in heart. We propose to run several groups on different local routes to cope with the different abilities of the riders. The main points are:

Meet at All Saints church at 11am on Saturday 11 September.

review notes & notices

Cycle 5 to 12 miles, stopping off at churches en route for juice and biscuits.

Eat our packed lunch at Tring memorial gardens between 1.30 and 2.30pm.

Cycle 4 to 10 miles back to All Saints church for 4.30pm.

We hope that parents especially will choose to join us by cycling with us and the children. If you are interested in coming along for the ride, please could you let us know who will be in your group. A parent or other adult cyclist must accompany each young person. There must be a maximum of three young persons per adult, please.

We will be providing a car back-up service which will:

Take picnic boxes from All Saints to Tring memorial gardens

Provide support for stranded cyclists

Offer lifts back from Tring Park to All Saints for three bikes and riders at 2.30pm

If you are interested in joining us, we ask you to note that:

You are responsible for your own safety on the ride. Please wear a cycle helmet.

You need to provide your own bicycle or arrange one in a suitable road-worthy state

You will need to encourage sponsors to fill in your sponsor form before the ride

Children must get the commitment of a responsible adult to cycle with them on the ride

Children must get the signed permission of one of their parents

We request that you contact either **Jimmy Young** (876736), **Mick Smallwood** (877208) or **Chris Clegg** (875818) as soon as possible to give us an idea of the numbers that are likely to take

part. We have to reserve the right to change the arrangements for the ride depending on circumstances, but assure you that it will be our intention to go ahead as outlined.

We look forward to cycling with you and to having fun on Saturday 11 September.

NEEDLECRAFT EXHIBITION BY THREADS OF AMERSHAM



A Voluntary Society of The Church of England

This year the exhibition will take place on August 13-15th, 11am to 5pm. On display will be all manner of exquisite items worked by the customers and staff of this specialist needlecraft shop, from cushions to pictures, cross stitch to petit-point. It is a real joy to see so much beautiful workmanship. The Children's Society Berkhamsted Committee provide refreshments - delicious home-made cakes and scones, coffee or tea. All proceeds from this unique event will be given to the Society to fund its *safe on the streets* campaign which is helping to save young runaway children from the dangers of life on our streets.

The venue is the home of **Peter Watts**, Oak Trees, Wood Lane, South Heath, Great Missenden, just a short distance off the B485 Chesham to Great Missenden Road. Turn right opposite Annie Baileys to South Heath.

Make a date in your diary now, we hope to see you there.

SUNDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am	Eucharist			
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House			
		6:00pm	Evensong			
	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am	<i>Eucharist only as announced</i>			
		9:15am	Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall <i>On the 3rd Sunday each month (and on festivals as announced) there is instead a 10am united service with the Methodist congregation.</i>			
		6:30pm	Methodist service each Sunday until further notice.			
MONDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	Morning Prayer (MP)	5:00pm	Evening Prayer (EP)	
TUESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	<i>All Saints'</i>	9:30am	Eucharist
WEDNESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:00am	MP	7:30am	Eucharist	5:00pm EP
THURSDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	11:00am	Eucharist	5:00pm EP
FRIDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	9:15am	Eucharist	5:00pm EP (AS)
SATURDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:45am	MP(AS) (except 3rd Sat in month)		5:00pm	EP

1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH: 12:30pm in the Court House <i>For anyone on their own on a Sunday.</i> Contact: Joan Morris (863780)					
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm in the Court House. Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)					
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm in the Court House <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i> Contact chairman Jean Bray (864532) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)					
Tue	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP:: 10:00-11:30am All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or Short service as announced. Jenny Wells (870981)					
3 rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)					
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP: 8.00pm at 22, Upper Hall Park for bible study. Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)					
4 rd Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm at 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)					
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: 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)					
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall. Jimmy Young (876736)					
2 nd Wed	MEN'S GROUP: 8:00pm as announced. Contact Guy Dawkins (874108)					
3 rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved. Contact Thelma Harris (865785)					
4 th Wed	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm in the Court House. <i>New members and visitors always welcome.</i> Contact: Biddy Shacklock (864574)					
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Contact Linda Bisset (862115)					
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804)					
Fri	FRIDAY STUDY GROUP: Tuesdays 1:30pm for informal Bible study. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens (866531)					
	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am in the Court House. Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St P (10am) Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094)					
Fri	ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm (& Tues 5:15-6:15pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)					
3 rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.					
Sun	YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP 7:15-9:15pm in the Court House or as announced Contact Jimmy Young (876736)					

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 (864194).

August / September 2004

AUGUST

Sun	1	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist Eucharist – Anglican led..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Mon	2	8.00pm	Service of Wholeness & Healing with prayers for healing..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	8	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist non-Eucharistic – Methodist led..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	15	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist non-Eucharistic – Anglican led..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	21	8.00am	ABC Prayer Breakfast..... <i>Northchurch Baptist Church</i>
Sun	22	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist Communion – Methodist led..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	29	10.00am	Anglican/Methodist Eucharist – Anglican led..... <i>All Saints'</i>

SEPTEMBER

Wed	1	8.00pm	Anglican Methodist Joint Council <i>'Ladybrand' Cross Oak Road</i>
Fri	3	10.00am	Little Fishes Service..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	4	7.30pm	Bridgewater Band concert..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Mon	6	8.00pm	Service of Wholeness & Healing with prayers for healing..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	7	10.15am	Chuckles Service Samuel the good Listener <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	11	from 10am	Bed & Herts Historic Churches' sponsored Bike Ride..... <i>from most churches</i>
Sun	12	3.00pm	Fr Mark Bonney's Installation during Evensong at .. <i>Salisbury Cathedral</i>
Sun	12		No Evensong in the Parish because of the trip to Salisbury
Tue	14	8.15pm	St Peter's Area Committee <i>Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i>
Wed	15	8.00pm	Parochial Church Council : re the vacancy <i>The Court House</i>
Sat	18	8.00am	ABC Prayer Breakfast..... <i>Berkhamsted Baptist Church</i>
Tue	21	10.15am	Chuckles Service Elijah and the Raven..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	22	8.00pm	All Saints' Area Committee..... <i>21 Park View Road</i>

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

14 June	Alexandra Asia Lewis-Evans
20 June	Katie Elizabeth Gibson
27 June	Isabella Satine Cook, Lucy Alice Preston, James Geoffrey Oliver Robb

Baptisms (All Saints')

4 July	Carys Jasmin Lee, Amelia Rose Sheesby
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Weddings (St Peter's)

12 June	Matthew Brian Powell & Rebecca Warwick
19 June	David Edward Christian Mott & Julia Anne Clarke

Funerals

11 June	Georgina Rose Osborn	St Peter's Church (Chiltern Crematorium)
15 June	Doris Reed	West Herts Crematorium
29 June	Kathleen Frances Sparkes	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)
9 July	Muriel Amy Wheeler	All Saints' Church (Kingshill)

ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

1	Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell	877001
		Mrs H Blundell	875021
2	St Mary's Northchurch	Revd Peter Hart	865312
		Mrs D Knapp	864368
3	All Saints' Anglican	Revd Martin Wright	866161
		Mr John Malcolm	874993
4	Methodist All Saints'	Revd Paul Timmis	866324
		Mrs Ida Rance	865829
5	Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr Peter Grant	863845
		Mr Frank Furlong	862768
6	Society of Friends (Quakers)	The Clerk's Team, 288 High Street	
7	Kings Road Church	Pastor Billy Milton	864393
		Dr Richard Walker	875614
8	St Andrew's (URC) HH	Revd Jane Wade	212320
		Mrs Margaret Chrichton	875401
9	St Peter's	Mrs Jean Green	878227
10	Berkhamsted Baptist	Revd James Neve	384598
		Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
11	St Michael & All Angels Sunnyside	Revd David Abbott	865100
		Mrs Pam Davis	863609
12	St John the Evangelist	Revd David Abbott	865100
	Bourne End	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014
13	Salvation Army	Anthony Cotteril	253607

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Berkhamsted (01442) 877060

Headteacher Mrs N Boddam-Whetham

The Revd Martin Wright, All Saints House, Shrublands Road (866161) (day off Monday)
 The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)
 The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
 The Revd Preb Stephen Wells (Hon.Asst.Priest), 57 Meadow Road (870981)
 Mrs Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
 Miss Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)
 Mrs Joan Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street (866278)
 John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993)
 Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)
 Parish Administration: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House (878227)
 Stewardship Recorder: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway (871598)
 Churchwardens: Carole Dell, 4 Clarence Road (864706)
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road (871195)
Parochial Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)
Council: Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

Director of Music: Adrian Davis (864722)
 Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild (866859)
 Organist: Jonathan Lee (0794)
stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

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.

Weekdays

Holy Communion
 Wednesday 7:30am
 Thursday 11.00am
 Friday 9.15am
 Morning Prayer: M-F 7:30am, W 7:00am
 Evening Prayer: M,W,Th 5:00pm
 Sat 5:00pm
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices

6.00pm Evensong & Sermon

Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals: Father Martin Wright (866161)
Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn (874894)

Sundays

8.00am Anglican Eucharist only as announced
 9.15am Sung Eucharist with Sunday schools & Pathfinders, then coffee in the Hall
 10:00am United service with the Methodist congregation (3rd Sunday in month)
 11.00am (Methodist Morning Service)
 6.30pm Anglican service only as announced (otherwise Methodist Evening Service)
 5th Sunday – United Anglican/Methodist service.

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 Revd Martin Wright (see *Contacts* above)
 Methodist minister: Revd Paul Timmis, 32 Finch Road (866324)

allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk



WAY INN - A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Come to the **Post Office** for foreign currency, travel insurance, passport applications and forms E111 - and for everything else a main **Post Office** provides. Come through to our **shop** which sells greetings cards, Christian books, stationery and many gifts. **Upstairs** you will find our **coffee shop** serving lunches, teas, snacks or just a cup of coffee.

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