

Berkhamsted *review*

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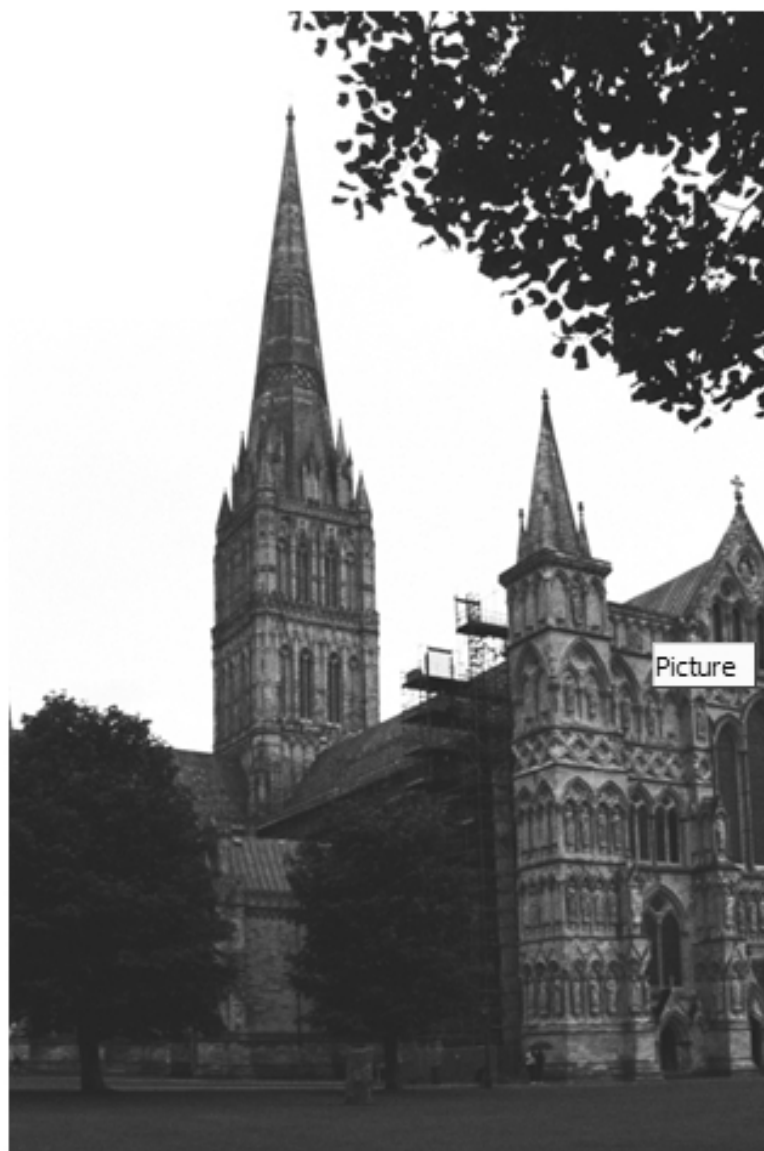
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This Month's
Notes and
Events

October 2004



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the September 2004 issue of the Berkhamsted Review

We have, as always a very varied mixture of items this month covering topics as diverse as the send-off for Fr Mark our last rector, and the arrangements for selecting his successor. There is however a difference. After a 15 year stint, this is the last edition that I personally shall be putting together as leader of the editorial team.

Tony Firshman has nobly agreed to step into the breach temporarily, but if the magazine is to continue, we urgently need another person to take over the editorial role.

No previous editorial experience is essential but familiarity with personal computers, email and the internet are greatly to be desired.

If we cannot find a new person soon we shall not be able to continue with a proper and appropriate magazine for our parish and town. So if you feel you could help, please give Carole Dell a ring, or if you would like to know more about what precisely is entailed in this stimulating and interesting job, please ring me, or Tony.

David Woodward

Cover photograph. Detail from the Sally Scott window at St Peter's
Tony Firshman

In this month's issue...

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

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Next copy dates (all Fridays): 3 September, 1 October, 5 November



**New Beginnings,
New
Opportunities
Fr Martin Wright**
urges us to seek
God's kingdom by
living for each day

September is always a month of new beginnings after the long summer holidays. Even if you haven't been away, September is when everything starts up again. The children go back to school, as do the teachers, of course. All the church groups begin their new season of meetings and choirs begin their rehearsals. We say 'new beginnings' but of course everything we do can be affected by what we have done in the past and what we think might happen in the future.

There is an ancient legend, not found in scripture, which tells of an angel meeting with a weary traveller on a forest road. As the angel watched, the man appeared struggling under the weight of a huge sack which he was carrying over his shoulder. As he drew near, the angel engaged him in conversation, saying how very heavy the sack appeared to be. The traveller agreed, "It weighs me down", he said, "It makes my whole body ache with its continual heaviness". "What do you carry in the sack?" the angel asked, "May I see?" "You may", the traveller replied. With great effort he lowered the sack from his shoulder to the ground, and, as the angel watched, opened it up. But to the amazement of both angel and traveller, the sack was completely

empty. "What do you carry in the sack my friend?" asked the angel. "My worries and troubles", replied the man, "and that burden is so hard to carry". "And what are your troubles?" asked the angel. "They are chiefly two" replied the traveller, "what happened yesterday and what will happen tomorrow" And then the angel understood. "You need not carry your sack", the angel said, "You must cast it aside. For yesterday is done and gone and as for tomorrow, it has yet to be, and no one knows what it will bring. Just live for the day, that is enough for any man to take."

At that, the traveller saw the error of his ways, he threw the sack away and, light of step, continued his journey rejoicing.

In the Gospels, Jesus said: "Don't worry and be anxious about what you are to eat or drink, your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. Look at the flowers of the field, they do not work or weave, yet not even King Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these. Can any one add an inch to their height by worry, no they can't".

So as you start anything new this month, live for each day, seek God's kingdom and its values. Then, as Jesus reminds us, each day will have challenges and opportunities of its own to face, and that is more than enough for us all. ❖



Bereavement and Loss Support Group

There is a warm welcome on the first Sunday
of each month from 3.00-4.30pm in the
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for any who might feel the need of support at a time of loss.
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The problem of noisy aircraft flying over Berkhamsted and Ashridge into and out of Luton Airport became significantly worse a few years ago. This was not because there were many more planes flying or that the planes themselves had become much noisier. The problem was simply that aircraft taking off from Luton to fly to certain destinations were put on a new flight path. Previously they had flown over Harpenden, but in order to fly a safer and more manageable route they were redirected over the Gaddesdens, Ashridge and Berkhamsted. This is known as the Olney 1B departure route.

So for some years now, it so happens that, when the wind is in a certain direction (generally when the weather is bright and fine), almost all aircraft flying in to or out of Luton Airport fly over this area. Both the arrivals and departures cross each other's routes in the area over Ashridge. This has two bad effects. Firstly, because of the fact that the arriving and departing aircraft are in conflict with each other, the arrivals have to fly at a lower altitude to the departures. They also have to keep their height constant to make the air traffic controller's job of keeping them separated from the departing aircraft easier. Secondly, this way of flying leads to the engines having to work harder, which not only means more fuel is consumed but also more noise is made than if the planes were gliding gradually downwards. There is some hope now though that this problem may be about to be eased and that we should be hearing rather less intrusive noise from overflying aircraft.

The Luton Airport management is considering a new way of routing aircraft arriving from the East. At the moment these planes swing left in a large S shape path to cross over the airport and loop around Ashridge and then swerve to the North and turn onto the line of the Luton runway at about Dagnall. Under the proposed new path they will instead continue to fly straight, remaining to the north of Luton,

Ian Reay's &news &views

Less Noise

Ian Reay reports some good news for Berkhamsted

above Houghton Regis, and then turn left over Leighton Buzzard, joining the line of the Luton runway at about the same point over Dagnall as now. This is clearly a benefit for us since fewer aircraft will be noisily flying overhead.

But the benefit is not just for Berkhamsted nimbys. Because, with this new approach path, the arriving and departing aircraft are in

different places, the arrivals will no longer have to fly low and horizontally. In the future they will be able to glide down gradually. This is known technically as a continuous descent approach. This way of flying has the advantage that not only are the engines working less hard and so more quietly but also the planes stay higher for longer and, since they are then further from the ground, less of what noise they do make is heard. As a result the people being newly overflown will not experience aircraft noise which is any worse than what they already get from, say, Heathrow departures. In Berkhamsted, the Gaddesdens and Ashridge, though, we will get big reductions in the noise that we experience.

This is all so simple that you may wonder why this has not been done before and why it has taken years to make the change. The reason is that when one piece of the air traffic control jigsaw is changed there are knock on effects elsewhere and the changes all have to be agreed by different groups. As one example: there is a gliding club at Dunstable and the aircraft arriving on the new path will have to be carefully kept away from there and the gliders will need to be careful that they don't stray too far from their permitted areas. All of this takes time to get right. Nevertheless we may be nearly at the end of the consultations and discussions and if it all goes well we will soon have some relief from noisy aircraft flying overhead.

❖

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As you sit reading this at the start of September the main holiday season will be drawing to a close.

If you have been away this summer **where did you go?**

Who did you go with?

What did you do?

Hopefully you will have returned refreshed and with many happy memories of your holiday. But it's extremely unlikely that your holiday will have changed the course of your life.

However, this is precisely what happened to a girl called **Vicky Paul**. Vicky, a committed Christian, is in her late twenties. She trained as a journalist and worked for the BBC as a researcher for local radio before going on to work as a TV network director in London. In 2000 she went on holiday to Peru and it was while travelling around the country that the plight of families living in the developing world was really brought home to her. As a result of her experiences during this holiday she returned home resolved to change the direction of her career so that she would be in a position to help make a difference to all needy families, even those in the UK.

Vicky's previous work experience, her energy and her Christian beliefs proved to be just what the Mothers' Union was looking for and three years ago she was appointed to manage the action and outreach team at Mary Sumner House, the **Mothers' Union** worldwide head office. At the recent AGM of the St. Albans' diocesan MU, Vicky explained to

MOTHERS' UNION

Kathy Lally tells how a holiday changed the course of a life



members the ethos of her wide-ranging work. Her aims for the future are:
1 to make the **Mothers' Union** more widely known.

2 to continue working with the highly committed staff members and the volunteers around the world to help them do more, more

effectively.

3 to find practical solutions to support family life.

To this end Vicky spends about 6 weeks abroad each year visiting MU workers and their projects and meeting religious and community leaders to encourage their support for MU work, while at home she gives talks and presentations about the work of her team: how the face of modern Christianity is exercised through the MU.

So what does this work involve?

Whether it is child contact centres (where separated or divorced fathers are able to meet their children on neutral ground); parenting courses to support and encourage stable family life; organising holidays for families in adverse situations; extending the literacy and development programme in Africa, which has just received a large grant from Comic Relief; using money from the relief fund to alleviate disasters and help refugees. Vicky's aim is to show that the MU is definitely in the 21st century, the members have a wealth of experience relevant to family life and its problems and that this can be translated into actions which make a real difference. ❖

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**Jean Green
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Fr Mark's farewell party was a very jolly and enjoyable occasion. At the same time the occasion was tinged with sadness. The eight years of his ministry at the Parish of Great Berkhamsted has passed all too quickly. His final service on 18th July was very special enhanced by an excellent sermon. Far too many of us measure our own faith by the amount of work we do for the Church. Instead we should increase our faith by sitting quietly at the feet of Jesus and contemplating our service to Him.

With Carole Dell, I find myself in the unenviable task of not only being responsible for the parish, but also most importantly seeking a replacement for Fr Mark. The former is far from easy and the latter still harder. I have a distinct déjà vu feeling because I was the churchwarden when Mark was appointed. Further, I only agreed to stand in for churchwarden for two years, little thinking that during that period I would be faced with this situation.

This time, we are fortunate to have the services of Fr Martin who as priest-in-charge of All Saints' will be doing the lions' share of leading the worship at St Peter's. The retired clergy, Fr Basil, Fr Stephen and Fr Luke will ably assist him. The readers will also be hard pressed in the months ahead.

THE VACANCY

by John Banks

The procedure for finding a new rector remains much the same as it was last time. Carole and I will be working closely with the Archdeacon when arranging advertisements, interviewing potential candidates and

eventually choosing three or four people for presentation to the parochial church council. The Bishop of Hertford and the Archdeacon will be visiting the parish on 15th September to meet and listen to the parochial church council. This will give them an opportunity to hear what the members of the PCC say regarding the sort of rector they would like to see as the successor to Fr Mark. The final say in the appointment lies with Bishop Christopher of St Albans, who is the parish's patron.

The sudden departure of five priests in the deanery will make our task more difficult. There could be suggested changes that we are not expecting and will have to consider in the light of the deanery as a whole. We have far too many churches and too few clergy.

It is therefore incumbent on all of us to have much patience and to devote much prayer that the right person will be found to fill what we believe to be a very important position, not only within the Church but the community as a whole. ❖

NEWS FROM THE PCC

Fr Mark Bonney was in the chair at this his last PCC meeting before departing to become Canon Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral.

Many topics came up for discussion including the parish share contribution for 2005 which is likely to increase by 6.2% based on the provisional budget figures of the Diocese.

Fr Martin reported that progress had been made towards one joint Anglican/Methodist congregation at All Saints' Church following a meeting of the All Saints' Joint Council and a subsequent meeting of the All Saints' Area Committee. Agreement had been unanimous that the Anglican and Methodist congregations at All Saints' would worship together at the main Sunday morning service for a three month period from January to Easter 2005 as a further step towards full integration. This was supported by the PCC.

Fr Martin also reported on the great concern regarding the declining numbers in the Young People's Fellowship Group. As a result it had been decided to disband the existing group in favour of a new one which would be run as a social group with church links. The time and venue for this are still to be decided.

→p11

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The 19th Oxfam children's wear event will be held on Thursday 9th September at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, from 9.00 – 11.30 am.

The last children's wear event raised over £5000, contributing handsomely to poverty relief. It's a hard act to follow, and helpers are urgently needed to cope with the steady stream of donations of clothes, toys, children's books, and baby equipment so generously donated.

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity of helping others while at the same time benefiting from the availability of good quality clothes, generously donated, in which to clothe our growing families at bargain prices. The event, as always, will have

OXFAM'S CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

Thursday 9th September
9.00-11.30 am

e clothes galore for the coming seasons sorted by gender and age bracket. A mountain of toys, books and baby equipment will be on the stage in the Civic Centre.

Please help, and please come to the event. You'll be making a real difference to the costs of meeting your children's needs, from baby to teenager, while making a life-saving difference to the victims of drought, conflict and disease.

Nicky Evans would be delighted to hear from you with offers of help, contacting her at the Oxfam shop (864225) or at home (872502). The winning shop team welcomes new members!



AU PAIRS FOR OXFAM

As the new school year starts, working families in the town will be welcoming new au pairs into their households. These young people need to develop their language skills and they often have free time during the school day. One way to improve and gain confidence is by talking in public as a volunteer at the Oxfam shop in the High Street. Hours are flexible and there is a friendly supportive atmosphere.

Two delightful girls, who have now returned to their native France pioneered the way, and the Oxfam team would welcome new faces this Autumn.

Application forms are available at the shop or from the shop manager **Audrey Hope** (864225).

←p9 PCC REPORT - continued

At diocesan synod, the subject generating many questions for Bishop Christopher was the appointment of the new Dean of St Albans, the Revd. Canon Jeffrey John, to whom the Bishop gave his full support. Following on from this topic, there was a suggestion that the Parish Share payment should be increased to counter financial pressure from certain parishes opposed to the appointment of the new dean. This was considered but it was decided that a letter, signed by the churchwardens, should be sent to the Bishop supporting his appointment of Canon Jeffrey John. This action was agreed unanimously by all members of the PCC present at the meeting.

Finally the Council considered a paper presented by the bell-ringers proposing that an initial study should be carried out into the sound control of the church bells. The PCC unanimously agreed that this investigation should be progressed.

After the meeting ended, Carole Dell, informed the council that the two churchwardens would be attending a preliminary vacancy meeting with the Archdeacon of St Albans, the Venerable Helen Cunliffe, on 20th July. There will then be a vacancy meeting when the Bishop of Hertford and the archdeacon will meet with the PCC, to be held on Wednesday 15th September.

Pat Hunt (PCC Secretary)

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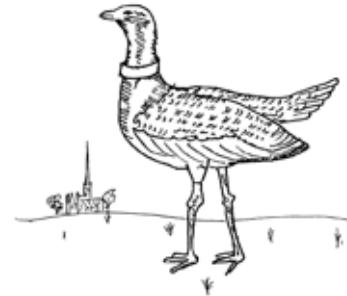
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**Great Bustard to be introduced to
Salisbury Plain**
THE TIMES 3RD AUGUST 2004



The **Review** Nature Correspondent writes:

Bustardis Canonsis

This fine example of a Great Bustard is being introduced to a specially prepared habitat in Wiltshire.

Normally sporting black & white feathers with a distinctive white collar, the male will also display spectacular plumage according to the season. *J&J Cook*

From Fr Mark and family:

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the very generous gifts that were presented to us at the party on Saturday 17 July and to everyone involved in organising such a splendid occasion. The books I was given are entitled "*Jesus in History, Thought and Culture - an Encyclopaedia*" and are an absorbing collection of articles discussing the many ways and the many levels at which the person of Jesus has influenced the world in which we live, and will be something I will constantly refer to. The generous cheque will be used to buy a new dining room table. We are grateful to everyone who has made our time here so special in a multitude of ways both professionally and personally, and we will miss you all very much indeed. May God bless you all in the future and we look forward to hearing all the news and to welcoming visitors to Salisbury.

Our new address is:

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Psalm 163

For the Rectory Family

1 I will fold up my tent saith the Rector: and go out into the West, unto the land of Sarum.

2 With my beloved will I go out: and with all my daughters together.

3 Woe unto the golfers of Sarum, he melteth their handicaps like wax: he breaketh their niblicks in sunder and their putting he laugheth to scorn.

4 But our hearts are heavy: and compassed about with lamentations.

5 Who will gather our children about his feet: or take up the Easter egg in his right hand?

6 Lo, he casteth it down in the midst of the nave: he divideth the pieces among the children.

7 But now he goeth up like smoke: and his beloved like the smoke of the fire.

8 How shall we remember their days: or call to mind their works?

9 Remember him in the Parish Office, he seeketh out the biscuits to devour them: Yea, he consumeth them every one.

10 Remember the beloved also, she put down her net among the Little Fishes: she filled the Court House with Mums, and its hallway with a mighty host of buggies?

11 He guideth our footsteps unto the shrine of Walsingham: at Petertide he filled our cup with wine and we were joyful upon the Rectory lawn.

12 But his dwelling place has become The Close: and his name shall be called the Canon Treasurer.

13 In the Cathedral is the work of his hands: and he will make anew the beauty of the house of God.

14 Let us rejoice with them and be joyful: let our good wishes go up with the sound of the timbrel and with songs and feasting.

Sung at the farewell party on 17th July at Dean's Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School to a chant by Adrian Davis. Words by Christopher Green

The terraces around Marylebone Park were named after the titles held by the Prince Regent or his brothers but Nash added new features including a lake. He alighted upon an existing plan, promoted by a man called Thomas Homer, to extend the Grand Junction Canal from Paddington basin to Limehouse, where access could be gained to the expanding London docks. This did not find favour. Bargemen were a notoriously rough bunch and people were concerned that the wealthy inhabitants whom they hoped to tempt to buy dwellings in the park would be alarmed at the prospect of having their tranquillity disturbed by bargemen's oaths, and worse. Accordingly the canal was routed round the northern periphery of the park where it remains, the Regent's Canal.

Nash was sure that *"the attraction of open space, free air and the scenery of nature"* on the edge of the capital would attract residents of the highest quality and for this reason inveighed against the use of speculative builders who, he suggested, would build shoddy houses.

"it is in the interest of those concerned in such building that they should be of as little cost as possible, preserving an attractive exterior which Parker's stucco, coloured bricks and balconies accomplish...a very few years will exhibit cracked walls, swagged floors, bulged fronts, crooked roofs, leaky gutters, inadequate drains and other ills of

JOHN NASH AND REGENCY LONDON

Stephen Halliday recounts the planning of modern Mayfair and Regents Street



an originally bad constitution".

Presumably he excluded his own speculative building activities from these strictures, particularly since he was already becoming strongly associated with the despised *"Parker's stucco"*.

One of Fordyce's recommendations had been the construction of a new street from Marylebone to Westminster. At the time that Nash was drawing up his plans there was a marked contrast between the wide streets and spacious squares of Mayfair, to the north of Piccadilly, and the narrow streets and tenements of Soho, further to the east. The *"May Fair"* had been transferred in 1688 from the

Haymarket to the present site of Shepherd Market. In the eighteenth century the area was developed by the Grosvenor family, later dukes of Westminster and patrons of Thomas Cubitt. Mayfair's wide avenues and spacious squares attracted wealthy aristocrats whose names are still commemorated in thoroughfares like Devonshire Street and Chesterfield Gardens long after the stately homes they once accommodated have passed away. Only Burlington House remains, as the home of the Royal Academy.

The neighbouring district of Soho had developed a very different character. In 1536 the convent and leper hospital which owned St Giles's Field, as the area was known, had surrendered the land to Henry VIII upon the dissolution of the religious houses. It had then been used as a royal park in which the king could hunt while resident at Whitehall Palace.. In the late seventeenth century

French Huguenots moved into the area, fleeing from the persecutions of Louis XIV. The area thus began an association with foreign residents that it has never lost.

The “*New Street*”

In 1813 Parliament passed “*An Act for making a more convenient Communication from Marylebone Park to Charing Cross*”, commonly known as the “*New Street Act*”. Nash proposed a route which “*should cross the eastern entrance to all the Streets occupied by the higher classes and to leave to the east all the bad streets*”. It would thus form a cordon sanitaire between the two areas: in his words “*a Line of Separation between the habitations of the first class of Society and those of the inferior classes...mechanics and the trading part of the community*”. It would also provide a suitably magnificent route, a “*Royal Mile*”, between the Prince Regent’s projected summer palace in Marylebone Park (soon to be re-named Regent’s Park) and his London residence, Carlton House, overlooking the Mall and St James’s Park. In the event Carlton House was abandoned and demolished when the prince grew tired of it and the idea of the summer palace died with the prince himself in 1830.

The road would begin in the park itself. Its first obstacle was the “*New Road*” which had been built in 1756 to connect the village of Paddington, on the edge of Westminster, with the Angel on the edge of the City. The “*New Road*” is now Marylebone Road-Euston Road-Pentonville Road. It was proposed to create a huge “*circus*” to effect this crossing. In the event only the southern side of the circus was built and this now forms Park Crescent. From there the road would run south along what became Portland Place, Langham Place, and the road soon to be named “*Regent Street*” which turned east as it approached Piccadilly in order to avoid the fashionable and royal area of St James.

The easterly turn would be executed by means of a curve which became known as “*the Quadrant*” which would be occupied, according to Nash’s plan, by “*shops appropriated to articles of fashion and taste*” for the aristocracy. Regent Street would cross Piccadilly via another circus, - soon known as Piccadilly Circus. On the site later occupied by Eros it was proposed to erect a

temple to Shakespeare in the Doric style.

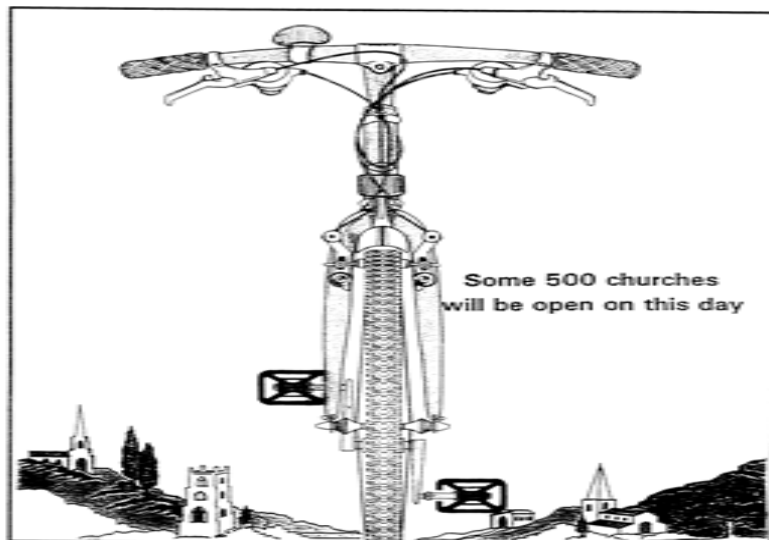
Pall Mall owed its name to the fact that, at the time of Charles II, the area had accommodated a royal Palla a Maglio alley - a game rather like croquet which was much favoured by the king living at St James’s nearby.

The area’s association with royalty made it extremely fashionable. Mrs Maria Fitzherbert, the Prince Regent’s unacknowledged wife lived in Pall Mall from 1789-96. According to Nash’s proposals Pall Mall would be widened to give access to another “*circus*” to the east which, Nash proposed, would become a home for learned societies like the Royal Academy and the Royal Society, with the National Gallery on the north side. This circus later became Trafalgar Square and gave access to Whitehall and the Houses of Parliament further to the south. Having crossed Pall Mall, Regent Street would terminate at Carlton House, the prince’s London home. This had been rebuilt between 1783 and 1813, at enormous public expense, only to be abandoned by the prince when he became king.

It was demolished in 1827, an act described by his biographer as “*the one truly wicked act George IV committed*”. Many of the fireplaces and furnishings were removed to Windsor and Buckingham Palace while the Corinthian columns were later used to support the portico of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. The house was replaced by Carlton House Terrace, to Nash’s design, which remains as an example of Nash’s finest work. Moreover it attracted tenants of such varying distinction as William Gladstone, Lords Palmerston and Curzon, Earl Grey and Joachim von Ribbentrop, Adolf Hitler’s Ambassador.

Next month: The work continues.

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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Your editor has suggested that I write, again, about the Victorian censuses, and about how we get and what we do with this information.

BERKHAMSTED IN VICTORIAN TIMES

by Bill Willett

Censuses in Great Britain were held every ten years from 1801, usually in Spring, with hiccups around World War II. After 1837 births, marriages and deaths had to be registered officially and not necessarily in the parish registers. The next census, that of 1841, was organized by the General Register Office. In this census and especially after that of 1851, the household and its members was used as the basic unit of record. Information from the households was collected by the census enumerators and entered into census enumerator's books (CEBs). Each line in these pre-printed books is occupied by a person, and columns across the page give information about that person. The head of the household is the first named and then other people in that house have their relationship to the head indicated and follow in the lines beneath. The street or road where they lived is given, and sometimes there are more than one household living in the building. There are many lodgers, boarders and visitors within the household. Other information concerns sex, age, 'condition as to marriage' as it is termed, profession and occupation and where the person was born. An interesting point is that in 1901 the house number within the road or street is often given (not always the case, previously). The downside of this, which we have still to crack, is that the house-numbers in Berkhamsted were changed. (In the 1950s I think; if anyone has information about this I would like to hear from them).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as part of their belief record as much demographical information, such as that held in the CEBs, as they can. This they make available on microfilm and microfiche. For Hertfordshire, these films are available at the county record office in Hertford or at the Family Record Centre (FRC) in London. The Church has published a set of CDs for the 1881 Census for the whole country. A set is in the Dacorum Heritage Store in

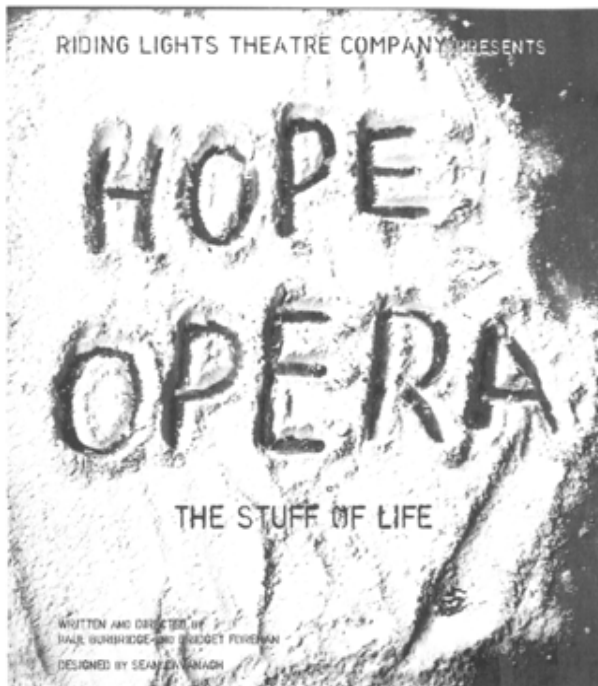
Berkhamsted, and this can be searched very easily via a computer. Our local history society has financed the photocopying from these microfilms for Berkhamsted, and Ken Wallis also has a complete set which he has made over the

years.

The CEBs are books about the size of A4, bound along the short edge. The information was hand-written into them by the enumerators who were not necessarily picked for their hand-writing skills and some can be difficult to read! The central Census Office has made marks over the pages indicating their checks. We then reproduce the information in the 'page squares' into a computer spread sheet. Ken uses a more sophisticated genealogical system, whereas I use a Microsoft product called Excel; but we can transfer between each, and so for 1901 we have shared the load of tapping in the information from the CEBs into the computer.

What are the advantages of having the census in computer form? If the transcription from the handwriting has been made reasonably accurately, then a printout is far easier to read. You can take the total data for a street, area or the whole town and organize it within the computer in any number of ways: alphabetical order to search on surname. Statistical analysis can then be made from such lists. For example, from the age data a view can be taken of the changing age-structure of the population of the town 1850-1901; or the age structure of a particular occupation; or how domestic service replaced straw-plaiting as the female employment in the period. I attempted some mapping of this data for the History Society's exhibition this last summer.

If you wanted to know more you can see the data in the Heritage Store, or contact Ken or myself. This can be about a specific family or name, or more general data about occupations or streets of the town. Who lived in your house in 1901, for example? ❖



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“Oxfam is sending 30 tons of equipment for water and sanitation schemes from Manston airport to Darfur”. This was a recent announcement, but only one of

Oxfam’s responses to many emergencies, alleviating distress and poverty, and saving lives by providing clean water to thousands.

The wider Berkhamsted community is equally supportive of the work of Oxfam. Donated goods of good quality and often of high value keep the shop volunteers sorting, cleaning, preparing, pricing and selling. A true community team of donors, shop volunteers, and purchasers is working together to provide aid and prevent water borne diseases when disaster strikes.

The Berkhamsted Oxfam shop is celebrating its silver jubilee this year and is estimated to have raised two million pounds since it first opened in 1979. Last year, following a refit, income rose to £175,000, an increase of nearly twenty percent over the previous year. Invest to harvest!

The achievements of the shop, not possible without community support as donors and purchasers, have been recognised nationally. The shop has just been selected as the winner of the National Association of Charity Shops

OXFAM A COMMUNITY TEAM

Alex Evans describes

keeping the shop well stocked, an inviting place to visit, and a financial success.

Reflecting the social commitment and idealism of many teenagers, the shop team additionally includes youth from the local schools who provide invaluable help to the older generation of volunteers, the oldest being 101 last July!

The shop is run as several departments, books, ladies’, men’s and children’s clothes, bric-a-brac, fair trade goods, linens, accessories and children’s toys. There is something to interest everyone! The shop is the 27th most profitable in the Oxfam financial league out of eight hundred shops, with children’s clothes the first in the country. If you’d like to be part of this success story, even for only an hour or two a week, please get in touch with volunteer shop manager **Audrey Hope** (864225). You can experience the satisfaction of being a member of the country’s winning charity shop team, while helping those so less fortunate than ourselves. ❖

review letters

Chicken Challenge

Lesley Blencowe, coffee shop manager at theWay Inn writes:

I write in response to Gerry Morrish’s article in the July edition of The Review.

While Mr Morrish is right to show concern for animal welfare, it would be good if he were to check the facts before going into print. At the Way Inn coffee shop the vast majority of meat served (including the chicken) is in fact free range and supplied by our excellent local butcher A P Ball of Northchurch, as are the eggs used in all our meals and baking. We also demonstrate our concern for the plight of our fellow human occupants of this planet by using as many Fair Trade products as possible, from coffee beans to bananas.

Apology:

My article in the July Review entitled Chicken Challenge contained the assertion that the Way Inn serves factory-farmed chicken. I have since learned that nearly all the meat served, including chicken, is in fact now free range, which is splendid news. I apologise unreservedly to the management of the Way Inn for my failure to check their current policy.

Gerry Morrish



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- Do you have memories of blackout curtains and utility clothing?
- Perhaps you remember the aircraft flying in and out of Bovingdon Airfield?

Pass on your Family Story for Future Generations

The Dacorum Heritage Trust, Hertfordshire Libraries and Dacorum Volunteer Bureau have joined forces to help you record your memories of the Second World War onto the BBC People's War website. There will be various methods of recording your memories available during these sessions:

- Input your memories directly onto the BBC People's War website with the help of Library staff and volunteers.
- Write down your memories, extracts will then be transcribed and added to the BBC People's War website.
- Tape record your memories during a recording session, extracts will then be transcribed and added to the BBC People's War website.

The People's War sessions will be held at Berkhamsted library, Kings Road

On Tuesday 12 October from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2 to 5pm

and on Friday 15 October from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Places on sessions must be booked in advance.

To book an internet or recording session, please call 01438 737333 quoting "People's War"

review letters

News From Ethiopia - Review of July 2004

Humphrey Norrington,
a trustee of World Vision, writes

I was sad to see the article by **Revd Andrew Proud** in the July issue of the Review. My main complaint is that a Christian aid agency, in this case USPG, should write in disparaging terms about another Christian agency without checking the facts very carefully.

World Vision, like any other agency working in this field, is expected to abide by the Sphere Minimum Standards. These require that water from a newly drilled hole must be tested at the Pasteur Institute in Addis Ababa to make sure that the water is up to the internationally accepted standard. In Ethiopia where distances are great and transport slow, this can take a long time. The tests showed that some of the wells were unsafe. The remainder were handed over to the community in March this year.

There has been a severe shortage of drinking water in the Afar region of Ethiopia for many years. World Vision started trucking water for the most needy people and their animals in 2002. This went on until all the good wells had been cleared for use. This work was praised by the regional government.

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Many health clubs promise the earth and give you nothing apart from a monthly direct debit that you have to pay and a membership card that you will use for the first three months, then get bored and it gathers dust on your hall table.

Vitality is a big part to leading a healthy lifestyle. At Ashridge we work on Mind, Body and Spirit, coaching people to achieve their fitness goals,

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All over the media there is information about leading a better lifestyle. It can be from the local government, local government money, private money, role models, television programmes and sporting events. It doesn't matter where we go or who we see we are always being warned of leading a healthy lifestyle. The only problem is that although a lot of people who want to do something about it have places to go, others who haven't got the confidence struggle to exercise because of their perceptions about Health clubs.

If you feel that "This is me "then The Lifestyle Centre at Ashridge can help. The centre has been helping people change their perceptions, helping them create a better lifestyle for themselves. People deserve this and at Ashridge we want to help people create a better mind set, feel healthy and revitalised.

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NORTHCHURCH REVIEW

We are sorry that there is no separate contribution from our friends at St Mary's, Northchurch this month. This reflects numerous developments including the moving-on of **Revd Peter Hart**, the changing of the editor of the Northchurch Parish Magazine (new editor **Jill Hipson**, cjhipson@btopenworld.com) and the incidence of holidays for some other potential correspondents. We hope that normal Northchurch service will be resumed next month.

WEA COURSES SEPTEMBER 04

The WEA is offering courses on a range of topics again this year. A literature group will look at the influence of Ireland with the poetry of Yeats, Heaney and Hopkins under the guidance of **Ann Severn** on Monday evenings. Also on Mondays, we are running a computing for beginners course with Jayne Willmott but have a limited number of spaces. Our current affairs discussions on Tuesday mornings, led by **Paul Harris** will cover topics that interest the people in the group. On Wednesdays we will feature Artefacts in Egyptian Collections and an evening course looking at how music can depict a story or an image. We are striking out with a course in Tring on Thursday evenings when we will see how rivers have supplied legends, poetry, Vikings, castles, and "*cheap tin trays*".

In autumn most courses will start in the week beginning 13 September and last for 20 weeks. Egyptology will start on 22 September. We are offering free places for people under 40 who have never tried a WEA course before. For those not covered by our special offer, the Wednesday courses will cost £43 (£38 for over 60s) and the others £35 (£30 for over 60s). Courses are free for people who receive means tested benefit or Jobseekers Allowance and to their unwaged dependants. Contact Chris on 250404 for more information or to book a place, or Roger (824658) for information about the course in Tring.

We look forward to seeing you.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI REPORT – AUGUST



Due to holidays, the extremely hot weather, and illness, only sixteen members were present at our August meeting, but we were pleased to welcome a visitor.

President for the afternoon, **Liz Baxendale** opened the proceedings with a Chinese story, which made a change.

The minutes having been circulated, secretary **Janet Mitchell** took us through the rest of the business and asked for orders for the WI Calendar, Best of Hertfordshire, which features Berkhamsted's canal on the front cover - a photo taken by a Berkhamsted WI member.

Liz then gave a short report on the craft exhibition held recently at Ware, at which Janet had obtained a gold star for her decoupage, and Liz a silver for knitting. The knitting judge turned out to be none other than our speaker for the afternoon **Lady Fowden**, or Peggy as we know her, who entertained us with a third instalment of her life story. This episode took her and her then young children to Finland and America. The lack of any knowledge of Finnish caused a few hilarious problems, and the bathing arrangements led her little girl to think that she was going to be boiled in the pot cannibal fashion.

The afternoon's competition for a tea cosy brought very few entries, and flowers of the month were even scarcer.

The cakes provided by members were enjoyed with a cuppa before we stepped out of the comparative cool of the Court House, where we meet on the first Friday of each month at 2pm, into the overpowering heat of the day.

Do come and join us in September when we shall have a slide journey through Norway with **Mrs Beryl Hulbert**. You will be most welcome.

Liz Baxendale



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CALLING QUIZ ADDICTS

Quiz addicts are invited to have a go at the Third Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Quiz. The Quiz is divided into twelve sections, with 20 questions in each, covering subjects as diverse as Quotations (e.g. Who said “*Just like that*” = Tommy Cooper), Initials (e.g. EHP = Eat Humble Pie), Prefixes and Suffixes, Clothes (e.g. another name for load line – plimsoll), What’s next?, Sports and Games, Seconds and General Knowledge. Entry is £1 and copies can be obtained from IRHH shops in Amersham/ Tring/ Princes Risborough/ Little Chalfont/ Beaconsfield and Hemel Hempstead, or by sending £1 and a stamped addressed envelope to 52a Western Road, Tring, HP23 4BB. You have until the end of February to complete the Quiz and the prize is £50 vouchers, plus five lucky number prizes. Previous quizzes have raised over £3,850 towards nursing terminally ill patients in their own homes.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

Great efforts have been made and are still being made to eliminate leprosy in the world. Much progress has been made, e.g. in many places leprosy patients are not excluded any more from attending clinics in general hospitals. Nevertheless 600,000 sufferers are still being diagnosed each year. The Leprosy Mission are working hard to seek out patients where stigma still abounds; to cure sufferers using multi-drug therapy. They operate on disabled patients to improve their mobility and quality of life and train people in a trade in order that they can become independent and live a life of usefulness and dignity.

On Saturday 2 October, we will be holding a coffee morning at All Saints’ Church from 10am to 12 noon in aid of the Leprosy Mission. Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and gifts will be for sale, also cakes and bric-a-brac. Why not start your Christmas shopping early and help some of the world’s saddest and loneliest people.

Meg Harper and Pat Hearne

AEOLIAN SINGERS

The Aeolian Singers start their 2004/5 season on Thursday, 2 September at the John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, Hemel Hempstead (just the other side of Potten end), at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome, particularly young people under 26. Our first rehearsal evening is a free, open evening for anyone wishing to try us. And we have five sponsorships to offer to under 26’s which involves one year’s free membership, two free lessons with musical director **Stephen Jones**, free one-to-one mentoring and free music hire. (Details ring 251566).

The first concert of the season is on 16 October at Kings Langley. Spanish Gold! Includes the work **Misa Criolla** (Ramirez) with guitars and a full supporting programme. And don’t worry if you missed 2 September – just give us a call!

review letters

ARE YOU WILLING?

Muriel Lander writes:

I would like to say how much I enjoyed **Fr Martin**’s article in the August Review. Isn’t it encouraging to know that the chosen disciples were just like the rest of us!

For part of my education I attended a convent- which I hasten to add that I thoroughly enjoyed- but my recollection of the many saints we heard about really did not seem to bear any resemblance to us mere mortals.

No. Give me down to earth, practical, warts and all, saints. They certainly proved their worth eventually. And after all, a saint is a sinner who tries.

16 Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HY

TUESDAY CLUB

On Tuesday 1st June we had a *Crafty Evening*, when **Tina Gibbs** showed us the amazing things that can be done with the patterned insides of business envelopes.

On 6th July, the last meeting before our summer break, we were entertained by **Runnells Davis**, who gave us an illustrated talk entitled *The Idle Women*. We were soon to learn what a misnomer it was, because this was the story of the resilient young women who volunteered to be trained to work the narrow-boats on the inland waterways, taking the place of the boatmen who had been drafted into the armed services during the Second World War. It was an endurance test of hard labour in dangerous and cramped conditions, but with cheerful determination they kept the supplies of coal, wheat and cement moving until the men returned.

Our cake stall at the Petertide Fair raised £450, a great result. Many thanks are due to all who contributed.

BERKHAMSTED QUIET PLACES

The next meeting of Berkhamsted Quiet Places on Tuesday 14th September will be from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Winchwicks, Frithsden Copse. The subject will be *Preparing for Winter*, led by **Ruth Treves Brown**, Methodist lay chaplain and local preacher. Please ring **Frances Norrington** (871855) for enquiries and to book a place.

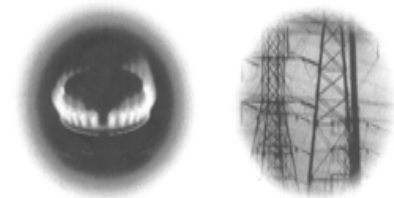
THE GRAHAM GREENE CENTENARY FESTIVAL

The programme of films, dramas, talks and other events and tickets to all events is available from the Festival Office (01442 865158) (Rhenigidale, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted, HP4 2PP).
or at www.grahamgreenebt.org

The centenary exhibition runs from Monday 27th September to Saturday 2nd October at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Monday 3 – 6pm; Tuesday to Friday 10.30am to 6pm; Saturday 10.30am to 2.30pm. Admission is free. The exhibition covers the Third Man (a travelling exhibition based in Vienna), Greene's awards and medals, school memorabilia, cartoons of Greene and a festival bookstall.

The other events include a concert, a discussion on Catholicism and Greene by Mark Lawson, A N Wilson and Fr Ian Ker, a birthday toast, the unveiling of a Graham Greene portrait by Margaret Woods from a photograph by Gerald Sutherland and a service of thanksgiving in the Collegiate School Chapel where Graham Greene was baptised.

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review services & activities

SUN	<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.		
TUE	<i>St Peter's</i>	5:00pm	Evening Prayer (EP)	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am Morning Prayer (MP)
WED	<i>St Peter's</i>	5:00pm	EP	<i>All Saints'</i>	7:30am MP
					8:00am Eucharist
THU	<i>St Peter's</i>	5:00pm	EP	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am MP
					11:00am Eucharist
FRI	<i>St Peter's</i>	9:15am	Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:00am MP
		5:00pm	EP		
SAT	<i>St Peter's</i>	5:00pm	EP	<i>All Saints'</i>	8:45am MP
3rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)				<i>Court House</i>
1st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i> Contact chairman Jean Bray (864532) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)				<i>Court House</i>
Tue	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am <i>All Saints' Church Hall</i> Song Time or Short service as announced. Jenny Wells (870981)				
3rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)				
Tue	STUDY GROUP: 1:30pm for informal Bible study. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens (866531)				
2nd Tue	T Time Kidz	3:45 – 4:15			<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP: 8.00pm at for bible study. Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)				<i>22 Upper Hall Park</i>
4rd Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)				<i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i>
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month as arrngd at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Road</i> <i>Everyone is very welcome to join us</i> and at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Road</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)				
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm . Jimmy Young (876736) <i>All Saints' Hall</i>				
2nd Wed	MEN'S GROUP: 8:00pm as announced. Contact Guy Dawkins (874108)				
3rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved. Contact Thelma Harris (865785)				
4th Wed	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm <i>New members and visitors always welcome.</i> Contact: tha				<i>Court House</i>
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Contact Linda Bisset (862115)				
Thu	Young People's Fellowship 7:30-9:30pm Jimmy Young (876376) <i>Court House</i>				
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804) <i>St Peter's</i>				
Fri	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am <i>Court House</i> Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (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)				
3rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.				

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 (866161).

September/October 2004

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>
Sat	4	11:00am	Biddy Shacklock's funeral (Requiem mass)..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	6	8.00pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing with prayers for healing <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	7	10.15am	Chuckles Service <i>Samuel the Good Listener</i> <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	11	from 10am	Beds & Herts Historic Churches sponsored bike ride <i>from most churches</i>
Sun	12	3.00pm	Fr Mark Bonney's Installation at evensong . <i>Salisbury Cathedral</i>
Sun	12		No evensong in the parish because of the trip to Salisbury
Tue	14	8.15pm	St Peters 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 <i>Elijah and the Raven</i> <i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	22	8.00pm	All Saints Area Committee <i>21, Park View Road</i>
Sun	26	6.30pm	Awakening Youth Service <i>The Court House</i>
Wed	29	7.30pm	Riding Lights Theatre Company present Hope Opera, the Stuff of Life <i>All Saints'</i>

OCTOBER

Sun	3	9.30am	Harvest Festival..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	3	10.00am	Joint Anglican Methodist Harvest Festival <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	9	7.30pm	Bridgewater Band concert <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	17	6:00pm	Leipzig Gewanthschor & Chiltern Chamber Choir... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	31	9.15am	All Saints Patronal Festival with Parish Eucharist <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	31		No 9.30am service at St Peter's on this day

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

25 July Benjamin Mark Parnell Davies, James Miles Marsland

Weddings (St Peter's)

17 July David Edward Christian Mott & Julia Anne Clarke

24 July David Michael Walden & Alison Louise Blackmore

31 July Matthew John Price & Jennifer Anne Howes

7 August James Anthony Maynard & Karen Daniella Barrett

Funerals

Bridget Ann Shacklock

St Peter's Church (Chilterns)

CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc. see back page). Parish Office in the Court House (878227) is usually open 9:30am-5:30pm Tues/Wed, 9:30-12noon Friday (answering machine other times)

	<u>St Peter's</u>	<u>All Saints'</u>
Altar service	Alan Conway (865798)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Chalice rota	Jean Green (878227)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Sunday school	Sally Emery (870656)	Carenza Wilton (875147)
Church maintenance	Christopher Green (863241)	David Brunt (873198)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (878227)	Kate Spall (873470)
Flower arrangements	Sarah Dawson (871614)	Sue Sismey (863885)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	Sylvia Banks (871195)
Service recordings	Alan Conway (865798)	Janet Conradi (833402)
Intercessions	Martin Wright (866161)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	Ron Fisher (865846)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Electoral Roll	Judith Limbert (873626)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	Penny O'Neill (843422)
Sidesmen	Christopher Green (863241)	John Malcolm (874993)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Christine Dipper (873006)
Hospice contact	Rachael Anderson (871997)	Jean Merrett (866263)
Christian Aid	Angela Morris (866992)	Muriel Johnston (866447)
Youth worker	Jimmy Young (876736)	Jimmy Young (876736)

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Headteacher Mrs N Boddam-Whetham

Contacts

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 Council: Secretary: Mrs Pat Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)
 Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

St Peter's

Director of Music: Adrian Davis (864722) stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk
 Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild (866859)
 Organist: Jonathan Lee (0794 1113232)
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sun BCP)
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with crèche,
 Sunday Schools & Pathfinders
 (in the Court House) followed by coffee in the Court House.
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon
 Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals: **Father Martin Wright (866161)**
Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

All Saints'

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn (874894) allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk
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: Wed 8:00am Thu 9:15am 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)



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I haven't a clue how to get rid of this blank page!!!!