

Berkhamsted *review*

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for Town and Parish

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

Welcome to the August 2005 issue of the Berkhamsted review

When you read this, the parish may have a new Rector. Interviews take place on 20th July and we should know the outcome within a week.

We need a new Rector

Of course the life of the parish goes on in a vacancy. We are blessed with many willing souls, clergy and laity, inside and outside the parish, who make that possible. We know how to sail the ship. We can keep it seaworthy, but only the captain can set the course; only the captain can inspire and reassure the crew.

We may soon not only welcome a new Rector, but also see St Peter's Church in a new light. The great lime tree beside the church on the north side is stricken with disease. The visible signs are huge bracket fungus springing from the trunk and a deep, decaying hollow within, detectable at ground level. For a lime, it is still young - perhaps 180 years old. A photo in 1870 shows it rising only to the level of the aisle roof. But sadly, disease is eating into its heart and making it potentially unsafe. It will probably have to come down, or at best be greatly reduced.

Christopher Green

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

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Tony Firshman

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

5 August 2 September 7 October



The Olympics

Father Basil Jones
reflects on recent
events

***review* leader**

Although I am not a renowned fan of professional sport, I am delighted for my friends and not a little proud as a genuine cockney and Freeman of the

City of London that the games are once again coming to our capital city. I lived in Wembley in 1948 and my father, together with my girl friend Doreen and her father sang at the opening ceremony. I was trying to become a landlubber again having been demobbed from the Royal Navy.

Time passes and judged by recent events we shall have to see how the greatest city in the world stands up to the reality of terrorism. It is, as the Bishop of London has said, a whole world in a city and there is no more diverse community on earth. History shows us that outside threats knit us all closer together and I have no reason to believe that Londoners of whatever race will react any differently now. The sadness which we all feel has immediately given rise to a grim determination to show the world, once again, that the heritage that has made us what we are, is as potent a force today as it has been in the past. *Trafalgar 200* may be a good excuse for skylarking and fireworks but it must not be mistaken for merely show business. The steel can be re-burnished as the Second World War, recently remembered, also proved.

The Games will give us, once again, an almost unique opportunity to show, not just how good our infrastructure of

sporting venues, transport arrangements and powers of organisation can be, but above all how good our natural talent is for friendship and dare I say good manners. Wishful thinking you may feel but I am not so sure.

Early this month we shall be celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration, when Our Lord took Peter, James and John up a high mountain and was transfigured before them. This was part of His preparation for His Passion that was soon to follow and was intended to prepare them as well. The Church's calendar is always relevant to the present moment.

Reality can sometimes be harsh, as we are experiencing collectively, but it can also lead to a camaraderie of shared hardships that give us true values which we might have forgotten. We can all be transfigured and pointed towards a better way of running our race of life where the glory cannot be measured by a stopwatch and might even turn the hearts of those who would hurt us.



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General Meetings need to draw the crowds and this year's MU national gathering certainly did that! Over 4,000 members met in Ipswich at the town's football ground and formed the largest assembly of MU members ever in the UK! Football jargon permeated the meeting: kick-off, captain's pep-talk and references to goals,

attack, coaches and even a yellow card were there, as well as a reminder that we are all team players. The theme of the meeting was *tackle poverty*, and with the G8 Summit taking place shortly and the **MakePovertyHistory** protest in Edinburgh the following Saturday, this was particularly appropriate. MU is one of the many organisations supporting the campaign and continues to urge the government to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The reports from the four Units, *the Team Talks*, took place in the morning. Finance, in conjunction with Action and Outreach and Marketing, are undergirded by Prayer and Spirituality, making a powerful and effective team to support family life throughout the world. Before half-time, the lunch break, a video was shown of a meeting between the World Wide President, **Trish Heywood**, the Chief Executive, **Reg Bailey** and The Chancellor, **Gordon Brown**. The Chancellor had responded to an invitation to send a message to the General Meeting and the interview was recorded and shown at the meeting. **Gordon Brown's** concerns for Africa were evident and meeting people on his trip had touched him deeply. The emptiness in the eyes of the 12 year old AIDS orphan was something he would never forget, and neither will those who heard him speak about it, albeit on video.

The afternoon session brought Action

KICK-OFF TO THE FINAL WHISTLE

Margaret Burbidge
reports on a gathering in
Ipswich Town football
ground

Replays. The TV presenter, **Diane Louise Jordan**, was there to interview three of the MU Provincial Presidents. From Southern Africa, Uganda and the West Indies, they all have experiences of people who struggle with the effects of poverty. The problems of HIV/AIDS and the lack of food, jobs, health care and adequate education were all

mentioned. They said development on these and many other fronts is hampered by insufficient aid, by debt repayments and by trade regulation that prevents crops being sold fairly on world markets. At the local level MU is active, caring for AIDS orphans, though this problem is huge, encouraging women to gain new skills and grow food to support their families and by establishing family life programmes to benefit the whole community. Between the interviews, video clips were shown of just what abject poverty is; the two-year old living on the streets who could not walk because her toes had been nibbled by rats, will stick in all our minds. It is images like this that show the need for Millennium Development Goals and a campaign to make poverty history.

Then came the Final Whistle, and closing worship. We prayed that Christ would kindle in our hearts a flame of love for our neighbour. We sang *Brother, Sister let me serve you*, and finally were blessed on our way with these words:

*Son of the Living God, shine upon us with
your unfailing grace.*

Grant us wisdom and unchanging hope,

*And drive us out with power to fill the
world with your justice.*



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A part from the Castle and St Peters Church, which are of course largely made of flint, most of the historic buildings in Berkhamsted are made of brick. In a quick tour of the conservation area, I was unable to find any examples in Berkhamsted

of *brick and flint* houses, which elsewhere are a characteristic feature of the Chilterns. Flint has been used for construction since Roman times and surviving medieval buildings, usually churches, have flint in the fabric of the building. In the 16th century flint was also being used with timber in domestic buildings but as timber frame construction went out of fashion brick increasingly became used. From the 17th century until the 19th century, by when it had become common, many houses were constructed from both bricks and flints. Flints are sometimes still used today despite being more expensive than straightforward brickwork. The fact is though that here, as elsewhere, brick is by far the most widely used construction material.

The marly soil formed by the erosion of clay, which, together with flint and chalk, is common in this area, is ideal for brick making, which goes back to the 13th and 14th centuries in the Chilterns. The earliest surviving examples of brick construction go back to the 15th century. The use of bricks grew so much that by the first half of the 19th century there were large numbers of brickyards. There are historical records of over 120 brickyards in the Chiltern Hills and the immediately surrounding area. But since the 19th century imported bricks have been used as well as local bricks and this has led to dilution of the local character. The use of bricks in construction is so ubiquitous nowadays, and the nature and style of the bricks used is often so uniform, that it is difficult to imagine that bricks, made locally, gave a local feel to the

Ian Reay's &news &views

Of Bricks and Brickyards

Ian Reay examines the use of
local building materials in
Berkhamsted

district in which they were used. Soil variations lead to distinctive brick colours when they are produced using local materials. In Herts and Beds this gives rise to purple-brown or purple-grey bricks but colours can also be varied by the

use of sand and pigments.

Bricks used to be variable in size and rather smaller than they are today. When a brick tax was introduced in 1784 (at 2s 6d per thousand bricks), this led not just to an inflation in the price of bricks but also to a gradual increase in the size of bricks to compensate. In 1965 the Imperial Standard brick was introduced, and this was modified in 1974 to its metric equivalent. Since then there has been just one size for bricks - contributing to the boring uniformity of appearance.

Smaller rural brick makers went into decline in the second half of the 19th century as a result of competition from elsewhere - such as Bedfordshire. This decline continued into the 20th century. Now there are only three remaining brick works here, one of which is in Bovington. They use locally dug clay and sand brought from Leighton Buzzard. Between them they produce 14.5 million bricks a year, which sounds a lot but is less than 0.5% of the bricks produced in the UK.

To encourage sympathetic design and use of materials in new buildings to preserve, as far as possible, the distinctive character of the area, the Chilterns Conservation Board has published guidelines on Buildings Design, and a technical note on *Chilterns Flint*. Soon a note on *Chilterns Brick* will also be available. If you are interested more details can be found on the Chilterns Conservation Board web-site: <http://www.chilternsaonb.org>. ❖

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EILWIN OF BERKHAMSTED

David Pearce contemplates a pilgrimage to Canterbury

For four weeks now I have been a cripple. I have learnt to curse, to hunch myself away in crabbed corners and associate with disaffected old men who lament their limiting horizons. The grip

of ache brings out my worst and I almost hate those who skitter by on their way to the Fitness Gym. I spit rancidly at their cars parked idly on the pavement nearby so that I have to hobble in a wider arc. I resent being asked how I am when I know that the grinding hip joint, the seizure of sciatic nerve, the bent back, the deadness of limb and the uselessness of any palliative are not shared common ground.

I do think, though, of all those who would understand: those with sticks who make their slow passage down our streets, those who wait for hip or knee replacements, those bent double, those resigned to chairs. Especially I think of one who is unfailingly cheery whatever her private despairs. I think of the club-footed barber opposite *The Swan* who, thirty years ago, would lean against his sitter like a letter K while he cut hair; of **George Cotterall** with his built-up boot scuffing Long John Silver holes in the carpet where he hobbled; of those one-legged from War wounds whom I knew as a boy.

Beyond those individuals, I imagine Berkhamsted through its changing scenes of history. Cripples would have been a common sight, barked at by dogs, annoyed by children, as they hauled themselves along, or looked up sad-eyed for a crust or a drink. Men and women with rickets from childhood. Those with congenitally malformed limbs, those with broken bones mis-set. The victims of accident and industry. Farming, the canal, the railway - all claimed their toll of injuries. One must remember that even the building of St Peter's would have been paid for in broken bodies and deaths.

Twisted old age lurked earlier for everyone and conditions which now have household

names and recognisable symptoms, were more frightening in their anonymous inevitability.

Even for those who could afford treatment, the tensions and torsions, applications and iron appliances of practitioners of physic and convincing quacks held their own horrors.

Most of all, I think of poor Eilwin for whom there is a brief word in the *Chronicles of Benedict, Prior of Canterbury*. This information will be unknown to my readers, but I am a Canterbury man and may be trusted. Eilwin was a cripple from Berkhamsted and some eight hundred years ago he hauled himself to Canterbury, sitting, and crawling and hobbling - his crutches swathed in rags to ease the soreness - to seek cure at the shrine of St Thomas à Becket. Canterbury is a journey of exactly one hundred miles. It was kill or cure. There was a woman with him who held his crutches as he prayed at the shrine. There the longed-for miracle happened, and he is commemorated in that great sequence of Corona windows.

I have my woman, and my sticks.
I must go.



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*we close earlier at the end of the season as the evenings draw in

*Before I say my last
adieu
To Berkhamsted and the
review
I thought I'd make a little
list
of things that will and
won't be missed.*

*First, what a joy the newborn Rex is,
Far better than your multiplexes -
Another Rex at Cook's Delight
Sells food unspoiled by toxic blight -
Canal-bred ducks and moorhens swishing -
A heron, still as statue, fishing -
The walk to Little Heath for tea -
St Peter's quiet serenity.
These I'll forsake regretfully;
But some I'll leave most happily:
Fume-belching traffic - paving stones
Which trip you up and shake your bones -
Litter and dog-mess, trees cut down -
Vandals disfiguring the town.
And yet the good outweighs the bad.
I'll think of happy times I've had,
And as I go, some tears I'll shed -
So fare you well, dear Berkhamsted.*

A FOND FAREWELL

As he leaves, **Gerry Morrish**
looks at some of the pros and
cons of living in Berkhamsted

The Editor writes:
Although they may not
know it, all readers of the
review are indebted to
Gerry Morrish. For
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Church and bring them to your homes.
**Thank you Gerry for long and faithful
service.**

Now you all know what's coming next.
Who will replace Gerry in undertaking
this important role? It would be good to
have two or three people familiar with the
task so that no one person has to do it
every month. ❖

If you would be willing to join the
review team and take on this job, please
contact the Editor (863241)

Oxfam's 21st Children's Wear Event

This event will be taking place on Thursday 8th September, 9:00am to 11:30am at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted.

Oxfam believes that, in a world rich in resources, poverty isn't a fact of life but an injustice that must be overcome. The statistics of poverty are horrendous; at least 12 million children under five die from poverty related diseases every year.

Oxfam's profile has been raised recently in the **MakePovertyHistory** campaign, a powerful voice speaking out globally for the poor. Pop concerts and G8 meetings raise awareness, but on the ground it is the variety of non-governmental organisations, like Oxfam, that bring relief from suffering and provide clean water and basic sanitation to those living in poverty.

The charity shop in affluent Berkhamsted is a contributor to Oxfam's funds for its relief work. It raises thousands of pounds each year; your money channelled to where it is needed to make a real and immediate difference to people's lives.

Please forgive this long prelude to the 21st Children's Wear Event! In the far corner of the charity shop, Nicky and her band of shop and community supporters sell well prepared,

➔ p21



Bereavement and Loss Support Group

There is a warm welcome on the first Sunday of each month from 3.00-4.30pm in the Northchurch Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Northchurch, for any who might feel the need of support at a time of loss. Do drop in for a cuppa and a chat.

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Patrick Lepper writes:

MORE RED KITES

In your footnote to **Ian Reay's** stimulating article about the Red Kite, you mentioned my sighting in support of your

Readers report their sightings

confirmation that the species has indeed been seen over Berkhamsted. The approximate date of that sighting was early May 2001. The bird was circling high over my garden in King's Road. Although there have probably been many other unnoticed visits (one is not always looking up at the sky), I myself had not seen another here until very recently. Then on Thursday 9th June this year I was walking up King's Road from the town when I saw a large bird circling over the Ashlyns Road neighbourhood. I ran into the house and brought out a pair of binoculars, and confirmed from the clearly forked tail that it was indeed a kite.

I agree with **Ian Reay** that they are extending their range northwards. On June 12th my wife glimpsed one over the M1 north of Milton Keynes, and on the 21st we both saw one in the park of Hartwell House, west of Aylesbury. That one was sparring with another bird, which may have been a kite, but to the best of

my observation without binoculars I made it a buzzard, another rarity becoming better known hereabouts (having extended its range up from Wiltshire and the

West Country). In fact I saw a buzzard here on May 5th, circling over the Cow Roast.

Mike Spittles writes:

To add to your note about seeing Red Kites in Berkhamsted, we recorded our first sighting over the town five years ago and now count it as an occasional visitor over the town and over the common. So far this year we have had seven sightings, plus regular records of Buzzards.

Anne Hawkins also reports seeing two Red Kites on a recent Sunday afternoon circling over the fields beyond Castle Hill Farm apparently in harmonious company with a buzzard.

*The Editor welcomes reports on the wildlife around Berkhamsted and would be glad to include **Nature Notes** as a regular feature in the Review. When did you last see a snake in Berkhamsted? ❖*



The Red Kite has an impressive wingspan of 5 feet and upwards

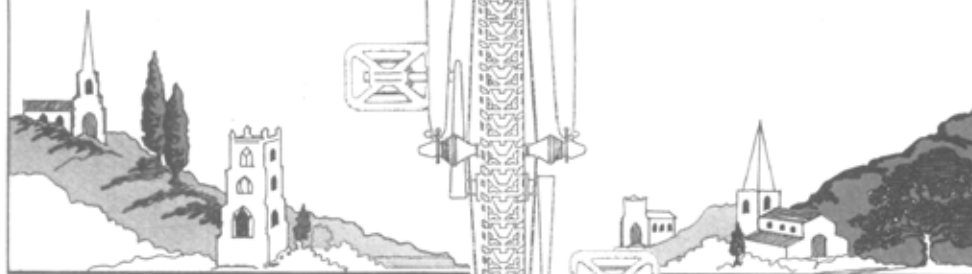


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St Swithun - Where the Editor remained doubtful last month, **Liz Baxendale** takes up the tale in verse, and adds a footnote on another saintly life:

The Legend of St Swithun

The good and holy Swithun
Decreed that when he died,
He should lie in the churchyard
The common men beside.

He did lie there for a year or two
But then the monks thought best
To put Bishop *in* Cathedral
For his eternal rest.

And so the legend has it
That the heavens wept to see
No notice had been taken
Of the saint's humility.

They laid him in the building
With princes, kings and rich men all.
As the ceremony was ending
The rain began to fall

For forty days and forty nights
The rain came falling hard -
I bet those monks just wished
That they had left him in the yard!

It was not uncommon for saints' bodies to be buried and re-buried. St Withburga's resting place at Dereham, in Norfolk, became a place of pilgrimage, to the annoyance of the monks of Norwich. So they organised a feast and invited just about everyone, and while the party was in full swing, they stole Withburga's body and carried it to Norwich. However, where it had lain in Dereham a holy spring arose with healing waters, and to this the pilgrims continued to make their way! Legend has it that in a time of famine St Withburga had saved the local populace by being able to herd the wild deer and milk them, using the milk to make a nourishing cheese.

Sheila Newland writes

I was interested to read the article by **Jonathan Griffin** on local dialect, in particular his last paragraph, wondering how many of the words he listed ...*have travelled even as far as Berkhamsted*. My parents came from Cumberland and Cheshire before moving down to Wembley where I was born. I discussed his list of words with my sister and we remember *claggy*, *decko*, *pootle*, *wick*, *biff* and *slommaking along* being used by our parents and other northern family members, which would seem to answer Jonathan Griffin's question. His final six words, *clobber*, *cottoned on*, *seedy*, *slope off*, *traipse* and *twig*, I agree are used widely across the country.

Editor's note: Several of these words make it into the dictionary: *claggy* probably related to the Danish *klag* mud; *decko* from the Hindi *dekho* see; *twig* possibly Gaelic *tuig* understand. There too are *Slommock* and *biff* but described as (colloquial or dialect); and *traipse*, recorded as far back as 1593 but (Origin unknown); and *clobber* (Origin unknown), and finally *slope off* which in its colloquial sense remains near in meaning to the Old English *aslupen* to slip away, from which the word *slope* in all its senses is derived.

DELAYS AND DISPUTES

In carrying out his designs for the Houses of Parliament, **Charles Barry** used the services of other professionals of distinction, including two men who were to make major contributions to the

new Palace of Westminster. The first was a stonemason called John Thomas to whom Barry entrusted design and execution of stone carvings throughout the building. Thomas supervised the team of stonemasons whom he employed and no controversy arose in his relationship with Barry

The second person was **Augustus Pugin**. Barry decided to employ Pugin to prepare the detailed drawings for the stained-glass windows, wood carvings and panelling throughout the palace: a decision that made Pugin's reputation. Pugin designed the throne. The two men appear to have worked harmoniously and, although Pugin probably exercised much influence over Barry's designs, the younger man appears to have been perfectly satisfied with the subordinate role publicly credited to him in the design of the building.

Pugin's son, Edward was far from satisfied however. In 1867, fifteen years after his father's death, he published a booklet entitled *Who was the architect of the Houses of Parliament?* The purpose of the work is clear from the dedication addressed to the Lords and Commons:

I earnestly solicit your aid in obtaining for my father the share of fame due to him, as the Art Architect of your Houses of Parliament, which has hitherto been unjustly assigned to another.

The work is long-winded, pompous and tendentious. Pugin claimed that his father had 'made the sections and working drawings for every portion of the building' and that these drawings had been copied by **Charles Barry** and

The Houses of Parliament :
Stephen Halliday writes

submitted in his own hand as his own work. Unwisely he wrote that his claims would be supported by the testimony of a man called **Talbot Bury** who had worked with both his father and **Charles Barry**. Talbot Bury

felt otherwise. He specifically refuted the charge of plagiarism that was implied in Edward Pugin's claim. The claims of the rival camps were summarised in a publication by Barry's son in the following year which, though almost as long-winded as Pugin's, leaves little room for doubt on the matter. Barry was the principal designer with much valuable and acknowledged assistance from **Augustus Pugin** (and **John Thomas**, whose descendents were presumably less nervous or contentious)

The *Pugin controversy* did not worry Barry in his lifetime but he had plenty of other anxieties to distract him. The first concerned the continuous flow of complaints from members of both houses about the progress of the construction work and features of the design. One of the first to complain was Lord Brougham who objected to the inclusion of a Ladies' Gallery, declaring '*I think ladies would be better employed in almost any other way than in attending parliamentary debates ...he wished always to see them in their proper place*'.

More serious problems followed as factions within Parliament set up a series of supervisory committees to check on the execution of the work and to enquire into delays and into changes to the design which had allegedly been made by Barry as the work progressed. The architect was obliged to make numerous appearances before these committees and was eventually exonerated, but he became ill as a result of the extra work and anxiety. He may have drawn some consolation from the letter written to him by **Lord de Grey**, the first president of the Society of British Architects (later the RIBA). He wrote to Barry:

Sir Christopher Wren had to deal with men who knew what they wanted ... I am sorry to say that the august assembly that has most to do with the erection of this magnificent structure has in it a vast number of men who ask questions, make suggestions and offer criticism, while at the same time they do not know what is wanted or, indeed, what they want themselves.

This letter was written specifically in connection with a controversy which caused Barry much distress and left him out of pocket. The fact that the Commissioners did not feel themselves '*...called upon to make the cost of any design an object of our consideration*' did not mean that their generosity would extend to the architect. On the contrary. The parsimonious attitude to public expenditure which had been suspended in the design and construction of the building was re-instated in double measure in the matter of the architect's fees.

It was normal professional practice at the time for the architect's fee to be set at 5% of the cost of construction. The cost of the building eventually mounted to £1,997,246, a figure which would have earned Barry a fee of almost £100,000. In March 1839 the Treasury wrote to Barry announcing that they would pay him a fee of £25,000 for the design. A fruitless correspondence with the Treasury followed, dragging on for twenty years. Barry's letters were often unanswered. The Treasury refused Barry's offer of arbitration and was not above leaking correspondence to *The Times* if it helped their case. The Council of the RIBA supported Barry, declaring that the Treasury's attitude was '*unworthy of the government of a great nation*'. The rhetoric achieved nothing. Barry may have built his reputation as architect of the Palace of Westminster, but he certainly didn't make his fortune.

Barry's next ordeal concerned the arrangements for heating, lighting and ventilating the building. No less than seven select committees were established to consider these matters, four by the Commons

and three by the Lords. A Commons Committee was impressed by the representations of a medical practitioner, **Dr David Reid**, who proposed to ventilate the building by means of one shaft through a central tower by which all smoke and air would be discharged from the building. Reid was appointed in 1840 to oversee the construction in the House of Commons though Barry was left with the Lords - a most unsatisfactory division of responsibility.

As the building work progressed doubts began to emerge. The central tower could become a serious fire hazard which would expose the building to the same risk as the old palace - destruction through the agency of its own heating system. Barry encountered further difficulties in dealing with Reid as is shown in his evidence to a Lords Committee in 1846. Reid was evasive, and confusing in his evidence, perhaps attempting to blind his hearers with science; Barry was exasperated, making reference to '*the ingenious attempts made by Dr Reid to mystify the facts*'.

Six years later another Committee laboured for two months and produced a report running to 670 pages which concluded that the heating system '*should be confided to one competent person*'. That person was **Goldsworthy Gurney**. His credentials were more impressive than those of Dr Reid and he worked more harmoniously with Barry though he had some anxious moments. In June 1858 when the building was almost complete, the stench from sewage in the Thames was such that the press named the crisis *The Great Stink*. Rooms overlooking the Thames had to be abandoned by members who were unable to stand the smell. Gurney wrote to the Speaker that he could '*no longer be responsible for the health of the House*'. This provoked a debate whose outcome was Bazalgette's construction of London's main drainage. ❖

Next month: Big Ben from **Stephen Halliday's** book *Making the Metropolis* available from Ottakar's Bookshop.

review historynote

On Top of the Tower

The view of Berkhamsted drawn by the 18thC antiquary **William Stukely** following a visit in 1724 shows the tower of St Peter's with a central spirelet - a typical Hertfordshire *spike*. Is this a true representation? Or was Stukeley working from memory and an incomplete sketch? The slightly earlier view of St Peter's in the painting by the Dutch artist Wyke the Younger is rather too distant to decide the matter using only the reproduction in **Percy Birtchnell's** *Short History of Berkhamsted*, although there seems to be no *spike*. Later views of the tower, dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, show the tower surmounted by a cross as we see it today, but without the flagpole. At this time the weathercock sat on top of the cross, on a pole which, judging from early photographs was about

four or five feet long. The flagpole first appears in mid-19th century illustrations but the weathercock was still on top of the cross at least until the 1920s. More recently the weathercock narrowly escaped destruction when the flagpole was struck by lightning and blown to pieces.

The cross is nearly 13 feet tall, made of wood completely encased in sheet lead. An iron frame is bolted around the upper part of the cross and perhaps supported the pole on which the weathercock was mounted. Inscribed in the lead and covering it densely up to seven feet above the roof are many names and initials. The earliest date I have been able to discover, 1827, is low down on the north side. As the cross was certainly in place on the tower before this date, perhaps it was clad, or re-clad in lead at the time of Wyatville's restoration in the 1820s. Later inscriptions represent almost every decade up to the present.

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Children's Society Events

Needlecraft Exhibition by Threads of Amersham

This year the exhibition will take place on August 19th-21st from 11am to 4:30pm. 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. 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 and Sound* 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.

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Walking With the Children's Society

The 37th **Berkhamsted Sponsored Walk** took place on the 8th May this year. With a choice of three routes of 18, 12, and five miles it attracted around 250 walkers. Over £5,000 was raised for the vital work of the Children's Society. Its campaign to save run-away and thrown-out children from the dangers of life on the streets, and out of the courts and jails, will be furthered by the generosity of the sponsors. The Walk could not happen without the support of the many helpers who make it possible; our grateful thanks to them all.

Of note was the contribution of a group of 14-year old girls from Abbot's Hill School. The Berkhamsted Walk was preparatory to a walk for them in the Brecon Beacons as a part of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. The girls raised over £1,200 between them. One of them raised the most individual sponsorship, winning the prize of a pair of Chris Brasher walking boots generously donated by the Complete Outdoors. Who dare say children aren't caring?

If you are a walker, or want to sight-see in London, why not take part in the Children's Society **London Bridges Walk** on Saturday 17th September? The walk starts at Tate Modern, first crossing the Millennium Bridge and then other bridges on a five mile or 10 mile route. It's a fun day out for families and friends with, (for those who want it!), live music, food, a quiz, and goodie bags. It passes many of the capital's well known land-marks, while raising funds for work with the country's most vulnerable children and young people. Registration and details are available on the supporter action line, 0845 3001128. We hope to see you there.


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reviewnorthchurch

The Power of Water

It shapes our landscapes and our lives: **Jonathan Griffin** writes

We recently spent a few days as a family on the coast at a lovely Suffolk village. It is so pleasant that I shall not name it so that it doesn't get too popular! Suffice to say it is an excellent centre for walking, sitting in the sunshine, cycling and

bird-watching, it is however not a place for bathing as the currents are too strong.

On the first day, the area between the groyne was covered in pebbles, but a strong tide and fierce winds resulted in the pebbles disappearing overnight, leaving beautiful sandy stretches between the sea-defences – a haven next morning for numerous *young* families to build castles and even to attempt some beach cricket.

A few miles along the coast is the submerged *city* of Dunwich, long since lost as a major port in previous centuries. Years ago, the power of the waves engulfed it,

and brought down the sandstone cliffs around it, an erosion process still being continued at other parts of this coastline. The power of water can be physically immense.

However, water can be spiritually immense too using only a very small quantity. The act of Baptism in the Anglican church requires only a few drops of water on the top of the head; yet it symbolises the acceptance of the person being baptised into our Lord's love and protection, and His willingness to forgive us our sins. Infant baptism paves the way via parents and godparents to preparation for Confirmation when young people are old enough to make personal decisions to accept the promises made to us all by our Lord.

We may moan about '*the weather*' when on holiday; but the world would cease to exist as we know it without that very precious commodity, water. To us, it is such an everyday substance – to others just a few drops can be vitally precious, and not just for Baptism. Let us thank God for all his gifts. ❖

← p11 Oxfam's 21st Children's Wear Event

good as new, children's and young people's clothes, year round. Twice a year, the shop takes over the Civic Centre hall to sell the seasons' clothes, equipment, toys and books for children from infant to teenager of both sexes.

It only happens thanks to the hard work and generosity of donors, volunteers and purchasers. Out of around 800 Oxfam shops, Berkhamsted's children's wear section is tops for fund raising, while the shop itself has the accolade of having won the national shop team of the year from among all charity shops. Berkhamsted is making a real contribution to **MakingPovertyHistory**. If you are not already, please become part of this success story by contacting Audrey (864225) or Nicky (872502) to find out what you could do.

Thank you, on behalf of those under fives and their families waiting for life-giving water supplies and basic sanitation. ❖



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The Town Hall bears the date AD 1859 and was formally opened in August of the following year. Although we call it the Town Hall, it was originally built to replace the old Market House which had burnt down in suspicious circumstances on 23rd August 1854. Henry Nash in his *Reminiscences of Berkhamsted* tends to reinforce our suspicions when he tells us that 'the town was opposed to re-building on the old site, the inhabitants had too lively a recollection of the unsightly obstruction they had so recently got rid of'. In earlier centuries the Court House, then called the Church House, had served as Town Hall. A 17th century document refers to it as 'the Church House, with a hall thereto called the Towne Hall', but by the 1850s that arrangement had evidently lapsed, and the Trustees of the new building agreed that it should serve not only to replace the Market House but also incorporate a town hall, reading room, committee room and magistrates' office.

Having decided this ambitious scheme and

THE TOWN HALL

Christopher Green writes



invited subscriptions to fund it, the Trustees, rather daringly, engaged **Edward Buckton Lamb** as architect. Lamb was a thoroughly original exponent of the Gothic revival but, as the Town Hall strikingly shows, his designs were not simply imitations of medieval buildings but imaginative compositions making use of Gothic forms and detail. This somewhat irreverent attitude towards the traditions of Gothic architecture brought him into fierce conflict with the more orthodox champions of the Gothic revival. He is described in the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* as 'the arch-roogue of High Victorian inventiveness'.

The Town Hall was nearly demolished in the 1970s but the vision of the townsfolk of Berkhamsted that inspired its original development remained alive and it was saved to become once again a focus of community activity in the heart of the town. ❖

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

Answer to July's What & Where in St Peter's?



A detail from the coat of arms on Sarah and Augustus Pechell's memorial featured on p16 of the July review.

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review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



Magic was in the air at the July meeting of Berkhamsted Castle WI. It was almost a *full house* as several members who had been away on holidays or with illness returned to be welcomed by President for the month **Joy**

Lovell.

Joy began the afternoon with a poem by Joyce Grenfell which caused a great deal of amusement, and another, more thought-provoking one in which the writer considering a day's housework with some dread suddenly thinks of those who, for whatever reason, have no homes. It made us all stop and think how fortunate we are.

There was not much by way of business this month, but Secretary **Janet Mitchell** dealt with what there was with her usual efficiency. We then welcomed **Jill Blumson** from Berkhamsted WI who had been our representative at the national AGM held at the Albert Hall last month. Jill gave us an interesting account of the day there and the way in which the resolutions were passed. Joy thanked her for her excellent report.

While the business was going on a lady and gentleman had been carrying in a variety of interesting and unusual items. The gentleman was **Mr Michael Dix** who was our speaker for the afternoon, the lady, his helpful wife. Mr Dix's talk was entitled *That's Magic* and his presentation certainly was. We heard about the beginnings of magic as entertainment, the stories of some of its greatest exponents like Houdini and David Nixon, and how stage magic has adapted to television. As he went along, Mr Dix delighted his audience with all sorts of tricks and illusions. Nobody actually disappeared, but several were able to become Magician's Assistant for the day to help him.

A very enjoyable time was nicely rounded-off with delicious home-made cakes and a

cuppa. Mrs Dix kindly judged the competition which was for *A Rabbit*. There were many entries, some furry, others ceramic, brass or resin. There was even one made from a sock.

Blooms of the month were displayed and it was good to see the fresh loveliness of the garden flowers in wide variety. Members voted with coins for the winner, the money going to help WI's own charity *Associated Women of the World* which we support each month.

Members were reminded about the Garden Tea and Bric-a-Brac sale to be held on July 3rd. I can report that this was well attended, the weather was kind and we raised a goodly sum towards our funds.

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

Sunday 14th August - Why not take a gentle stroll with **Brian** and **Sian Barton** and discover the wealth of wildlife in the Ashridge Estate. An informal walk lasting for about two hours, open to all, no booking required. Just turn up on the day - 2:30pm at the Visitor Centre on Monument Green.

RINGING FOR VICTORY

Along with towers all over the country, the bells of St Peter's were rung at 5.00 pm on Sunday 10th July, as part of the National Day of Commemoration for the sixtieth anniversary of VE and VJ days, marking the end of the Second World War. This coincided with the fly-past over Buckingham Palace and the dropping from a Lancaster bomber of a million poppy petals over the Mall. We were joined by a ringer from Northchurch and during the ringing we repeated the changes rung that morning before the service in Westminster Abbey.

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) has always been given strong support by Hertfordshire police but an added boost comes from the fact that the new Chief Constable, **Frank Whiteley**, is the Neighbourhood Watch focus on the Association of Chief Constables for England and Wales. What is special about that? You ask. Well, for the first time NW gets some real clout at Chief Constable level. Instead of just talk we've got action to give NW a new structure and emphasis. During 2004 a County working party assessed NW strengths and weaknesses and planned the way forward. This plan was launched in April 2005 under the banner **Hertswatch**. It strengthens and formalises links between local level and County Headquarters at Welwyn Garden City. One consistent criticism over the last few years has been the very unsatisfactory means of contact by the public with the police - often in urgent cases. Now a much improved contact management system has been developed which will be applied across the county by early 2006. Each of the ten police county districts will have a Community Coordinator as well as a Watch Liaison Officer. The coordinators job will be to collect feedback from local NW volunteers on issues of concern to them and give it direct to top officers at Welwyn. The job of Watch Liaison Officer is to operate and expand the Neighbourhood watch areas.

Locally in Dacorum our Community Coordinator is Mr **Tom Coley**, Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead Crime Prevention Panel. He will raise, at county level, issues of concern to NW members in Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead and Tring. **Phil Anslow**, who has been so enthusiastic and successful in setting up Neighbourhood Watch areas covering 17,000 homes in Dacorum, will continue as Watch Liaison Officer, developing and expanding NW in our district. To raise issues that you would like to bring to the

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The latest news and advice from the **Berkhamsted Crime Prevention Panel**

attention of the Chief constable contact either of the above at: Hemel Hempstead Police Station, Combe Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1HL (271020)

Are you interested in Neighbourhood Watch?

If you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or don't know of one locally, why not talk with your neighbours about setting up a scheme to cover nearby homes - between 5 and 40 homes is normally appropriate. If you agree to create a scheme, contact your local Police Station or **Phil Anslow** at the above address.

Someone has to be the local point of contact for **Phil Anslow**. This is not an onerous role. Every three months a short Newsletter about the local crime situation and with crime prevention tips is given to you with sufficient copies for distribution to your group. If concerns are expressed by your group members you pass them on to **Phil Anslow**, and once a year you will be invited to a local forum for Local Coordinators.

How does Neighbourhood Watch help?

It is basically a local advice, information and feedback system which has been shown to reduce and discourage crime in areas where it exists.

It acts as a deterrent to would-be criminals, by visual indicators in windows and on lamp-posts that NW exists

It provides a means of giving information to the community on local Crime Prevention initiatives and techniques

It provides a basis for close public/police cooperation in response to crime.

And some insurance companies offer reduced House Contents Insurance premiums if you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme! ❖

review notes¬ices

VICTORIA SCHOOL

Victoria C of E First School country dancers have been busy in the community over the last few weeks. On the 18th June the dancers enjoyed dancing for parents and visitors at the Victoria School Association Summer Fair. The following Saturday the dancers took part in the Petertide Fair and enjoyed performing their programme. Again on Monday a group of dancers visited Gossoms End community hospital and danced on the ward for the patients. The children are tutored by Mrs Wright a senior teacher at Victoria. All the school thoroughly enjoyed a theatre group that visited in June, with the children actually taking part in the production of *Stig of the Dump* - and great fun was had by all.

DIGGING FOR VICTORY IN DACORUM

The Dacorum Heritage Trust is presenting an exhibition about the Home Front during the Second World War. The exhibition will be open from 10:30am to 4:00pm on Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th August. Admission free - Donations welcome.

Venue: Frogmore Mill, Fourdrinier Way, off Durrants Hill Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead.

Tours of Frogmore Paper Mill will be available from 10:30am to 2:00pm.

Groups by arrangement.

Car Park - off Durrants Hill Road

For further details please contact

The Dacorum Heritage Trust (879525)

MARKET DATES

Farmers Market - Sunday 21st August

Antique and Collectibles Market -

Friday 5th August

Town Hall Community Market -

Saturday 6th August

TUESDAY CLUB

On July 5th two volunteer helpers, Stephanie and Jill from the Iain Rennie hospice at Home gave us an illustrated talk about the work of the IRHH, celebrating twenty years of caring.

The pioneering service began in 1985 when five nurses helped the first patient, Iain Rennie, to come home from hospital to be with his young family during the final stages of his battle with cancer. Today there are 45 qualified nurses, twelve home volunteers with a Council of trustees, a Director of Nursing and an Appeals Director, all working to give home care to terminally ill patients and their families across the Chilterns area.

WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER

The Week of Accompanied Prayer, Friday 7th October to Friday 14th October, is an opportunity for people to set aside time each day for a week to allow God to be more closely in touch with their daily world through prayer. For further information and/or an application form please contact **Anne Strach** (872542) anne@lastrach.fsnet.co.uk or **Jackie Harbron** (873012).

THANK YOU

to our tireless team of distributors, who make sure you get your copy of the *Review* each month through your letterbox, come rain and shine, wind and hail!

AUGUST

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong		
	<i>All Saints' 7th</i>	8:45am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led		
	14 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led		
	21 st	8:45am Holy Communion – Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led		
	28 th	10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led		
TUE			<i>All Saints'</i> 9:30am	Eucharist
WED	<i>St Peter's</i>	5:00pm Evening Prayer (EP)		
THU	<i>St Peter's</i>	11:00am Eucharist 5:00pm EP		
FRI	<i>St Peter's</i>	9:15am Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i> 5:00pm	EP
SAT			<i>All Saints'</i> 8:45am	MP
1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH	12:30pm		<i>Court House</i>
	For anyone on their own on a Sunday.		Contact: Joan Morris (863780)	
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP	7:45pm		<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)			
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP:	8:00pm at 22 Upper Hall Park for bible study.		
	Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)			
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)	
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIR Children	5:15 to 6:15pm		<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)			
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB	8:15pm	<i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i>	<i>Court House</i>
	Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)			
3 rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.			
	<i>Non-members always welcome.</i>		Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)	
4 rd Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP:	2:00pm		<i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i>
	Tell us if anyone needs our prayers.		Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)	
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month		at Jenny's 57 Meadow Rd	
	<i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i>		or at Ruth's 1 Montague Rd	
	Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)			
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB	7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8)	Jimmy Young (384929)	
			<i>All Saints' Hall</i>	
3 rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT	Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved.		
	Contact Thelma Harris (865785)			
Thu	HOME GROUP:	8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays.	Contact Linda Bisset (862115)	
Thu	TE'S (Youth club for yr 9+)	7-9pm	Jimmy Young (384929)	<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, Adults 7:30-8:30pm.		<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)			
3 rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST:	8:00am for breakfast & prayers.		<i>Various local churches</i>

reviewdiary

Please see opposite for a full list of services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

August / September 2005

AUGUST

Mon	1	8:00pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing <i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	17		Induction of The Reverend Jonathan Gordon <i>St Mary's, Northchurch</i>
Sat	20	8:00am	Associated Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast .. <i>Sunnyside Church</i>

SEPTEMBER

Fri	2	10:00am	Little Fishes Toddlers' Service <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	3	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents The Bridgewater Band <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	10	10:00am- 6:00pm	Beds & Herts Historic Churches sponsored Bike Ride <i>to & from most churches</i>
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	12	8:00pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	13	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service <i>Noah and his Ark</i> <i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	14	8:00pm	<i>All Saints' & St Peter's</i> Area Committees meet
Sat	17	8:00am	Associated Churches Berkhamsted Prayer Breakfast <i>St Mary's, Northchurch</i>
		7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents Berkhamsted & Chorleywood Choral Societies <i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	23	11:00am	Victoria C of E 1 st School Harvest Service <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	25		Harvest Festival <i>both All Saints' & St Peter's</i>
Tue	27	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Harvest Service <i>All Saints'</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

26 June	Alexandra Serena Moore, Polly Demelza Berryman
10 July	Katherine Alice Hesslegrave

Weddings (St Peter's)

18 June	Benjamin Paul Gregory & Suzanne Hart
2 July	Brian Richard Jones & Lisa Carole Dell

Funerals

22 June	Geoffrey Harold Joseph Lee	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)
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review factfile

ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell	877001
	Mrs H Blundell	875021
St Mary's Northchurch	Mrs D Knapp	864368
All Saints' Anglican	Mr John Malcolm	874993
Methodist All Saints'	Revd Paul Timmis	866324
	Mrs Ida Rance	865829
Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr Peter Grant	863845
	Mr Frank Furlong	862768
Society of Friends (Quakers)	The Clerk's Team,	288 High Street
Kings Road Church	Pastor Billy Milton	864393
	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Sunnyside	Mrs S Wright	875025
St John the Evangelist,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Bourne End	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

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reviewcontacts

General

The Revd David Abbot, Rural Dean (865100) can be contacted during the vacancy
 The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)
 The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
 Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
 Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)
 Joan Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street (866278)
 John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993)
 Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)
 Parish Administration: Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House (878227)
 Stewardship Recorder: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway (871598)
 Churchwardens: Carole Dell, 4 Clarence Road (864706)
 Tracy Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

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

St Peter's

Priest-in-charge—vacant
 Director of Music: Adrian Davis (864722) stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk
 Asst. Director of Music: Jean Wild (866859)
 Organist: Jonathan Lee (0794 1113232)
 Weddings and Funerals: The Revd David Abbott (865100)
 Banns of Marriage: Jean Green (878227)
 Baptisms: Marjorie Bowden (871283)
 Bellringers (St Peter's): Priscilla Watt, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

All Saints'

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn (874894)
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local
 Ecumenical Partnership. allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk
 Anglican priest-in-charge — vacant
 Methodist minister: Revd Paul Timmis, 32 Finch Road (866324)

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