

Berkhamsted *review*

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September 2005



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the September 2005 issue of the Berkhamsted review

With this issue of the Review, I complete a year as your Editor. My thanks are due to contributors, advertisers and readers for continuing support, and we are all indebted to Tony Firshman whose technical skills have so effectively raised the production standards of the *review* during the past year. This anniversary had me thinking about continuity and change, and noticing several events during the last month that in different ways mark out the passing of the years in our parish and town. We have appointed a new Rector who writes for us for the first time in this issue. He will be, so far as records can tell, the 81st Rector of the parish since Robert de Tuardo was instituted by the Bishop of Wells in 1222. We have cut down a great lime tree in our churchyard where it has stood probably for more than 150 years. It would have been a seedling when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Berkhamsted in 1841. And at the beginning of August, our church architect, Percy Mark, began his quinquennial inspection of St Peter's. He will go on to inspect All Saints'. His detailed reports will guide our care for the buildings for another five years.

Christopher Green

Stephen Halliday's article about **Big Ben** is held over until next month

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

Cover photograph — The Lime Tree (p16)
Tony Firshman

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

2 September 7 October 4 November



Vision in Adversity

Father Luke
commends the long
view

At my work there are some archives. And in those archives are documents relating to the establishment of the NHS. So far, so boring. Until you look at the dates. 1940 and 1941. As the bombs were falling on London and Hitler's invasion of Britain seemed imminent a group of people had the courage and vision to look beyond the war, beyond the immediate crises and start creating the kind of society they wanted Britain to become. A society where people could have quality healthcare at whatever stage of life whatever their income. Judging by the times of the meetings most of the sessions must have been held while the bombs were falling and the sirens were wailing. What foresight these people had.


And so to Britain in 2005. Suicide bombers in London, not once but twice. And strangely familiar – bus routes we travel on, tube stations we change at. The media are consumed by the crisis. Has any one been arrested? Was there a shoot out? Are there more bomb factories? The police and emergency services are doing a fantastic job. But was it just me or is the *reassurance policing* somewhat disquieting as uniformed men sheathed in body armour and toting machine guns stride around Euston Station? There is a crisis but are we in danger of making a drama out of it?




Last Thursday I went to see a man. A successful business man from the Muslim community with good connections. He has a vision. A vision of quality state run schools in the most deprived communities of Britain. Schools where Muslim parents and Imams are confident that their values are upheld. But also schools that are not ghettos – schools where a large proportion

review leader

of pupils are not from the Muslim community. Schools that attract bright young Muslim graduates to teach. And where Muslim teachers feel confident to engage with the different traditions of the West not withdraw from them. It'll take five years to undertake the planning and gain the necessary approvals. Another five to build. And another seven before the first students leave. Even longer before these Muslims gain positions of leadership and influence.

As I listened to this I thought of the people in the bomb shelters during the war planning the NHS. While the media focus on the problems this man focuses on the long term solutions. There are certainly no quick fixes here. I thought of his vision and courage of trying to build a better society while the bombs went off. I hope those in power have the imagination to see while we have to deal with the crisis we also have to plan for the long term too. I hope that in fifty years time we will look back and say what foresight these people had. ❖


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*It is with joy in our hearts that we announce the appointment of **Father Michael Bowie** as the Team Rector Designate of Great Berkhamsted. He will be installed at St Peter's on 21st November at 7:30pm by Bishop Christopher of St Albans. We look forward to welcoming Father Michael to Berkhamsted and feel sure that we now have the right person to take the Parish forward into what will be a new era for all of us.*

Father Michael
writes:

I was born and grew up in Sydney and can claim to be seventh-generation Australian. My father was a priest and my parents had both been missionaries (China and Hong Kong); as a teenager my faith became real through my experience of Eucharistic worship in the only Anglo-Catholic parish in Sydney, Christ Church St Lawrence, which has a similar musical tradition to St Peter's.

Having completed my first degree, in Classics, at Sydney University, I first came to the UK in 1985 to read for a doctorate at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. While there I was sponsored for ordination by the Diocese of Oxford and stayed on to read for a theology degree and undergo training for ordination at St Stephen's House. I was ordained in Rochester and served curacies in Kent and South Wales, before returning

OUR NEW RECTOR

The Churchwardens
welcome the Revd Dr
Michael Bowie



to Sydney as Rector of my home parish in 1996. My next move however was to bring me back to the UK, to the parish of St James Norton, Sheffield, in 2000.

Carolina and I were married in 2000; she was born in Chile but grew up in Australia, her parents having fled the Pinochet dictatorship. She is a musician (oboe, piano, organ and singing), has a degree in drama and is at present completing her graduate teacher-training qualification at York St John College. We have two Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Roland & Bernard, and a cat, Sebastian.

Every parish profile that has ever been written asks for a priest who is approachable and has a good sense of humour; we believe that all five of us fulfil these criteria, but I suppose you must be the judge of that. Carolina and I are both very enthusiastic about our move to Berkhamsted and about all the opportunities and challenges that the Parish and the new Team will present. We have been warmly welcomed already and are very impressed with the way in which your Churchwardens and many others have looked after the vacancy and the process of appointment, for which many thanks to all concerned.

I shall remember the parishes of the team frequently in my daily prayers; please pray for us as we prepare to come and work with you for the advancement of God's kingdom and the building up of the Church. ❖

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Schedule your AGM for a July evening and it's obvious you will have a major problem! How to encourage attendance at what is probably the least favourite event in the calendar when any sensible person would far rather spend their summer evening in congenial surroundings supping a Pimms or a glass of chilled white wine?

How then to solve this dilemma? This year's solution for the Mothers' Union in the St Albans diocese was to entice members to attend their annual meeting by organising a strawberry cream tea before the meeting, keeping the official business to a minimum and inviting two speakers from the mainly young full-time staff at the organisation's HQ to address the meeting.

Judging by the chatter in the hall and the speed with which scones and strawberries were demolished, cream teas could well sweep the country as a pre-AGM event to attract greater attendance. It certainly succeeded in this case as numbers attending were certainly higher than in previous years. Thus fortified by refreshment and exchange of news, members settled down to dispatch the official business as speedily as possible.

After this the two young ladies from Mary Sumner House (head of the Marketing Unit and a research officer from the Action and Outreach Unit) were invited to address the meeting. An air of expectancy hovered over the gathering – what would they have to tell us about the Mothers' Union that

we didn't already know? After all, they were talking to the converted.

In fact the aim of their presentation was precisely to make us question the way we look at our organisation and view it from a different

perspective. We were asked to consider who we are as the Mothers' Union and what we think we stand for. Having compiled a list of suggestions from members the speakers then considered each of the five objects upon which membership of the MU is based and showed which of our many overseas and domestic projects were living out each particular object.

It was certainly an interesting exercise and very worthwhile to have the whole range of the Mothers' Union project work and campaigns explained again, especially as finally we were urged that we must be prepared to communicate more effectively what the Mothers' Union stands for and what it is doing. ❖

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My favourite line in the television series version of *The Hitch Hikers' Guide to the Galaxy* occurs when **Slarty Bartfast** describes his job of designing the Earth. He said that he particularly enjoyed "*the crinkly bits around the fjords*". In the feature film version that I saw recently at the Rex Cinema I was slightly disappointed when, in the **Bill Nighy** version of Slarty Bartfast, the line was changed to "*the fiddly bits around the fjords*". One should not tinker with a classic. But whether crinkly or fiddly I thought this was a funny line which highlights the nature of the joke which the whole book tells - that the earth and its landscapes were constructed with an intention and for a purpose which is not obvious at first sight. In fact, as the film reveals: the Earth is a giant computer whose purpose is to find the ultimate question - which cannot be found by "*deep thought*". It is significant that what is being sought is *the question*, not *the answer*. **Neil Kinnock** once told a similar joke (off the record) about his experiences working as a European Commissioner. It was, he said, like drawing a diagram with 'x' and 'y' co-ordinates "*where x is the unknown quantity and y? is the question*".

As well as telling a joke, *The Hitch Hikers' Guide to the Galaxy* is also science fiction. Whereas jokers highlight the question or rather the absence of a question, scientists look for "*the unknown quantity*", answers to questions that have been posed, solutions to problems that have been encountered. And the solutions in science fiction often become fact. At a site near Toddington a new *natural* landscape is already being designed and constructed. About a hundred years ago Sundon Quarry became exhausted and since then has been used as a landfill site. The vast hole in the ground was gradually filled, at first with comparatively inert waste, and more

Ian Reay's &news &views

Lets pretend it isn't there

Ian Reay tackles the ethics of
land restoration

recently with ordinary, untreated domestic refuse. This waste land, covering several hectares, is being shaped and capped with a watertight lining which in turn is being covered with topsoil a metre thick.

When finished, after about three years, the site will be seeded and planted and carefully designed to look like a chalk grassland meadow complete with copses, hedges, footpaths and wildlife. The designers will first have to get planning permission though.

It is hoped that nobody will notice that this patch of new landscape in Bedfordshire is artificial. Of course, almost nowhere is our countryside natural in the sense of being an original wilderness. Human hands in each age have shaped it according to the agricultural, economic and social needs of the time. The meadows, fields and hedges that we see emerged for a purpose which, even if it has now been forgotten, was not a secret and was not intended to be deceptive. They are what they are, even if their original function is lost. But Sundon Quarry is different, it will be a rubbish tip masquerading as a meadow. Its original function is to be deliberately hidden from view. Evidence of this concealment will be found though; in the flue pipe that will come out of the ground to release the trapped methane gas generated by the decaying refuse. This gas will be burned to generate two megawatts of electricity for the next fifty or more years.

Unlike the questing Earth of *The Hitch Hikers' Guide*, this reclamation project is a technological fix pretending to be nature. It does not seek a question but finds an answer and the answer is, unfortunately, a lie. ❖

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Berkhamsted's Hidden History

Heritage Open Day — Sunday 11th September 2005

Most residents of Berkhamsted know where the Castle, St. Peter's Church, the former Berkhamsted School, the Town Hall and Ashlyns School are, but perhaps they are less sure where **173 High Street** is, until we say, formerly Figg's the chemist, but how much do they know about the history of these important buildings. Many will have heard of the existence of the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store but will have little idea where it is or what it contains.

Now there is an opportunity for you to spend several enjoyable hours filling the gaps in your knowledge. On Sunday 11th September the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, in conjunction with the Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust and the Dacorum Heritage Trust, is staging a Heritage Open Day with opportunities for members of the public to visit various sites in the town, where there will be guided tours, and to learn more about the history of these places.

Guided tours of the **Castle**, the best example of a motte and bailey castle in the country, with an important history, and many royal connections, will begin at **10am, 12noon and 2pm**. Assemble at the Castle gateway.

Guided tours of the **Old Hall**, formerly known as School House, the original building of **Dean Incent's school**, founded in 1541, & the 19thc school **Chapel** of the former **Berkhamsted School** (now the Collegiate School), Castle Street, will commence in **the Old Hall at 10am and 2pm**.

Guided tours of **St. Peter's Church** will begin at **2pm and 3pm**. Meet at the West door of the church by the War Memorial.

173 High Street, now Claire Lloyd Properties, is open from 10am - 4pm. This is the oldest known urban timber frame house in the country, dating back to the thirteenth century. Small group tours will be available. **For further details of exact times of tours please ring 865158.**

Guided Tours will take place at the **Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store**. This Store, an accredited Museum, houses large collections of old photographs, maps and other artefacts belonging to the various history societies across Dacorum, most notably those of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society and the Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society. Housed in the former fire station behind the Civic Centre, it is accessed via Clarence Road. For further details and to book, please phone 879525 or email cpeet@dacht2.freemove.co.uk Booking is essential.

Guided tours will be available at **Ashlyns School**, the former **Foundling Hospital**. There is much of interest here linking the building with the original London Foundling Hospital. Tours, including the Chapel and the Crypt as well as the main building, will begin at **2pm** and will be led by those who remember the Foundling Hospital days. Please assemble at the entrance to the main school building. A guided tour of **Berkhamsted Town Hall** will commence at **11am**. Assemble inside at the top of the stairs.

We are very proud of Berkhamsted's rich historical heritage. Please do support this event. If it is a success, we shall include other buildings next year, and even incorporate a small exhibition. For further details of all these tours please phone **Jenny Sherwood** (865158).

Following last year's very successful Centenary Festival, the eighth annual Graham Greene Festival will take place from 29th September to 2nd October 2005 in Berkhamsted, the town of his birth,

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

The Festival will comprise a mixture of films, talks and other events; most events take place in Berkhamsted's Town Hall or in the School.

Speakers will include:

Sir Peter Stothard on Greene, journalism and *The Times*.

Professor John Sutherland and **Kate Mosse** on *The End of the Affair*

Adrian Wootton on Graham Greene and the cinema

Koo Stark on her memories of Graham Greene

Marie-Françoise Allain and **Euan Cameron** on knowing and working with Greene

Dr Martin Corner on the depiction of

GRAHAM GREENE FESTIVAL 2005

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Dr Mark Bryant on the depiction of Greene in cartoons

Tom Aitken on *The Quiet American* and *Our Man in Havana*

Neil Sinyard on Greene as film critic

Clive Francis will read extracts from Greene's fiction

Dr Rudolf van Dalm on *The Splinter of Ice*

Films will be *The Fallen Idol*, scripted by Greene from his own short story and directed by **Carol Reed**, and **Neil Jordan's** 1999 adaptation of Greene's *The End of the Affair*. The BBC documentary *The Beginning of the End of the Affair* will also be shown.

Other events will include a display of Greene in cartoons, an exhibition of book covers of *The End of the Affair*, a guided tour of Greene's old school, and a Pre-Festival Literary Quiz at Ashlyns School on 28th September at 7:15pm in aid of the Hospice of St Francis. Contact **Roger Sharp** (877621) for Quiz details.

Festival Office, Graham Greene Birthplace Trust, Rhenigdale, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted, HP4 2PP (865158) secretary@grahamgreenebt.org ❖

reviewpoetry

Ode to Spellchecker

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My chequer tolled me sew.

(ED: I had to add "chequer" to my computer dictionary!)

Regular visitors to Berkhamsted Castle will have noticed that a fine new bench has appeared in the castle grounds. Set partly in the shade of a large tree it provides rest for those who have just completed the ascent and descent of the motte. From its position it affords a good view of the extent of the castle bailey and the town beyond. This seat, provided by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, with the permission of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport and the approval of the Duchy of Cornwall, the owners of the Castle, is in memory of *Beorcham*, **Percy Charles Birtchnell**, 1910-1986, local historian, who was a founder member of the Society. It is hoped a formal dedication will take place shortly.

BEORCHAM

A local historian remembered

This year's prizes for the **Percy Birtchnell Memorial Prize**, presented annually by the Society to children in Year 4 of Victoria First School, Berkhamsted, were presented at the end of the school term. The topic for this year was *Life in Berkhamsted during the Second World War*. Prizes were presented, as follows, to **Joshi Fettes** for *Life in Berkhamsted in the Second World War*, to Nicole Heron for *Children in World War II* and to **Hannah Lingwood** for *Life in Berkhamsted during the Second World War*. **Lily Hubbard** was highly commended for her project, *World War II in Berkhamsted*.

Jenny Sherwood, Chairman Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society

WEA Berkhamsted Branch

Here are the courses starting in September 2005 in Berkhamsted and Tring. Remember that you can come and try out the first session of any course for free!

Three American Poets

Tutor: Ann Severn

Mon 19 September 8:00 – 9:30pm for 10 weeks at the Library, Kings Road
The lives and work of Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost.
Contact **Chris Buckle** 01442 250404

Computing for Beginners

Tutor: Jayne Willmott

Mon 19 September 8:00 – 9:30pm for 10 weeks at the Library, Kings Road
Try out different ways to use a computer – email, writing a letter and surfing the net.
Contact **Judith Lowther** 01442 865687
Only 9 places available.

Current Affairs Discussion

Tutor: Paul Harris

Tues 20 January 10 – 11:30am for 10 weeks at the Friends' Meeting House, High Street. A tutor-led discussion based around the group's interests from British politics to the rise of

China, and from the oil crisis to global warming.

Contact **Stan Goodman** 01442 255583

Key Films of the 20th Century

Tutor: John Wishmeyer

View significant films from across the world and examine them in some detail.
Wednesday 28 September 7:30 – 9:30pm for 10 weeks at the Baptist Church Hall, High Street.
Contact **Hazel Ward** 01442 875899

Introduction to Philosophy

Tutor: Gerald Bevan

Thursday 22 September 7:45 – 9:45pm for 10 weeks at Tring Library tbc
Philosophy is the basis for all other study. Explore past thinkers and be fascinated.
Contact **Roger Oliver** 01442 82465

Improvers IT

Tutor: David Britten

Wednesday 28 September 7:45 – 9:45pm for 10 weeks at Tring School
Structure your computer knowledge better and reduce your frustrations.
Contact **Roger Oliver** 01442 824656

Please phone the course contact for further information and to enrol early.

THE LIME TREE VANISHES

Should we leave the
churchyard as it is?

So the lime tree has gone. It isn't possible to record its age accurately from the number of rings in the main trunk because the centre is rotted away, but it was half-grown in 1870, visible in the photograph forming the frontispiece of Norris's book on St Peter's Church (top left photo). Could it have been planted to celebrate the accession of Queen Victoria in 1838, or her visit to Berkhamsted in 1841? It could have lived for three or four hundred years, but rot, which seems to have entered thirty feet or so above the ground, had extended upward into the branches and downward throughout the trunk. Its felling was a dramatic display of the tree surgeon's skills. First the branches were removed to leave the main trunk bare and gaunt, reaching up to the height of the church tower. From our house in Cowper Road, I could see the trunk rising above the rooftops and at the very top, chainsaw in hand, the man who was about to start reducing it to ground level.

Now we have an uninterrupted view of the Court House from Castle Street and of the north side of the church, and we can see the other trees in the churchyard - a silver lime, copper beech, oak and cedar. In the upper part of Castle Street, for the first time for many years, the evening sun shines directly on the houses and, so I am told, curtains must be drawn across or blinds pulled down.

What shall we do now? Opinion is divided. Some welcome the wider prospect of St Peter's in its new airy surroundings and would prefer to leave the churchyard as it is. Others find the new vistas of Church Lane and Castle Street less attractive and would welcome a young tree to grow into the place of the lime.

What do you think? Correspondence welcome.

Christopher Green

Tree surgery by **Roderick Wilson** (see p8)

Farewell from the Lime Tree

I'm past my best as you can see
But once I was a glorious tree

Priscilla Coombs







BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Fancy a bike ride for Charity?

Saturday 10 September 10am to 6pm



Fancy a really interesting bike ride or a long walk where you can enjoy yourself and at the same time help your local church? We need riders, and walkers to raise funds to keep their own and other churches and chapels in Beds & Herts in good repair. Please help us achieve this year's target of £100,000 by taking up this challenge. Thank you.

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Symphony No 40 - W A Mozart

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From Ottakar's and Bookthrift, Berkhamsted or
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The Cowper Society & The Bridgewater Band are members of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust
which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council



The Cowper Society



Berkhamsted Choral Society and
Chorleywood Choral Society



WEA Berkhamsted Branch

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Under 16s free. Phone 01442 876055 or available from Ottakar's and
Cole Flatt & Partners

Berkhamsted Choral Society and The Cowper Society are members of Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially assisted by Dacorum Borough Council. Berkhamsted Choral Society and Chorleywood Choral Society are affiliated to Making Music which represents and supports amateur performing and promoting societies.

www.berkhamstedchoralsociety.org


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review northchurch

Fares Please!

Jonathan Griffin
i n t r o d u c e s
recollections of
the local bus
service

Positive feedback from the recent article about Northchurch dialect gives us cause to offer a further airing of the village tales of "Hedgehog". This slice tells the tale of bus transport in and around Northchurch, and was originally published in the Northchurch parish newsletter.

With little involvement with local buses, the days of waiting for the 'twenty-to-five' with sixpence 'for the pictures' and a penny each way for travel seem far distant. Walking, cycling or firm's vehicles solved transport problems for me until redundancy at sixty-three. So not many tickets purchased.

However, personal knowledge plus tales I've been told can make copy for a Newsletter. Based at Potten End 'B and B' buses will be recalled by older readers. 'B and B' was the initials of the founders Bedford and Barnard; though patrons would protest it meant Bumps and Bruises! No doubt the wooden seats of these wartime buses prompted this name, as the hump-backed bridge from Aldbury to New Ground was traversed. Close by is Pendley Hill, where wartime buses had distinct problems. They pulled a small trailer where solid fuel was burned, producing gas for motive power, but sometimes passengers had to alight and walk the steepest part to enable the journey to continue at all!

This area around New Ground seemed to generate many other bus stories. The double decker had a conductor and on one occasion he left the bus at *The Cow Roast* to use the pub toilet, only for the bus to set off without him. The conductor hitched a lift on a lorry, which overtook the bus, stopped, and to the driver's amazement there was his conductor in the road ahead of him!

These double deckers had an open platform at the rear where an upright pole assisted boarding

and the conductor often stood by this pole. A retired bus driver would recall that, after a few pints during a rest period in Aylesbury, he and his conductor set off for Watford, only to be stopped by police near Tring. "Driver, where is your conductor?" - "Back of the bus", he replied. "No", said the police, "He came off the pole and the bus at the roundabout near Aylesbury!"

Now, nearer to Northchurch, at Durrants Lane, a certain lady one cold winter morning was devastated to find her beloved cat dead on the step of her cottage at Durrants Farm. Knowing her husband would be conductor on a bus soon arriving, she ran out and stopped it, pleading "Can you come, our cat is dead on the step, can't leave him in the cold." "Does it matter now?" retorted a passenger, but the conductor left the bus, removed the cat, and *Normal Service was resumed*.

In response to the above article, Hedgehog then received a letter containing further bus stories of the 1940s, with the writer's consent to offer them to others. Hold tight please....

"I recall a regular, jolly, portly conductor who, when approaching Tring Cemetery, would call out 'Anyone for the Cemetery? If not now, maybe later!'"

With the Durrants Lane request stop in mind, the writer recalled an anxious lady pulling the bell-cord (remember that?) several times, at which point the conductor announced "*All right lady, no need to play God Save the King on the b***** thing!*"

More comments concerned standing passengers, when the rule was strictly adhered to – so much so that even the *cat lady* of Durrants Lane on one occasion failed to board the bus as her conductor husband's arm barred entry. "*Sorry, full up!*" – words which left her astonished and stranded!

All long gone – on the 301!

Thank you Hedgehog; Just the Ticket!



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Interviews for clerical posts can be an ordeal, and it was with some trepidation that I drove to Northchurch and Wigginton in April. However, over the course of the interview process, which involved visiting the two church schools, meeting people from the churches, and then the formal interview, the reality was surprisingly relaxing. All of the candidates commented on the warmth and friendliness of the church communities and how much they appreciated the hospitality shown by local hosts. I was surprised and delighted when the Bishop of Hertford phoned on the Wednesday evening and offered me the post. As a family, we are all now looking forward to moving into the Rectory in August and the licensing service on Wednesday 17th August. The last few weeks have involved looking at local schools, sorting out the practicalities of changing to a new

THOUGHTS AND TASKS SINCE APRIL

The Revd Jonathan Gordon, incoming Rector of Northchurch writes



address and in recent weeks saying farewell to friends and colleagues in Southampton Institute and St Michael's parish. The work at the Institute over the last 7-8 years has been very rewarding. Being a student in Higher Education is very demanding, and it has been a great privilege to work with colleagues in Student Support at the Institute who are committed to providing pastoral support, financial advice and the encouragement of each student to reach their

potential.

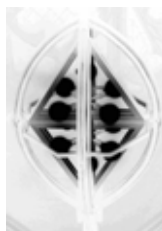
As Northchurch and Wigginton prepare for a major change of their own, with the completion of arrangements for the united benefice, we are greatly looking forward to being part of the local community and getting to know people within the parishes and beyond. ❖

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

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



A negative view of the lamp in the Lady Chapel

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review notes & notices

NEW RECTOR

The **Revd Dr Michael Bowie** and his wife Carolina (pronounced Caroleena) will be moving into the Rectory in November - Fr Michael's Installation 7:30pm Monday 21 November at *St Peter's*, Bp Christopher + St Albans, presiding. Please see the church notice boards if you would like to know more about Fr Michael & Carolina.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



The August meeting took the form of a Members' Afternoon. President-for-the-month, **Liz Baxendale**, opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone, and Secretary, Janet Mitchell, dealt swiftly with the small amount of business. The September outing to Ham house was discussed and details finalised. And then it was ... On with the fun!

Members grouped into fours and indulged in a variety of games, including Ludo, Snakes and Ladders and a very noisy session of Snap. A couple of quizzes had everyone diving into their memories for nursery rhyme characters and famous dogs and some rather saucy poems were read during the afternoon too. All in all we had a very jolly and pleasantly sociable time. The competition for a pin-cushion was won by **Joy Lovell**, and the bloom-of-the-month was won by Liz. **Judith Lowther** presided over the raffle, and tea was served by **Mavis Banyard** and **Jean Horwood**.

The Court House seemed lighter without the lime tree outside but we all felt sad that it had had to go (see p16).

Our meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 2:00pm, and we would be pleased to see any lady who feels they would like to know more about the WI and our local branches. Do come along, we'd love to meet you.

Our September speaker is blind and will talk about *Housekeeping in the Dark*. Perhaps we shall have the pleasure of your company. Ring 866464 for more information.

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 30th September and 1st October. 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 -

Saturday 18th September

Antiques and Collectibles -

Friday 2nd September

ST PETER'S CHOIR

The Choir welcomes new Boy or Girl Choristers at any time, but a Tuesday in September from the 6th onwards would be an ideal time to join. Practices for Junior Choristers (6+) are 5:15-6:15pm Tuesday and 7:30-8:30pm Friday. Adults welcome too, particularly Tenors and Basses (practice 7:30-8:30pm Friday). Please contact **Adrian Davis**, Director of Music (864722) or **Jean Wild**, Assistant Director (866859)

*review*notes¬ices

OXFAM'S 21ST CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

The Event comes of age! The 21st Oxfam Children's Wear Event will be held on Thursday 8th September at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, from 9:00 – 11:30am.

Funds are needed, in Niger and other troubled locations in Africa and around the globe, to send food, equipment and experts in water supply, Oxfam's particular area of expertise.


As always there will be good quality clothing, either new or prepared to an equal standard, children's books, toys and baby equipment for sale. Help others while clothing your growing families at bargain prices! If you need something in particular, leave a note in the Oxfam shop and Nicky will do her best to supply it.

Donations of clothes, books, toys, and equipment will be greatly appreciated. Equally importantly, your assistance in running the Event would be invaluable. Please contact Audrey (864225) or Nicky (872502) to volunteer for this Event.

CHRISTIAN AID

A total of £4,554 was raised in Berkhamsted during Christian Aid Week. The guiding principle of Christian Aid is to give poor people the means to work their way out of poverty. For example following the devastation left by hurricane Ivan last year in Jamaica, affected families received training in chicken rearing, including advice on pest management and organic farming. With partner organisations Christian Aid supplied families with chickens, chicken coops and six weeks' supply of chicken food. After six weeks the projects become self-perpetuating.

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review notes¬ices

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY PLAY

Tickets for the Wintershall Nativity Play will be available from their box office towards the end of September. Watch out for further details - the tickets sell very quickly so anyone wanting them will need to act as soon as the information is available

IAIN RENNIE HOSPICE AT HOME

Noah The Musical - a show for all the family will launch with a Black Tie Gala Evening on Saturday 10th September at the Pendley Theatre, Tring and will then run on for a further nine days. For more information visit www.noahthemusical.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

Friday 16th September - 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 - 11:00am at the B4506 end of Monument Drive

ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES — LIVE NATIVITY TABLEAU

It was good to see the original Christmas story portrayed in such a welcoming way at the Christmas lights ceremony, last Advent. Sunnyside Church people organised it well, with a few from other town churches. There were Christmas message handouts and friendly carol singing with cheerful, helpful accompaniment by professional trumpeter, **Giles Fowler**. Giles works for the BBC orchestras and attends Sunnyside Church. Even a dog interrupted his walk to take a

great interest in the sheep in the stable!

Jane Porter has organised this event for some years. If you can help this year, Northchurch Baptist is the church to contact (875021).

It is good to see the churches working together in community witness at important festivals and in Lent this year the town churches united for the Lent course *Better Together?* We can learn from one another, respect our differences and of course, rejoice in the important things we share.

Maybe more of us could meet together for the open-air service, opposite the Civic Centre, on Good Friday and the united Easter praise service in the Castle grounds, early Easter Sunday morning. Thank you ABC for organising this.

Why not a Pentecost (Whitsunday) town praise service every year?

This birthday of the Christian community, due to the empowerment by the Spirit, is really a most important festival to worship together.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

September 10th is the second White Wristband Day. This marks the UN meeting on 14th-16th which will review the Millennium Goals, set to reduce world poverty by 2015. Watch for details of a local event on 13th September.

THE AEOLIAN SINGERS

We recommence rehearsals on Thursday, September 8 at the John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, Warners End, Hemel Hempstead at 7:30pm. New voices always welcome.

Rehearsing for an all-Mozart concert in St John's Church, Boxmoor on Saturday, November 12.

SEPTEMBER

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong		
	<i>All Saints' 4th</i>	8:45am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led		
	11 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led		
	18 th	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led		
	25 th	10:00am Holy Communion (Harvest) – Methodist led		
TUE			<i>All Saints' 9:30am</i>	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' 5:00pm</i>	EP
SAT			<i>All Saints' 8:45am</i>	MP
1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Contact: Joan Morris (863780)			<i>Court House</i>
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)			<i>Court House</i>
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 Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)			<i>St Peter's</i>
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 th 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 at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Rd</i> <i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i> or at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Rd</i> 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>			
3rd 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

September/October 2005

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	10am-6pm	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 Festivalboth <i>All Saints' & St Peter's</i> Parish Harvest Festival Lunch..... <i>The Court House</i>
Tue	27	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Harvest Service <i>All Saints'</i>

OCTOBER

Sun	2	3:00pm	Hospice Service <i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	4	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service <i>Joseph and his Rainbow Coat</i> <i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	7	10:00am	Little Fishes Toddlers' Service <i>St Peter's</i>
Fri 7 - Fri 14			Week of Accompanied Prayer..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	9	6:00pm	Choral Evensong <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	10	8:00pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	14	8:00pm	Centenary Celebration service, Bishop Christopher, St Albans to preside <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	15	8:00am	Associated Churches Berkhamsted Prayer Breakfast <i>The Court House / St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

24 July	William John Hunt, Daniel Stephen Henry Clarke
7 August	Gabrielle Hope Nugent

Weddings (St Peter's)

23 July	Philip Anthony Marks & Louise Gail Heggie
29 July	Jonathan James Rockey & Louise Victoria Borland
30 July	Stephen Iain Rundle & Rebecca Anne Vale

review factfile

CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc see p31). Parish Office in the Court House (878227) is usually open 9:30am-5:30pm Tues/Wed, 9:30-12noon Friday (answering machine other times)

	St Peter's	All Saints'
Altar service	Alan Conway (865798)	Felicity White (866223)
Chalice rota	Jean Green (878227)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Sunday School	Sally Emery (870656)	
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	Jean Green (878227)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	Ron Fisher (865846)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Electoral Roll	Judith Limbert (873626)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	
Sidesmen	Carole Dell (864706)	John Banks (871195)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Christine Dipper (873006)

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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

Rector Designate: **The Revd Dr Michael Bowie**
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) allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk
All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist
Local Ecumenical Partnership.
Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis**, 32 Finch Road (866324)

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