

Berkhamsted *review*

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December 2005



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the December 2005 issue of the Berkhamsted review

Christmas Greetings to all our readers and a very warm welcome to **Father Michael Bowie**, our new Team Rector, installed on 21st November, and to **Carolina** his wife. As we go to press the Churchwardens were able to announce that the clergy appointments to the Team are now complete. The **Revd Tricia Gibson** will be joining the Team in February as its second Team Vicar, to work, with Father Michael and the **Revd John Kirkby**, as, with them, we discover the opportunities and challenges of these new arrangements. As it says in the Introduction to the Service of Installation that many of you will have attended, *'This service marks both a new sphere of work in the life of your new minister and a new chapter in the worship and life of this parish.'* Working out the most rewarding way forward for the new Team is not the only opportunity we have at this time for innovative thinking. During the autumn, the Diocese launched its **Vision for Action** - exhorting parishes to review their resources and seek new ways to use them, to place the life and work of the Church at the heart of the community.

Christopher Green

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**... plus our regular features,
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Cover photograph — *Tony Firshman*
Part of a window in St John's Chantry,
St Peter's as used for the 2005 Xmas card (p9)

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

7 January 6 February 3 March



To rediscover
what the
Church is for
**Fr Michael
Bowie** looks
forward to new
opportunities

review leader

Moving to a new place is always exciting. Carolina and I have both moved quite often (I can remember 16 different houses since I was 5 years old), so we should know all the pitfalls. We have been looking forward to coming here and already love the town, the

s u r r o u n d i n g countryside, the churches and our new house. But, as I write (ten days after moving), we are still unpacking boxes, our cat has run away, an energy provider has told me that we had been significantly undercharged for electricity in the last Rectory, the telephone is behaving strangely and the internet disconnects itself every five minutes.

New things are good, but the blessing is always mixed with some frustration and uncertainty.

Now, as far as the parish is concerned, the Team is new, I am new, we have a new Team Vicar for the Gaddesdens, and a new year of Christian life in the Church has begun with Advent Sunday, a new year in which we turn our attention particularly to the Gospel according to St Mark.

Mark's is my favourite account of Jesus, rough and direct in style with a great sense of immediacy (his favourite link-word between events and stories is '*immediately*'). For him and for his audience (probably listeners rather than readers, mostly) the story itself was fresh and new.

We may struggle to feel the same sense of immediacy or novelty in the '*old, old story*'. Yet the return of Advent reminds us that our Christian life is always to be lived afresh and shared afresh. We are helped to do that by looking forward to things. At the moment we are looking forward to Christmas, but

beyond Christmas is all the fullness of life that God would have us share.

One of the great themes of the Old Testament, to which we also turn particularly in Advent, is hope for the future. We nurture that hope by treasuring what we have received and by renewing all that we hold dear in our faith and Christian life. If we do that, those who see us and meet us will glimpse glory, which is the difference God makes in us.

If you haven't read Mark's gospel for a while, I recommend it to you: it is short, full of incident and very truthful in its treatment of those who were first confronted with this astonishing new version of God's dealing with us, person to person. It does not gloss over their failures and mistakes. It ends with the cliff-hanging throw-away line, *For they were afraid* (16.8).

I hope that fear is not to the fore as we begin a new ministry in the Berkhamsted Team, but I do want there to be some uncertainty, because we must be open to being led to new places. One of the great opportunities of the Team is the chance to rediscover what the church is for. That should help each one of us to find renewed life in our faith as we discover our journey together. None of us can assume that things will just go on as they always have: the change is embodied in the new arrangement. I hope we all rejoice in that.

Carolina and I come among you with great enthusiasm and goodwill. I know I shall make some mistakes and trust you will forgive them in the same spirit of goodwill and shared endeavour.

To all who have already done so much to welcome us warmly, many thanks. We look forward to sharing our first Christmas in Berkhamsted with you. ❖

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Last year Susan Doggett moved to Berkhamsted and joined our MU branch. She is a member of the All Saints congregation and recalls here some of her experiences as an MU member.

YORKSHIRE REFLECTIONS

Susan Doggett recalls her years
at Heslington

I was well versed in the purposes, aims and objects of Mothers' Union before I was actually enrolled as a member in February 1989. My mother had been a long-standing member of the branch at Potten End, where I was born and lived before my marriage.

It was not until I finished my teaching career that I felt able to commit myself to the Mothers' Union branch at Heslington, York, where I then lived. My mother had by then moved to York so for a number of years we were able to attend meetings together.

Heslington is a lively branch with around forty active members. I soon found myself on the committee and then for three challenging years I acted as Treasurer- my first encounter with double entry book-keeping! In 1992 I took on a new challenge when I became Enrolling Member (Branch leader) and for the next four memorable years I was helped to run the branch by an enthusiastic committee.

As we were associated with the church nearest to York University we were privileged to welcome to our branch visitors from Norway, India and Japan. Their fellowship served to keep our minds open to the diversity in the world, but also to the similarities in family life. Another somewhat unusual aspect of our branch was that since our church had been joint Anglican/Methodist for over twenty years we had a healthy mix of members from both denominations. Some highlights of

my Mothers' Union life in York were:- attending the conference at York University and joining hundreds of fellow members for early morning communion led by

the then Archbishop of York, **Dr John Habgood**; the pilgrimage to Holy Island in June 1991, when we walked across the sands with our banners and then joined together in a moving service in the ruined Abbey; hearing **Christine Eames** speak at a meeting at York racecourse; services in the Minster when the nave and the aisle were packed with purposeful members of the Mothers' Union; the joy of enrolling new members and the support and fellowship at funerals of deceased members. The fun of performing together in church concerts and the laughter when we produced our own version of **Cinderella**. Above all the feeling of belonging to a caring, thoughtful group with worldwide significance.

After over thirty-four happy years in York, we moved, in Spring 2004, to Berkhamsted to be nearer to our children and grandchildren. We were returning to our roots, as I was confirmed in St Peter's church and my husband was brought up in Boxmoor.

I was warmly welcomed into the Berkhamsted branch of Mothers' Union and was interested to find that the meetings are home-based and on a smaller scale than I was used to in York. Nevertheless, I have found the fellowship and the sharing of knowledge just as valuable and feel privileged to continue to share in the worldwide membership of such a special group of people. ❖

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Why do we follow rules? I asked myself this question recently when for a brief period in Jordan I found myself confronting a culture with a rather different perspective from our own. The first thing I noticed was the attitude, in the capital Amman, to traffic regulations. Jordanians' driving habits are quite different from our

own. There is little or no lane discipline on wide roads – lane markings where they exist are ignored – cars overtake on the inside or the outside. Drivers use their horns a lot to relieve others of the necessity to use their rear view mirrors. Pedestrian crossings are few, but are in any case ignored. Cars will even go the wrong way down one-way streets if it suits them. I heard the screeching of brakes and smelt burnt rubber – but thankfully saw no accidents. Jordanians don't take the rules of the road as seriously as we do.

But other rules and regulations they do take very seriously. I happened to be in Amman during Ramadan. Jordan is constitutionally a secular state with freedom of religion but 90% or so of Jordanians are Muslim and half of these take the rules of Islam very seriously. In Ramadan that means no food, no drinks (even water) and no smoking during the hours of daylight. Prayers are required five times a day; the first being at 4:00am. The rules of Ramadan are observed so strictly that during this month it is almost impossible to do any serious work. Workplaces shut down at midday and people go home. In the evening they have family parties, called *break fasts*, after which they go to the mosque for evening prayers. During their reduced working hours everybody is tired and listless, short of sleep as well as being hungry and thirsty.

The contrast with our habits was striking. Most people in England are very conscientious about adhering to the Highway Code and traffic regulations, but few people

Ian Reay's &news &views

Obeying the Rules

Ian Reay asks
“Why do we do it?”

nowadays observe the rules of Lent rigorously, and Lent is less demanding than Ramadan. A Jordanian colleague explained to me that Moslems take Ramadan very seriously because *they want to do something for their religion*. That is not why we take the rules of the road seriously.

It could be suggested that the difference in emphasis in the following of rules between ourselves and Jordanian Moslems lies in different concepts of authority. The rules of Ramadan have the authority, presumably, of the Koran, of God, mediated through Imams. We, on the other hand have become in recent years, and I have noticed this trend in my own lifetime, increasingly disinclined to obey a rule simply because it comes from an *authority*. We follow traffic regulations because they arise from a consensus and a common understanding and acceptance of the reason why they are needed – to avoid accidents.

But I think that at least as much as different attitudes to authority these habits indicate another difference between us. The renunciations of Ramadan, like Lent, are assaults on the overweening ego; Ramadan is a one-month intensive course in self-control. Traffic rules on the other hand only contain the driver's ego and impulses to the extent necessary to allow free flowing traffic. That is their purpose. Traffic rules enable the *society of the road* to function and even prosper. So our different approaches to rules are not just based on our different concepts of authority. One basis of rule compliance is *renunciation training* and the other is *social harmony and prosperity*. These two approaches are not incompatible, of course, but they do lead to different kinds of behaviour. ❖

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On the Parish Christmas card this year, and on the cover of this issue of the *review* we have a picture of the Annunciation. Readers will recognise it at

once as part of one of the fine Victorian stained glass windows that are such a striking feature of St Peter's Church. I think we can describe it as Victorian although its date of dedication is Easter 1901 and Queen Victoria had died earlier in that year on 22nd January. It came from the workshop of the London firm of Heaton, Butler and Bayne who, in the latter part of Victoria's reign, had supplied several of the windows in St Peter's.

The Feast of the Annunciation is of course in March, commemorating the

MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA

Christopher Green is looking forward to Christmas

announcement of the Incarnation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel, but looking forward to the Nativity and therefore a fitting image for this Christmas season.

Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel is recorded in the words of the *Magnificat* and these words have been a source of inspiration for some of the great composers of the past.

This Christmas we have a wonderful opportunity to listen to the glorious music inspired by Mary's words. **The Chiltern Chamber Choir** will be performing three of the finest settings of this great hymn of praise - by Bach, Schütz and Soler - at St Peter's Church, candlelit, on Friday 23rd December at 7:30pm.

Music to refresh the soul. ❖



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HEART-WARMING SUPPORT FOR THE ST PETER'S PIANO APPEAL

Those who were present at the Piano Recital given by Anna Markland on 23rd October will remember the occasion for different reasons. There was the

marvellous playing of our guest pianist who not only gave us of her time and talents freely, but also entered into the whole warm-hearted spirit of the evening, giving us little insights into the pieces she was about to play. Anna met the mood of the occasion in personality and in her choice of music.

The church looked very different with a central space cleared, and tiers of audience seating under the chancel arch and in the south choir area. It is not something that the Cowper Society would wish to undertake too often, but it made us aware of the effective focus that could be achieved if there were greater adaptability. The attractiveness of the arrangement was enhanced by the flower decorations.

The essential reason for looking back at the evening with satisfaction is, of course, that the object of the exercise was achieved. The total raised for this one evening was something in excess of £6,350, and this,

David Pearce, Chairman of The Cowper Society writes

music, whether concert or liturgical. It will be an asset to music in Berkhamsted, and that will be a cause of pleasure to so many of us.

The final reason - and the one that weighs the most with me as I look back over the course of the Appeal - was the steady and enthusiastic support that came from so many quarters. Inevitably, there were those who doubted whether we should succeed, but on that evening of the concert, I was aware that we were in the company of friends, who were like-minded and committed. All these the Cowper Society wishes now to thank personally: it has not been possible to thank everyone individually. There were those who bought piano keys, there were the musicians and singers who raised money from little performances after evensongs, those who provided refreshment on the night, those who humped pews, and helped, and those who said ever-encouragingly,

'This is all worthwhile.' ❖



photograph: Tony Firshman

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PLAIN BEARINGS AND DIFFICULT TREBLES

It was an autumn, not a summer outing for the bell-ringers this year and Saturday 8th October saw us heading for five churches close to Newmarket. This is a part of the country you tend to pass through en-route to somewhere else and miss the pretty villages with interesting churches just off the busy A14 trunk road. There was an added bonus as we did not have to organise the outing. This task was taken over by Peter and Wendie Summers, who until August rang with us on Thursday evenings. They have returned to live full-time in Suffolk, and made all the arrangements for ringing and lunch.

First stop was Swaffham Bulbeck, where the bells were rung from a gallery looking into the church. We missed Priscilla here. Her car had suffered a major breakdown on the way to the village. She was not only rescued by the breakdown lorry, but by Wendie too, so we were pleased to see them both just before we left for the second church, Swaffham Prior. Here there are two churches in the churchyard, the bells being in the one redundant for services. The bells, hung on plain bearings, needed a little more effort than we are used to, so we were more than ready for lunch at The Red Lion nearby.

Three towers in the afternoon proved quite a challenge, particularly after a substantial meal and seeing some of the pieces of broken metal collected from Priscilla's car! The bells at Burwell had difficult trebles, and then on to Exning where the ringing chamber was accessed by a vertical ladder, with a trap door at the top. Even the septuagenarians managed this with apparent ease, but a certain not-quite sixty year old was rather more fearful! The last church was Dalham, Peter's and Wendie's home tower. It is situated well out of the village and next to Dalham Hall, with lovely views across the surrounding

countryside. The bells are rung from the back of the church and needed careful handling to avoid gymnastics when trying to catch the sally.

Ringers' Outing David Burbidge reports

To replenish our energy and set us up for the journey home, Peter and Wendie entertained us to

tea at their home in nearby Gazeley, and welcome it was too! As we left the rain began to fall and Priscilla, who had cadged a lift home with Hazel and John, was perhaps grateful she was not at the wheel. And in case you are wondering, the car was repaired within the week and returned to Berkhamsted by Wendie. Another example of support and help from the network of ringing friendships!

So it was good to spend time together socially and to renew our friendship with Peter and Wendie. We appreciated their kindness and hospitality, and thank them for all they did to organise a successful and enjoyable day. A big thank you too, goes to the ringers for coming, for without them there would have been no outing at all! ❖

Witch-finding in Tring!

"It is the hardest thing in the world to shake of superstitious prejudices ...

The people of Tring would do well to remember that no longer ago than 1751 ... they seized on two superannuated wretches, crazed with age, and overwhelmed with infirmities, on a suspicion of witchcraft, and by trying experiments, drowned them in a horse-pond."

From a letter written in January 1776 by the naturalist Gilbert White to his friend and fellow naturalist **Daines Barrington**, who is said to have persuaded White to write *The Natural History of Selborne*.

Choir members wanted something special to mark 75 years of music making. Settings of carols by **Chris Williams** had been much enjoyed at recent Christmas concerts and conductor **Graham Wili** had the idea of commissioning him to write a longer work on a Christmas theme.

Chris Williams, who lives in Bangalore, came up with the startlingly original idea of setting passages of the Requiem Mass alongside a poetic narrative – written by himself – describing events in a fishing village in India, over Christmas Day and Boxing Day 2004.

Tsunami Requiem – believed to be the first musical composition to use that disaster as its inspiration – will have its world première at St Peter's Church, on Sunday December 11th at 8:00pm. The work is a


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A world première at
St Peter's on
11 December 2005

15-minute piece in four movements for adult and children's choirs, brass, percussion and organ. It opens with a fishing carol (Kyrie) followed by a lullaby (Pie Jesu) before the unleashing of the tsunami (Dies Irae) - and ends, movingly, with a calmly reflective lament (Agnus Dei).


Graham Wili commented: *'This is the first time either choir has commissioned on this scale using this combination of forces. The members are delighted to be bringing exciting new music into the choral repertoire.'*

A retiring collection will be taken in aid of Plan International, a charity engaged in relief and rehabilitation work in the tsunami-hit regions of Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and Thailand. ❖



The Cowper Society presents
Berkhamsted Choral Society

75th Anniversary
Season 1930/31 -
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world première performance
Gaudeamus - Antony Hopkins
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The Gaudeamus Brass Ensemble Robin Walker organ
Graham Wili conductor
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Berkhamsted Choral Society (BCS) and The Cowper Society are members of Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially assisted by Dacorum Borough Council. BCS is affiliated to Making Music, which represents and supports amateur performing and promoting societies.

GOD, ST FRANCIS AND LAWNS

God: Francis, my son you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and stuff I started aeons ago? I had a perfect

no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow on any type of soil, withstand long droughts and multiply with abandon. And the nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies and bees. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see is green rectangles.

St Francis: It's the tribe that settled there, Lord, the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and set out to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, and bees and it's temperamental about temperature. Do they really want all that grass?

St Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilising the grass and poisoning any weeds that crop up with it.

God: The spring rains and warm weather I send make grass grow really fast. That must make them happy.

St Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as the grass grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

God: Cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St Francis: No. Lord, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

A gardener's page
from **Liz Baxendale**

God: Now let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so it will grow. And then they cut it off and pay to throw it away.

St Francis: Yes. Lord.

God: They must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St Francis: You're not going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing, they drag out hosepipes and pay to water it, so they can go on cutting it and paying to get rid of it.

God: Well, at least they kept some of my trees. They were a stroke of genius, though I say it myself. They provide shade in the summer, then in the autumn the leaves fall and form a natural blanket to keep the soil moist. And as they rot, they enrich the soil. It's a natural cycle of life. I was particularly pleased with that little scheme.

St Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them up and pay to have them taken away.

God: No! How do they protect the soil in the winter?

St Francis: They go out and buy something that they call *mulch*. They spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St Francis: You're not going to like this, Lord. They cut down your trees and mince them up!

This reminded God of his concern about the Amazon rainforest and he went off to find **Charles Darwin** to discuss it with him.

Earlier this autumn, Tracy and Michael Robinson went on the Walking Pilgrimage led by Helen Cunliffe, the Archdeacon of St Albans

ON THE ROAD TO SANTIAGO

Tracy Robinson
dips into her Diary

Excerpts from Tracy's
Diary of the Pilgrimage

Saturday 1st October

Meeting at Waterloo, early in the morning, it was a relief to see familiar faces amongst those assembled at

Helen writes:

A group of twelve of us, walked between Saumur and Niort from the 1-9th October, en route to Santiago de Compostela. We covered a distance of 105 miles in six days, which makes it the most physically testing pilgrimage that certainly I have undertaken so far. Most of us have the scars to prove it!

Apart from a sense that we didn't so much pass the pain barrier as spend a week leaning against it, the days were delightful. The routine of an early breakfast, followed by trips to the boulangerie, charcuterie etc., to buy our lunch for later in the day, quickly became established. We set out prepared to look for a good place at which to say Morning Prayer, and took it in turns to lead the service. Morning Prayer over, we walked for three-quarters of an hour in silence, an experience that we all came to treasure.

the bottom of the steps – our prearranged meeting point. We had found the meeting point without difficulty. The first hurdle was over and the adventure about to begin. After travelling on Eurostar, the Metro across Paris, TGV and a local train we arrived in Saumur. We stopped by the river for prayer and then as it looked like it was about to rain, we hurried, as best we were able, across the bridge over the Loire to our hotel. On the way we caught our first glimpse of the magnificent chateau.

We had arrived! The walking was to begin in the morning.

Sunday 2nd October

Leaving Saumur by way of the château and bank of the Loire, we stopped to celebrate the Eucharist with river and chateau in view – a truly beautiful location.



Walking onward through vineyard after vineyard, we stopped for our lunch surrounded by the growing vines. Along the way we passed clear blue flowers growing by the side of the path, so beautiful and such a shade of blue that we could not remember seeing before.

Monday 3rd October

This was another long day of walking with the sun shining on us as we walked. At the end of the day we arrived in Thouars by the scenic route along the path by the river. This took us to the centre of town ending with a steep climb up from the river to the town on the top of the hill. We were running out of steam. Then we discovered that our hotel was not in the centre of town but back on the edge of town in the direction we had come from. So we had to retrace our steps, not along the riverbank, but through the town at the higher level to find our accommodation.

Tuesday 4th October

Much of the walking was on tarmac today, which is hard on the feet. Increasingly the talk turned to feet, as we asked one another how they were managing! We stopped by the river to celebrate a St Francis Day Eucharist in a beautiful place. So much beauty all around us made a wonderful place for worship. Continuing on our way, we walked silently refreshed and restored. It turned out to be another long day of walking

Wednesday 5th October

Much walking today uphill away from the river and then back down again and crossing the river by large stepping-stones of different heights and spaced unevenly making the river crossing require concentration. All crossed without mishap, those with longer legs having an easier time of it!

Thursday 6th October

Our rest day! We started our day with a tour of the old part of the town of Parthenay. We began outside at the Hotel-Dieu and with our guide pointing out the buildings of interest we entered the medieval quarter and crossed the bridge of St Jaques and went through the gate of St Jaques into the town. It was easy to imagine pilgrims from centuries earlier travelling this very same path as we looked at beautifully restored and cared for medieval buildings and our guide

gave us the information about each place that allowed us to let our imaginations run free.

Friday 7th October

Amid warnings from Harry, our map reader, that a narrow and slippery river crossing lay ahead, we set off as the mist began to clear and the sun became visible. When we reached the river we were mightily relieved that the crossing was less intimidating than the stepping-stones we had encountered earlier. Although slippery and narrow it somehow felt safer to us and we continued on our way in good spirits.

Saturday 8th October

Our last day of walking!

Before setting out for the day of walking we went into the crypt of the church of Notre Dame in Champdeniers for Morning Prayer. We have been truly blessed in our locations for morning and evening prayer with a mixture of varied and beautiful scenery and wonderful churches, holy places of prayer, used for centuries.

Our path took us back beside a river for the ending of our journey – this time it was the river Sevre Niortaise. After struggling along the road, we went up a long hill and then down again to Surimeau where we stopped by the river for our final Eucharist. Focussing on worship, our aches receded to the back of our minds.

Sunday 9th October

After an early breakfast we walked through the streets of Niort with our luggage to the station where we caught the local 7:53 train to Poitiers, arriving in time to board the TGV for Paris. In Paris we tried to find an alternative way to get to Gare du Nord but there was nothing more practical than the Metro.

So it was back to the Metro – we were getting quite good at this now and split ourselves into two carriages as the trains were rather full – yes full on a Sunday morning! Arriving at the Gare du Nord we had enough time to cross the road outside the station and eat a (fairly) leisurely brunch before boarding Eurostar. On arrival at Waterloo we gathered together for one last time, said our goodbyes to each other, and made our ways by various routes to our own homes, our own baths and our own beds! ❖

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THE OLD PIPE ORGAN AT ALL SAINTS'

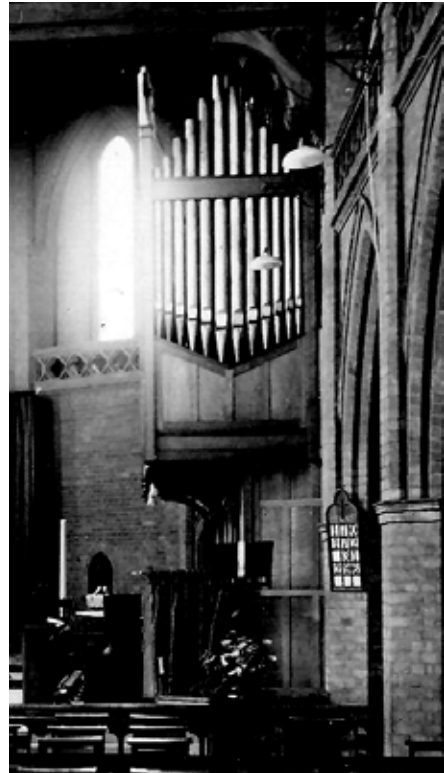
Rob Halls writes

I have just read the All Saints' Newsletter and the Berkhamsted *review*, with particular interest in the history of All Saints'.

Both pieces comment on the *old* pipe organ in All Saints': I thought readers might be interested in a very brief bit of searching:

The National Pipe Organ Register (at <http://npor.emma.cam.ac.uk/>) details a three manual and pedal organ with 32 stops situated in All Saints' in 1943. It was built by an organ builder called Kirkland of London and is thought to have come to All Saints' from a private house. It says it was removed in c1950 and replaced with an electronic organ. It doesn't suggest where the organ was moved to (they state the location if known). On paper, it doesn't look like too bad an instrument, although it was a little *thin* in the pedal division. The NPOR history of St Peter's goes back to an organ built by Walker in 1871.

Ed. Does anyone know where the All Saints' pipe organ originally came from or where it found a new home after it left All Saints'?



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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Sharing the Gift of Love

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon** reflects
on the meaning
of Christmas

One of the schools in the United Benefice has provided shoeboxes filled with gifts to be taken to needy children in Eastern Europe.

The other name for the shoebox appeal is ***Love in a Box***, as it provides a practical way of demonstrating that many people, children and adults, care about children's lives in poorer countries.

Christmas is not only a good time to remember those in need; it is also a chance to think about the gift that God has given to us. At Christmas we remember how God's love for us became incarnate: How it took on flesh, or became real for us in Jesus of Nazareth. If we want to see what God's love is like, then we need to look at Jesus. In him we see love in action. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have good news preached to them. We see a king, who comes to us as a servant, and who is obedient, even to death on a cross.

But we also think about how God's love can become incarnate in us. How it becomes real in the way that we live. By how we will allow God's love for us and God's love in us; to take hold of how we live and how we act.

Part of following Jesus means that we do just that. We follow him in an uncertain world and by faith seek to walk the way he showed us. We seek to live out his way in a world in which children are suffering and wrongs are done. We follow him in his way of love, knowing that it is the greatest power in the universe. Christmas is a powerful reminder that we need to share God's gift of love with all we meet.

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Bible Cake - From Mrs Green's Kitchen

4½ cups	1 Kings	4 :22
1½ cups	Judges	5 :25
2 cups	Jeremiah	6 :20
2 cups	1 Samuel	30 :12
2 cups	Nahum	3 :12
1 cup	Numbers	17 :8
2 tablespoons	1 Samuel	14 :25
Season to taste	2 Chronicles	9 :9
6 tablespoons	Jeremiah	17 :11
A pinch	Leviticus	2 :13
½ cup	Judges	4 :19
2 teaspoons	Amos	4 :5

Follow Solomon's advice for making a good man or woman (Proverbs 23 :14) and you will have the makings of an excellent cake.

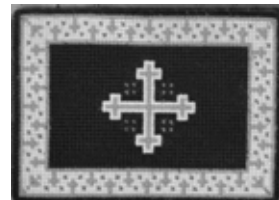
*The Editor would be very happy to have a regular **Recipe Corner** in the review. If you have a favourite recipe you are willing to share, send it in. Perhaps we might eventually produce a review **Recipe Book**.*

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

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



One of the many hassocks in this style

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*review*notes¬ices

TUESDAY CLUB

On Tuesday 1st November we were transported to 15th century England by **Hugh Granger** who came to us for the evening as the Reeve of Haddenham in Buckinghamshire and enthralled us with his description of village life in the 28th year of the reign of Henry VI.

As Reeve he was a freeman and elected to be the link between the Squire at the Manor and the villagers in their tithe cottages. His job was to organise the workers in their ploughing, sowing, haymaking and harvesting, to make sure the animals had enough fodder, to collect the rents and keep the accounts. In return he was allowed to bear arms in wartime, to own his own land and have extra grazing rights.

Life for the serfs was much harder. They were not allowed to own land, could be bought and sold and could not get married without the Squire's permission.

OXFAM - GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE

The Berkhamsted Oxfam shop is in festive mood as Christmas approaches and sales of the striking gift range gather pace. There are ideas for family and friends with wonderful toys for the children and unusual presents and foods for the adults. Shoppers will smell the range before they see it as the decorative scented candles and pot pourri perfume the air. The attractive Christmas cards offer designs ranging from traditional religious scenes to seasonal images and winter photography. Every gift purchased makes a difference. Whether it is a few Christmas cards or shopping for the whole family, it will help Oxfam's avowed aim of relieving poverty and suffering.

And if you are stuck for ideas, there is always Oxfam's Alternative Catalogue. Why not give a donkey for Christmas? Don't forget the wrapping paper!

BERKHAMSTED FLOWER CLUB

On Thursday 8th December The Berkhamsted Flower Club will present their annual open evening at the Civic Centre. This year we have **Tan Strong**, a national floral art demonstrator and the show's title is *A Christmas Cocktail*. The show commences at 8:00pm and doors open at 7:15pm. Tickets cost £8.00 to include mulled wine and shortbread and the arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Do come and enjoy a happy occasion.

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

A chance to walk off some of the Christmas excess! Come and join us for a Christmas Walk on Tuesday 27th December starting at 10:00am from the Visitor Centre, Ashridge Monument - a leisurely two hours or so, returning to the Visitor Centre afterwards for Mulled Wine, or soft drinks, and Mince Pies Open to Friends and their guests. Booking essential (851227).

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

To celebrate its centenary All Saints' Church is planning a Christmas Tree Festival. Forty Christmas trees have been sponsored by local businesses and will be decorated by community groups and charities. The church will be open on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December from 10:00am to 5:00pm; and on Sunday 4th from 2:00-5:00pm and there will be a concert on Saturday evening and a thanksgiving service on Sunday evening.

reviewnotes¬ices

AEOLIAN SINGERS

Sunday, December 17th, St John's Church, Boxmoor,

3:00pm - Christmas Concert for the Family performed by the Aeolian Singers with South Hill School Choir,

Chameleon Brass and **Andrew Earis** (organ), Conductor : **Stephen Jones**.

Tickets: £6 per adult, one free child per adult. Additional children £3 each

At the door or Box Office 01442 871598

7:00pm - Traditional Christmas Concert with the Aeolian Singers, guest Youth choir, Chameleon Brass and **Andrew Earis** (organ) Conductor : **Stephen Jones**

Tickets: £8 per adult, one free child per ticket purchased.

Programme varies. Afternoon performance specially for younger audience members

ALDBURY SINGERS

Get into the Christmas spirit at the Aldbury Singers concert of seasonal music in St. John the Baptist Church, Aldbury, on Saturday 10th December starting at

7.30pm. The Aldbury Singers will be joined by harpist **Margaret Knight**, whom we have had the pleasure of hearing on previous occasions in our team parish, also Aldbury Church Junior Choir and The Aldbury Madrigal Singers. The concert will include Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* as well as a selection of songs and music to delight us all. Admission is free, with refreshments available during the interval. There will be a retiring collection for a charity

MOTHERS' UNION AT ST ALBANS

The MU Worldwide President, **Trish Heywood**, will be guest of honour for a special Lady Day service at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 25th March, 2006. **Trish Heywood** leads an organisation that can boast 3.6 million members in 76 countries. The Bishop of St Albans will preside at a Lady Day Eucharist in the Abbey at 11:00am. The MU would like anyone who is interested in hearing more about the work of the MU on a world wide scale to be able to come to the service so make a note in your diary now.

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

16 October Lucy Charlotte Baxter, Joseph Christopher Foot

23 October Eve Louisa Deacon, Oliver Samuel Frost, Thomas Dennis Page

Weddings (St Peter's)

29 October Nicholas Darryl Reeves and Anna Jane Rich

Funerals

13 October Doris Walls

St Peter's Church (burial Kingshill)

18 October Maureen Frances Stanbridge

St Peter's Church (burial Kingshill)

26 October Audrey Alice Jordan

St Peter's Church (burial Kingshill)

review notes¬ices

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Friday 2nd December 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Switching on of the Berkhamsted Christmas Lights will be performed by the Mayor of Berkhamsted, **Councillor Geraldine Corrie**, from the balcony of the Civic Centre at about 5:00pm. High Street closed to vehicles 4:00pm - 8:00pm.

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

Come and celebrate Christmas at the Hospice Carol Service. Monday 12th December at Sacred Heart Church, Park Street 7:30pm. Join with Hospice staff, Hemel Hempstead Band, St Thomas More School Choir and the Sacred Heart Church Choir. And don't miss the Hospice Christmas Tree at the All Saints' Christmas Tree Festival.

MARKET DATES

French Market Sunday 4th December
Farmers' Market Sunday 18th December

CHILDREN IN NEED CAN YOU HELP?

Each month 40 Hertfordshire children come into public care because they cannot stay with their families. The Diocese is working with Hertfordshire County Council to support their work with children in need of adoption, fostering or shared care (where children spend short periods of time with carers each week). To offer children a choice of family to go to is key to the success of any placement and more families are needed to make this happen. At this stage the Diocese wants to hear from those with knowledge of caring for children in need. To find out more

about what is involved call **Kemi Akinruli**, Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer on 01727 851748 or email her: kakinruli@stalbans.anglican.org

TAKE CARE WITH CANDLES

Christmas is a season for candles. In past centuries they were the principal source of light and were used at all seasons, in homes, workshops and public buildings, including churches, and theatres. They were also the cause of many disastrous fires.

Romans invented the modern wick candle. To make candles the ancients used tallow, processed from sheep or goat fat. Beeswax was introduced in the Middle Ages, and the most common modern ingredient, paraffin wax, arrived in about 1850.

Candles were often used in pagan worship and were denounced at first by early Christians.

To extend the life of a candle, chill it in the fridge before lighting; and scented candles can be stored in the fridge to keep their scent fresh.

Burning a candle next to your chopping board is said to stop you crying when peeling onions.

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DECEMBER

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 1st</i>	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
	8 th	10:00am Covenant Service – Holy Communion – Methodist led
	15 th	8:45am Anglican Eucharist 10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led
	22 nd	8:45am Holy Communion – Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led
	29 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer		
MON	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 8:00pm
TUE	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 7:30am
THU	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 11:00am (<i>Fr Michael's day off</i>)
FRI	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm-both churches Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 8:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 10:00am
	MP 8:45am	<i>All Saints'</i>
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 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 <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>	
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.

December 2005 / January 2006

DECEMBER

Fri 2	10:00am	Little Fishes Service Towards Christmas (+Court House St Nicholas party).....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri 2 – Sun 4		Christmas Tree Festival	<i>All Saints'</i>
Mon 3	8:00pm	Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 4	6:30pm	Thanksgiving Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue 6	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service Christmas Story	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun 11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong – plainsong.....	<i>Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i>
	8:00pm	Berkhamsted Choral Society Christmas Reflections	<i>St Peters'</i>
Tue 13	10:00am	Chuckles Toddlers' Christmas Party.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue 13	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting.....	<i>The Court House</i>
Thu 15	9:30am	Victoria School – Thomas Bourne Eucharist.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat 17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>Sunnyside St Michael's Church</i>
Sun 18	9:30am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Nativity	<i>St Peter's</i>
	10:00am	Holy Communion with Explorers' Nativity – Methodist led.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
	6:30pm	Christmas Carol Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri 23	7:30pm	Chiltern Chamber Traditional candlelit Baroque Christmas concert - Magnificat Anima Mea: Magnificats - Schütz, Soler & Bach.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat 24	4:00pm	Crib Services.....	<i>at both All Saints' and St Peter's</i>
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass of Christmas	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 25	8:00am	Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
	9:30am	Sung Eucharist.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
	10:30am	Family Morning Worship followed by Holy Communion – Methodist led.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat 31	11:50pm	Bellringing – to ring out the old year and ring in the new	<i>St Peter's</i>

JANUARY

Fri 6	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist for the Epiphany.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 8	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon 9	8:00pm	Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Wed 11	8:00pm	All Saints' Area Committee	<i>TBA</i>
Wed 18	8:00pm	St Peter's Area Committees.....	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat 21	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>TBA</i>

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)
Church maintenance	Christopher Green (863241)	John Banks (871195)
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 Wignall (827639)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Chris Dipper (873006)
Hospice contact	Rachael Anderson (871997)	Jean Merrett (866263)
Christian Aid	Angela Morris (866992)	Muriel Johnston (866447)
Youth worker	Jimmy Young (876736)	Jimmy Young (876736)
Sunday School/Explorers	Sally Emery (870656)	Carenza Wilton (875147)

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reviewcontacts

General


The Revd Dr Michael Bowie, Team Rector, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)
(day off Thursday)
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 Council: Secretary: **Pat Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)
Treasurer: **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

St Peter's

Director of Music: **Adrian Davis** (864722) stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk
Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)
Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)
Weddings and Funerals,
Banns of Marriage and
Baptisms: **Fr Michael Bowie** (864194)
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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