

Berkhamsted *review*

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the October 2006 issue of the Berkhamsted review

October is a turning point in the year, poised between summer and winter. Rather remarkably, over the centuries, October has witnessed events that have proved to be historical turning points of great importance. Even discounting the belief of Bishop Ussher that the world was created at 6:00pm on 22nd October 4004 BC, there remain some significant moments. On 14th October 1066 the Battle of Hastings changed the course of English history, marking the last successful invasion of Britain, a fact that probably still influences the British character. On 25th October 1415 the English defeated the French at Agincourt - for the English another character-forming occasion. On 12th October 1492 Christopher Columbus made landfall on the island of San Salvador and transformed the European perception of the world. Not long after, on 31st October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, setting in motion a quite different transformation of European society. And on 21st October 1805 the British defeated the combined French and Spanish fleets of Cape Trafalgar, ending any ambitions Napoleon may have had to extend his conquests beyond the European mainland. And of course the October Revolution of 1917. All coincidence but interesting nonetheless. *Christopher Green*

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Cover photograph: Holy Trinity, Potten End
(p30)

photo: Tony Firshman

Editorial Team: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3DE (863241)
email: greenc@waitrose.com
Tony Firshman, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, HP23 4DG (828254)
email: review@greatberkhamsted.org.uk fax: 828255
Joe Garstin, 26 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DS (866846)
email: joe_garstin@hotmail.com

Advertising: David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1JD (862723)
woodies@chyverton3.freeserve.co.uk

Circulation: Sheila Miller, 31 Lincoln Court, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EN (864277)

Treasurer: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway, HP4 2NY (871598)
email: miles.nicholas@btinternet.com

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

6 October 3 November 1 December



A Blazing Empty Silence

**Father Michael
Bowie** tastes the
Atacama desert
and asks
“*Why do we go
there?*”

review leader

After a month in Chile we feel we've come home to Berkhamsted, which is a pleasant experience after only ten months living here. As I expected our holiday wasn't entirely restful, though I did manage to read ten books, which is probably nine more than I do in most months at work.

We were able to spend a good deal of time with Carolina's parents, who were visiting Santiago from Sydney and we did manage an excursion into the Atacama desert in the north, which was an important spur for me to make this trip.

A parishioner had lent me **Sarah Wheeler's** *Travels in a Thin Country*, which I read during the 15 hours plane journey from Heathrow. For a full and fascinating account of Chile, including the desert, I recommend it to you. When she wrote the book Sarah was a parishioner of St Mark's Regent's Park, and that gives an extra interesting colour to some of her impressions.

The Atacama is extraordinary: a blazing empty silence through which we drove, and walked a little.

To get there we flew 1800 kilometres north of Santiago to Antofagasta, a port which is entirely surrounded by desert. Everything to sustain life, including fresh water, must be transported from elsewhere. I have flown in and out of Dubai, and over much Middle-Eastern and Australian desert, but never seen such a strange conjunction of desert and sea. As often in Chilean cities, mountains loom over the town, and the combination of the warm Humboldt Current, the mountains and the desert means that the city is quite often obscured in mist. People are employed in fishing or in nearby Chuquicamata, the world's largest copper mine, for which Antofagasta is the closest port. We stayed in

a wonderful old bayside hotel in front of which the copper trains trundle along the street at all hours of day and night, mingling uneasily with cars and pedestrians.

A brief journey to the cemetery where we knew some of Carolina's relatives would be buried was rewarded by the discovery of some likely tombs. After a couple of days exploration, we hired a car and drove into the desert, first towards Calama, the small town nearest to Chuquicamata (and home of Chile's best-loved football team *Colo Colo*) and then on into the ancient *Atacamenos* and *Conquistador* town of San Pedro de Atacama. We drove to Chuquicamata where we looked into the vast maw of the copper mine and imagined Carolina's grandfather coming there to work decades ago; from Calama we also drove to Chiu Chiu, a fairly tourist-free village with a wonderful 17th century *adobe* Spanish mission church.

Having survived Calama, which has further family connections but few other charms, we finally set off into the deep desert. I am familiar with dazzling light and wide horizons from Australia: colours and landscapes look very different from what we see by the pale light of the English sun which, even in a heat wave, is moderated by a damp atmosphere and a lot of pollution. It was near the middle of winter, and very hard to imagine making this journey in mid-summer: though the air is almost completely dry, and you therefore perspire very little with normal activity, the sun feels as though it is seeping through the skin to your bones. We went to some other desert villages and also to a remarkable and vast salt lake (*Sal de Atacama*), which stretches to the south and is home to three types of the Flamingo, one native to Chile. The altitude was just sufficient to make you catch your breath a little now and then, but the air is so pure and dry that you can see much further than I'm used to. And the silence, as I expected, is astonishing.

→p16

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PEACOCKS IN THE DISTANCE

It was a beautiful July evening, the sort of golden evening that you get after a really hot day. Sitting outside in the Lally's garden, we all relaxed in the cool of the day. And with the sound of peacocks in the distance, we indulged in a pleasant meal, followed by strawberries and cream. We relaxed and talked of weddings and suchlike.

An evening of MU Fund-raising. Jenny Wells writes.



Or cover the cost of providing hot drinks at the Sleep-Out in December.

Then there is an MU booklet on bullying which would be good to get into all the schools - and another for all new students at the University of Hertfordshire with recipes and

practical tips for surviving student life.

This sounds idyllic doesn't it?

But there was a serious side to our indulgence.

Each year we have a fund-raising meal, and we donate the money we would normally spend on a meal, to an MU cause, and this year our money will go to support the Diocesan Project Fund.

In this way we could be helping to fund all sorts of outreach projects in the diocese - all very worthwhile.

For hospitals for example, the money could help fund the sewing project: buy special fabric for quilts, provide *cheer up* bags for children's wards or sponge bags for those admitted to hospital without warning. We could help pay for members to do the training for a parenting programme.

Donations could be given to Grey Havens bail flat for asylum seekers.

This is not all the money could be used for, but our money will not go with a label attached. We know that it will be used well, and knowing this made our evening even more special.

The MU is founded on prayer. The month began with the Wave of Prayer, when we prayed for our link dioceses and they for us, and so naturally we ended the evening with prayer.

*Let us go out into the night in peace,
And may the God of eternity stretch out
the heavens above us
and may the God of all earthly moment
be closer than breath
and the Spirit cover us with warm bright
wings.*

Amen



Church and Environment

Parishes throughout the Diocese of St Albans and nationally across the whole country are being encouraged to review their energy use as part of a new national campaign - *Shrinking the Footprint*. Parishes are being asked to complete an audit of their energy use in 2005 to establish the *carbon footprint* of the Church of England as a whole. This will be followed by initiatives to help churches shrink the footprint and a second audit in 2007 to measure the effectiveness of the campaign.

For further details see: <http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org>

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Berkhamsted is enjoying the lively interest of town planners at the moment. For Stag Lane, an application to build 150 houses is proceeding at a slow pace through the development control pipeline and a decision on an agreed scheme is

likely to be imminent. Early versions of the scheme did not inspire enthusiasm because of the *flat roof* nature of some of the houses and the feeling that the canal side was not being properly used. There has also been a lot of debate about whether or not there should be a children's play area on site or whether Canal Fields or Lagley Meadow are close enough to be used by children in the new houses.

Meanwhile, Tibbalds, the consultants that the borough council asked to come up with a view of the potential for rejuvenating the buildings between Water Lane car park and the High Street, have now submitted their conclusions. There are lots of different, even conflicting, views about what should happen to this part of the town but everybody is clear about one thing – something should be done. All the buildings are in a good state of repair but they are unattractive and do not at all have the quality we would expect to see at the centre of the town and in the conservation area.

Tibbalds report makes interesting reading. As part of their research into the history of the area, the authors show an old map (unfortunately undated) which still calls Church Lane by its former name - Back Lane – and shows a Gas Works close to where there was, until recently, a carpet shop. It also shows two former burial grounds – one in what is now the Collegiate School grounds, behind the Gas Works, and the other at the end of Mill Street on what is now Amersham House.

Ian Reay's &news &views

Reshaping the High Street

Ian Reay looks at the latest proposals

The authors say that Berkhamsted has few national chains in the High Street and this helps to give it a local character. They also believe that it has fewer retail units than the potential demand. This is a change – not so long ago the worry was that

there was too little demand for businesses in the town, and many shops were boarded up for years after Waitrose moved to its current site. They also think there is a need for one and two bedroom flats in the town centre.

Tibbalds think that, although the buildings fronting the High Street should be replaced, it would make sense to retain the existing Tesco's building and refurbish it. The shopping frontages could be extended down a pedestrianised Water Lane as far as the car park and the car park itself could be better landscaped. The Wilderness could also be pedestrianised with shopping frontages. A larger supermarket – about half as big again as Tescos - could be built on the other side of Water Lane. The report suggests a four storey building with space above the supermarket for flats and for small businesses to work in. It could also have a basement for car parking – as at Tescos - which could add another 43 spaces.

If Water Lane were pedestrianised that would probably mean that Greene Field Road would have to be widened and be made two way. But they suggest that Mill Street would not need to be changed.

Soon the borough council will use the ideas in this report to form the basis of a development brief which developers can work to. Before this can happen there will be a lot of consultation on the ideas coming forward with people and businesses in the town.



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REBUILDING UGANDA

The Bishop of St Albans
Harvest Appeal

For this year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal, the Diocese is supporting TEDDO (Teso Diocese Development Office), part of the Anglican Church in Uganda and a Christian Aid partner. "TEDDO is making a huge impact on individuals' lives in a troubled part of Uganda," explained **Jonathan Ellis**, the voluntary world development adviser for the Diocese.

TEDDO supports refugees from the north of the country, who are unable to return home, by giving them tools and seeds so that they can feed themselves and make a living.

TEDDO, founded in 1995, is the development arm of the Church of Uganda in the Teso region. TEDDO have been running successful agricultural programmes in the region for many years, including income generation projects, improved techniques and training for farmers and health education. TEDDO has also been responding to the crisis caused by the influx of displaced people into the region. It is providing household kits to about 11,000 displaced people in isolated camps greatly in need of assistance. The kits also include mosquito nets vital for the prevention of malaria.

The problems in his village in northern Uganda are described by **Engwan John Khokus** who is now living in a camp at Amuria:

In 2004 most of the homes were abandoned here because of brutal attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Now the LRA have not made so many attacks around here and some people have tried to go home. But in

September people become afraid still and move into the camps. This is because at this time the grass is long and people don't want to go out to their village because they can't see if there are rebels hiding nearby.

Recently the government announced that they wanted us to return. But people say we came here by ourselves and it is up to us when we go home. We have ploughed our crops here and we know there is no food for us there. People are scared. We are worried that if we go back and there is another attack like the one before we will lose our crops. There are so few people in the village that no-one knows what might happen to you out there. Here we have information about what is happening.

I have six children. The youngest is eight and the eldest 22. When the youngest one came here he didn't know our home. The elder ones don't want to go back because they wouldn't have any school there. Here I can work and get school fees for them. They talk of going back, but when they remember how they were chased by the rebels they don't want to go back until they know we are safe. They do go back for a few days sometimes, just to check on our home and see what has been burnt and what can be repaired but they don't feel safe there. My wife is also talking about going home, saying let us go and plant cassava there but I still say it will only be lost when the rebels come. It is better to plant here where we know we will be able to harvest. By foot we can get there in three hours. In a month I go back about six times. People live there in small camps, together just outside our villages. They plough together and many of them are asking us to come back. They need the joint effort so we can rebuild our schools and houses. ❖



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Berkhamsted Community Partnership is developing a new heritage initiative to put Berkhamsted more firmly on the

HISTORIC BERKHAMSTED

A New Heritage Initiative

historical map and to make visitors aware of the long and fascinating history of the town. Funding has been attracted from the East of England Development Agency, Action for Market Towns, Awards for All and the Berkhamsted History and Museum Society. One aim of the project is to produce a new brochure describing Berkhamsted Castle and giving a detailed account of its history.

The brochure will be priced at £2 and will be available from the Library and other outlets in the town.

Another aim is to have heritage maps, of the town, identifying some forty places of historical interest, displayed on notice boards in the town centre and available for £1 from map machines to be placed near the main car parks. A permanent display has also been developed in the Town Hall describing the history of the town and illustrating it with a collection of photographs and other fascinating documentary memorabilia. ❖



PERCY BIRTCHNELL MEMORIAL PRIZE 2006

Once again children from year 4 of Victoria School have taken part in the Annual Prize given by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society in memory of Percy Birchnell, local historian, founder member of the Society and Old Boy of Victoria Boys' School. This year the topic was *How Life changed in Victorian Berkhamsted*. The children do the work entirely in their own time although the topic is based on the National Curriculum study for the term. Eight children submitted projects and again the standard of the winning entries was high.

Prizes were awarded at the final assembly of the school year to **George Dalziel**, for his project *Changes in Victorian Berkhamsted*, and to **Katherine Martell** for *A Victorian House in Berkhamsted: Martley, my Home*. **Ellen Price** was Highly Commended for her project *The Victorians*. The interest shown by these nine year olds in the history of their town and the time that many of them obviously spent on their projects is very reassuring. It is hoped that the winning entries will be on show at the History Society's forthcoming exhibition *Unwillingly to School : Education in Berkhamsted Through the Ages*, which takes place from Monday 25th June to Saturday 30th June 2007.

Shopping Trips for the Elderly and Disabled in Berkhamsted

DCVS arrange shopping trips on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month to Waitrose where the shoppers can have refreshments in the cafeteria after shopping.

The Lions Club of Berkhamsted pick up and take home the shoppers and a escort is provided in the store if help is needed.

For further information please telephone Louise Cecil 01442 228930

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reviewletters

Why Turtle Bags? - Penny Abbott writes

None of us is likely to see a Leatherback Turtle unless we visit a Sealife Centre, but these creatures can be found in UK waters looking for food. They follow the warm currents that bring them to our western shores in search of their favourite food - jelly fish. Unfortunately for them they are often likely to eat upturned plastic bags instead. These bags are finding their way into many marine animals, so it is time to say NO to plastic bags.

I recently went shopping in Watford and found that I had collected eight bags in the one trip, so I have decided to try to stop using them altogether.

Then I came across **Turtle Bags**. These are hard-wearing re-usable string bags made of natural fibre and come in a variety of colours. They are very strong and can hold a lot of shopping (they just go on expanding!). They are made in countries of the Developing World so by using them you will be helping an industry in a local community. They are priced at £4.70 including postage and can easily fit into a pocket or a handbag.

Turtle Bags make wonderful presents and I have already given them to several members of my family. If you are interested in using a Turtle Bag, they can be obtained by downloading a form from the website www.turtlebags.co.uk or by telephoning 01299 827092.

TF note: Tesco have a *green points* scheme to promote bag re-use. Imagine my surprise when they refused to give me any green points for not using a bag at all!

Berkhamsted : A History & Celebration - Ken Wallis writes

My thanks go to **John Cook** for his review and useful comments which appeared in the September *review* concerning the book *Berkhamsted : A History & Celebration*. However, I thought that some explanation should be made about the background of the publication.

Frith's approached the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society with the aim of producing a book in a standard format for a projected series of local history books. The text was to be written in a set format along a given *Time Line*, and to be '*highly readable*'. It was not meant to be a definitive history. The text set the events in Berkhamsted in relation to national events (see pages 6 - 7 in the book). The **Francis Frith** photographic collection was to be the basis of the pictorial content. A similar book is available for Hemel Hempstead.

Unfortunately the **Francis Frith** photographs did not cover the town fully nor were there sufficient to make an interesting publication. The publishers agreed that to make the book interesting and to cover the *Time Line* to the present day, the Society would supplement the Frith photographs from their collection. Additional photographs were added, including modern ones, not only to illustrate the text but to show that Berkhamsted is not fixed in the past, but is a vibrant progressive commuter town that has an historic and interesting past.

All the photographs were given reference numbers because those from the Frith collection are available for purchase. There is a token in the back of the book that allows the purchaser a free mounted print inclusive in the purchase price.

I believe the book fulfils the criteria set by Frith's and is a very readable and well presented publication. For a more definitive history the Scott Hastie book is still available from Bookthrift.

Saturday 10th September saw the Trust's 15th Sponsored Cycle Ride and it seems likely that when all the sponsorship money has been collected later in the year, the sum raised in those fifteen Bike Rides will have risen to a total of more than a million pounds. Last year the Bike Ride raised nearly £89,000 and there is every hope that a similar sum will be raised this year. It is a great feat of organisation coordinated by **Patrick Lepper**, with over 500 churches and chapels taking part. The money raised allows the Trust to help churches and chapels with the never-ending work of maintenance and restoration. Among the 225 churches and chapels that have been supported by the Trust are several in this part of Hertfordshire - Berkhamsted Baptist Church, Bourne End, Great Gaddesden, St Mary's Hemel Hempstead, Long Marston and the

THE BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Heading for a million pounds.
Christopher Green reports



Patrick Howarth outside Great Gaddesdon Church

photo: Rowena Pike

Baptist Chapel in Wigginton.

The day of the Bike Ride this year was ideal for cycling. Sunny and warm but not oppressively hot, with a cooling breeze but not so strong that cycling against it was a struggle. There will have been several thousand sponsored cyclists on the road that day in Beds & Herts raising money for the Historic Churches Trust. I was among them and my route took me from Childwickbury, just north of St Albans at ten o'clock, to twelve churches and chapels in St Albans, across the hills to Bedmond and Abbots Langley, down to St Paul's Langleybury at Hunton Bridge, then back along the valley by way of Kings Langley, Apsley, nine churches and chapels in Hemel Hempstead, Bourne End and so to Berkhamsted, to finish my journey at All Saints' at ten to five. Forty three churches and chapels visited and home in time for tea. ❖



Victoria Church of England First School & Nursery

has been rated as outstanding, the highest possible overall rating, in an Ofsted Inspection. Staff, parents, pupils and governors are delighted with the report which reflects the extremely hard work by the school to improve its previous assessment as good in Nov 2000.

The report described the school as *an outstanding school that provides excellent value for money*, adding: *there is a real sense of putting the individual child at the centre of learning.*

It stated that *most pupils in key stages 1 & 2 make outstanding progress and standards are exceptionally high*, pupils had *excellent attitudes to learning* and that pupils' behaviour was *exemplary*.

Last month I wrote about the graffiti inscribed in the stonework of St Peter's Church and mentioned several dating from the seventeenth century. It later occurred to me that the people who had inscribed their names might have lived locally

and that I might be able to identify them in the Parish Registers for the period.

Parish Registers were first required by law in 1538 as the result of a Mandate prepared by **Thomas Cromwell** when he was Lord Chamberlain to Henry VIII. Ministers were instructed to record on a weekly basis every marriage, christening and burial. The record was to be witnessed by the churchwarden and deposited in a *sure coffer* which the parish was also required by the Mandate to purchase. In many parishes the earliest registers were simply loose sheets of paper, but in 1598 Elizabeth I signed an Order requiring parishes to transcribe all existing records, especially those since her accession in 1558, into parchment books and henceforth to maintain the record in such books. This Order also instructed ministers to read out on Sunday the entries added in the previous week. However it was not until 1711 that an Act was passed requiring register books to have ruled and numbered pages. Then in the mid eighteenth century when the problem of clandestine marriages had become a national scandal, specially printed marriage registers were introduced by the Marriage Act of 1754. Similar printed registers for christenings and burials were introduced in 1812. The amount of information accompanying each entry in the registers has varied from time to time, partly in response to requirements of legislation, but also undoubtedly reflecting the diligence and competence of the incumbent.

For St Peter's there are baptismal and burial registers for the whole period from

READING THE REGISTERS

Christopher Green
goes in search of
seventeenth century scribblers

1538 onward and marriage registers from 1754. The originals are now in the care of the County Record Office in Hertford, where, by arrangement, they can be consulted. The parish has a typewritten and

indexed transcript of the early registers up to 1839 and it was here that I looked for **William Babb** 1679, **Georg Hemsworth** 1683 and **James Siball** 1690 whose names are all inscribed in the bellchamber. There are no Siballs in the registers, but there are families of Hemsworths and Babbes. The children of **Frances and Mary Hemsworth**, Anne, John and Sarah are recorded in the baptismal register between 1684 and 1691. No sign of George, but there were Hemsworths in Berkhamsted in the late seventeenth century. The Babb family on the other hand is well represented and William was evidently a preferred family name. The children of **William and Mary Babb** are recorded in the baptismal register between 1660 and 1674 with William recorded as 'William jnr' no doubt to distinguish him from a father also called William. Among the children of **William and Mary Babb** is William, baptised on 1st August 1665. One of these **William Babb**s seems likely to be the person inscribing his name in the bellchamber of St Peter's in 1683, perhaps William jnr who would probably have been in his forties, perhaps his son, who would have been about eighteen.

While looking at the registers I recalled the name of **Robart Clarke**, boldly inscribed on a pillar of the north nave arcade and I looked for Clarkes in the baptismal registers for the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century. **Robert Clerke** was baptised in St Peter's on 29th January 1571 and the daughter of a **Robert Clerke**, possibly the same man, was baptised on 21st September 1588. Is this the man whose name confronts us every time we walk up the north aisle? ❖

◀p3 A Blazing Empty Silence

There are no echoes, and underfoot only sand, rock or salt. Walking in this environment, as we did a few times, I tried to imagine anyone traversing it on foot with pack animals and could not make the mental leap. When I read about the desert or the wilderness in the Bible, and especially about Jesus' withdrawal into a desert, or John the Baptist living in one, I shall always wonder whether it could really have been as extreme as this. I suspect not, but there must be similar qualities of space and silence, as well as the heat and scarcity of water, in the comparable Palestinian experience.

But the most interesting and unexpected part of the journey was in San Pedro. I had wanted to go there because it is a point of intersection between the ancient indigenous culture – in this case the desert and hill-dwelling *Atacamenos*, the Spanish conquerors and the mixed culture which is Chile today. There is a famous early Spanish Mission church (B) and an excellent Museum: a former parish priest (a Belgian Jesuit, I think) realised the richness of history and archaeology which lay around him and taught himself archaeology in order to research the indigenous history. The museum and indeed any subsequent understanding of *Atacamenos* history is his gift to Chile.

All of this was fascinating and engaging. But something very strange has happened in San Pedro. The first thing you notice is that you are surrounded by people speaking English. The place, although retaining the buildings and appearance of a desert village – dusty unpaved roads and small stone and *adobe* houses – has become a tourist trap of a very particular kind. It has more *travel*

and tours shops than food outlets or even hotels. In Santiago you see tourists, but not so obviously, and many are from South America, especially Brazil and Argentina. San Pedro seemed to have more English and north American visitors than local inhabitants. And the contrast, of course, between the local agricultural workers and the tourists, even of the shoestring back-packing variety, is heartbreaking.

But there was something much odder going on, something a little disturbing and sad, to me anyway. The beautiful old church and the excellent museum were fairly empty of visitors. Most of these people were in San Pedro on a kind of *New Age* journey. They come to visit the Valley of the Moon (A/C/D) – through which we drove and walked in daylight – on special night tours. It happened to be a full moon while we there and several people told me how lucky I was to be there at that time. They also visit some hot springs further up the Andes, and the *Sal de Atacama*. There is a suggested connection to the *mystical* Atacamenos heritage (being familiar with modern white Australian attempts to appropriate Aboriginal culture I was immediately suspicious of this) and there is also an unnatural number of musicians and other performers about; finally, it is not far to the Bolivian border, which means, among other things, ready access to cocaine. I realised we were in a very remote version of hippie Glastonbury and Stonehenge, in the same *religious* environment as the Beatles and their gurus.

None of this appeals to me very much! I knew we would soon put it behind us as we had to drive a long way through the desert to get back to Antofagasta. But I couldn't ignore a question: what was really bringing all these people there?



- A Like me they had come to the desert in search of something. They presumably rejected the Christian God and were probably persuaded that the church of San Pedro was an icon of Spanish domination and repression (though without it, interestingly, the *Atacamenos* story would have been lost). Still, they had come to the desert, even if it looked more like a Chilean version of The Desert Inn to me, in search of – what? Presumably they hoped for an experience, possibly even a spiritual experience. It is easy to mock that, sealed within my western Christian culture, and Christian priesthood, which offers me so much by way of spiritual experience – much of which, of course, I take for granted and waste – and also much privileged access to people’s lives and stories. But I can’t help being sad that the closest thing I saw to a pilgrimage on this visit was such a crass and commercial phantom, just another marketed commodity. And, of course, I feel a sense of failure that I, we, do not communicate the access to life, God’s true, deep, eternal life more widely and effectively: Holy Week in any parish church or a pilgrimage to Compostella or Walsingham, or a retreat on Iona, should all be more accessible than the Atacama desert to any of the English tourists I saw.
- B
- C
- D Jesus always encourages us to look to ourselves rather than making judgments about others, however, so I should no doubt return my attention to what I received from this unusual journey. It was certainly very easy to pray in the desert: I could imagine the desert Fathers’ advantage in that regard, and how their experience informed the whole of our monastic tradition. And I was conscious that the struggle of ordinary living for so many Chileans is much magnified in this harsh and empty

environment, to which life has to be physically imported. Yet I did notice, as I had expected, that many of those who make the effort seemed, on my superficial acquaintance, to have a far-away look in the eye and a certain quiet, laid-back humour.

On the drive back the environment seemed to defeat conversation. As well as the desert itself, and a railway line along which occasional and excruciatingly slow goods trains limp, there are regular roadside graves and memorials and not just of individual people: frequently a sign summarizes the brief history of a ghost town that flourished in, say, the 1920’s, around one of the many nitrate mines (mostly British businesses) which are now closed. On a sign pointing to an empty space in the desert is recorded the name of a town, its population, the length of its existence, the amount it produced; just occasionally there are the visible remains of such a town, gradually being reclaimed by the sand. All that is part of the bigger sense of space and time which I was grateful to glimpse.

As so often on holiday I was helped to realise that we take ourselves with us wherever we go; that we don’t find things, so much as ourselves in a different environment: often surprised selves, unable to communicate properly or understand our context. The visual experience will stay with me for a long time: I think the question about why we go remains! Except that, as the Chilean church constantly proclaims, we are truly all on a journey with God, whether we perform slightly parodic holiday pilgrimages or real grinding journeys of work or faith.

And God is patiently with us. ❖

(ED: It is interesting to see from the colour photos that the sand is very grey. See <http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>)



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The one hundred and ten new Year 5 pupils of Thomas Coram celebrated the beginning of their 4 years at the school, with a special welcome service at the Chapel of Ashlyns School. The service took place on Wednesday 14th September and was led by **The Reverend Tricia Gibson** of the Berkhamsted Team Ministry.

The Thomas Coram Middle School is a Church of England School. Mr Delasalle, the Headteacher said: *"As such we take our responsibilities seriously of providing a learning environment for all pupils based on Christian principles. This year we welcome a particularly high number of new Year 5 pupils and we want this special*

WELCOME SERVICE

A New Year begins at Thomas Coram Middle School

service to reinforce their feeling of membership of the school, the church and the heritage of the man, Thomas Coram, who did so much important work for children in his day."

The service, which took place on Holy Cross Day (a Principal feast day of the Church of England, when the triumph of the cross is celebrated), provided an opportunity to welcome all new pupils and their families. Each pupil was presented with a New Testament Bible by Gideons International and a Thomas Coram badge by the Headteacher. Mr Delasalle continued: *"These symbols will be received as a sign of being part of the school community and the world-wide Christian community."* ❖



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review Northchurch & Wigginton

What do we mean by Heaven?

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon** seeks
an answer.

On October 29th at 6:30pm a special service will be held at St Mary's to remember, in particular, those who have died over the last year. Invitations are sent out to families who have had a funeral service and, during the evening service, the names of

those who have died are read out and candles are lit in their memory.

A few weeks ago as a family we took a tent to the Greenbelt Festival at Cheltenham Race Course. It is a hard event to describe, but it consists of a mixture of music, speakers, discussions and worship. One of the speakers I went to hear was **John Bell**, who is one of the founders of the Iona Community in Scotland. He took as the theme for his talk the question of what do we mean by Heaven? It is a good question that generates a great deal of debate. At the conclusion to his talk, **John Bell**, explored some of the Biblical images that might help us understand what might be meant by this mysterious term. First of all, he stressed that the language of heaven in the New Testament is not just speaking about an existence after this life, but also with the breaking in of a new order into this present world. The hope of a world based on justice, peace, integrity and compassion was not in the teachings of Jesus a day dream, but rather a call to live by a new code of behaviour.

John Bell then used a really good image to help us think about what heaven might mean. His second point was to stress that the language of heaven in the Bible was always communal in its imagery. In the

Bible there are many references to banquets and feasts. These are big parties in which everyone is welcome. He suggested that heaven might mean sharing in a banquet, in which *"you can drink and never get drunk, eat the finest foods and never get indigestion or put on weight and enjoy others' company and conversation without it ever running dry."*

On the Sunday morning of the Greenbelt Festival a huge Eucharist was held by the main stage. In all, about 10,000 people of all ages and nationalities were present. The service was led from the stage, but for the distribution of the bread and wine, we were encouraged to split into groups of 20-30 and share the communion together. Each group was given a bag containing bread, wine and a cup and we shared them with people we knew and those who were unknown to us. In a small way it seemed a glimpse of heaven. Being with others and sharing with others in God's redeemed community. Yet, also looking forward to sharing in that fellowship with those whom we love, but see no longer.

The pain of bereavement is very hard and the loss of someone close to us is one of the hardest things we experience in this life. If you would like to come to the service on October 29th you will be very welcome. ❖

<http://www.stmarysnorthchurch.com>

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PARISH OFFICE - OPENING HOURS

In future the Parish Office will be open as follows:

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm
Thursday & Friday 9:30am-12:00 noon

YOUTH AT OXFAM

Youth usually gets a bad press but experience at the Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted paints a very different picture.

At the end of the summer term, the shop received from local school Westbrook Hay a cheque for £2,865 for gifts from the alternative gifts catalogue *Oxfam Unwrapped*. The inspiration for this amazing feat came from 10-year-old **Daniel Heydecker** who saw a copy of the catalogue which showed a school in Africa with a price tag of £2000. "*I'm going to do that*" Daniel told his mother and twelve months on the fund-raising drive he started has not only funded a school but also desks and chairs, a toilet, school equipment at £4 per child as well as vital teacher training. What an achievement!

But what about another Daniel who turns up to operate the till Saturday after Saturday and keeps the shop spic and span into the bargain. Not to mention the army of loyal youngsters undertaking the Community Service section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award or school scheme and who carry out innumerable time-consuming tasks which keep the wheels turning. Many stay on when they have completed their hours and provide invaluable help, especially at holiday times.

Then there are the gap year and university students who make time to help those less fortunate. Asher, a gap year student, organised a major concert in aid of the tsunami appeal.

The dedicated Oxfam group at Berkhamsted Collegiate School has raised thousands of pounds. Some of them gave Oxfam Unwrapped gifts instead of prizes at their annual party.

The new catalogue will be out early in October. Young or young-at-heart, why not select a gift and encourage your organisation to follow Daniel's inspiring example.

TREASURER WANTED

Miles Nicholas, the Treasurer of the Berkhamsted Appeals Committee for The Church of England Children's Society, would like to retire. The Committee is urgently seeking someone who would join the committee now with a view to taking over the Treasurer's role next year. Miles will work closely with any volunteer to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities. The 5 or 6 fundraising events we undertake each year raise over £10,000. The small committee meets about eight times during the year to plan these events. If you can possibly help and would like more information please phone **Ann Browning**, Chairman (864968)

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Please bring your boxes for emptying to the 9:30am service at St Peter's on any Sunday in October.

Alternatively phone **Kathie Lally** on 863526 and she will collect your box

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Demonstration of line and wash technique *Caricatures* with **Danny Byrne**. 8:00pm on Thursday 18th October at the Civic Centre. Visitors £2 at the door.

*review*notes¬ices

NON-CONFORMITY IN HERTS

Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society present a talk by **Alan Rushton** in the Civic Centre at 8:00pm on Wednesday 11th October. Visitors £2.50 at the door.

DACORUM LIVE!

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at 7:45pm on Friday 20th October in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, King's Road. Mendelssohn Fingal's Cave, Mozart Piano Concerto No.21 (Elvira Madigan), Beethoven Pastoral Symphony. Conductor Charles Hazelwood. Tickets £15/£13 from Box Office (228091), Civic Centre and at the door.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

The traditional Charity Christmas Card Sale will be held in the Court House on the following dates:

Friday 27th October 9:15am - 4:00pm
Saturday 28th October 9:15am - 4:00pm
Saturday 11th November 9:15am - 4:00pm
Saturday 25th November 9:15am - 4:00pm

Many national charities and local charities from Herts and Bucks will be represented, and again there will be a wide and tempting selection of Charity Christmas Cards, wrapping paper and Christmas accessories to choose from. Charities represented include ARC, Leukaemia Research, Hope for Children, The Chiltern Society, Mencap, The National Eczema Society, Save the Children, RNLI, the Hospice of St Francis and the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

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JOHN SAYER ALMSHOUSES

There is a vacancy at present in one of the four John Sayer Almshouses in Berkhamsted, which are located at 235/241 (odd) High Street - opposite the Way Inn Post Office. The Almshouses date back to around 1684 – but they have been modified since! The somewhat archaically worded residency qualifications are that *“The almspeople shall be poor single women who are members of the Church of England and who (except in special cases to be approved by the Charity Commissioners) are resident in the Town of Berkhamsted.”* In this instance, *single* includes *widowed*. The Trustees do have some discretion in applying these rules. The accommodation provides a living room, bedroom, kitchen and “level-access” bathroom. There is a shared garden at the rear of the almshouses.

If you are interested in applying to live there, or if you know anyone who might be, please ask **Michael Robinson** (863559) for further details.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Recital on Saturday 7th October at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Timothy Orpen** (clarinet) and **John Reid** (piano) playing works by Debussy, Stravinsky, Schumann, Brahms & Milhaud. Tickets £10/£5 from the Treasurer (871598) or at the door.

BRASS BAND CONCERT

Berkhamsted Lions present the Skelmanthorpe Brass Band at the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, King's Road at 7:30pm on Saturday 28th October. Tickets £12.50 from 864411 or at the door. Net proceeds to local Lions charities


TUESDAY CLUB

The first meeting of our new season was held on 5th September at our new starting time of 7.45pm. A few members were still on holiday but a good attendance enjoyed the reminiscences of **Lydia Carmichael** who first came to Berkhamsted at the age of five to the Foundling Hospital, now Ashlyns School. She spoke fluently without notes with a mixture of sad and happy memories. Our programme to July 2007 is very varied with humorous and local speakers. New members and visitors are very welcome. We meet in the Court House on the first Tuesday of each month.

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BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our September meeting **Joy Lovell**, President, was pleased to see so many members and welcomed a new member to our midst. Together with **Janet Mitchell** they took us through the business matters and forthcoming events in which we can all participate. Our speaker this month was **Isobel Leek**, her subject being *A Victorian Legacy in the Garden* with excellent slides of Victorian gardens around the country, including Waddesden Manor, so familiar to many of us. The Victorians went for bright colourful flowers with high background foliage. The large estate gardens were mostly terraced with ornamental statues, conservatories and massive greenhouses. We can still see in our own gardens at home growing reminders of the Victorians with geranium and lobelia plants

An appreciation was given by **Judith Lowther**. During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competition judged.

On 6th October **Jean Curl** is our speaker talking on *Henry VIII - Victim or Villain*. Do join us at the Court House at 2:00pm. New members and visitors are most welcome.

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For details of all the listed events contact 851227 or ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Sunday 15th October and Monday 16th October 8:00am-10:00am - Family orientated guided walk for views of deer in the mating season. £4.00/£3.00

Saturday 21st October 2:00pm-4:00pm - Tea and Talk: Enjoy a country tea while learning about fallow deer and how they live on the Ashridge estate. £12.00

Sunday 22nd October 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm - Fungus Foray: A walk through the estate investigating the fascinating world of fungus. £4/£3.

Monday 23rd October 12:00 noon-4:00pm - Children's Halloween mask-making. £1.00

Thursday 26th October 11:00am-12.00 noon - Bird Watching at Tring Reservoirs £1.00

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE WALKS AND STROLLS

Tuesday 10th October 2:30pm: Friends' Stroll; meet at B4506 road end of Monument Drive. (No need to book)

Saturday 14th October 7:00am: Friends' early morning deer rut walk.

This is the most exciting time of year to watch the Fallow Deer as the bucks compete for the does. Bring binoculars if you have them!

October

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong	
	<i>All Saints' 1st</i>	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led	
	8 th	10:00am Eucharist – Anglican led	
	15 th	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led	
	22 nd	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led	
	29 th	10:00am Eucharist – Anglican led	
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer			
MON	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 9:15am
TUE	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 8:00am
THU		EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 11:00am (<i>Fr Michael's day off</i>)
FRI	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i>	Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 9:30am <i>St Peter's</i> MP 8:45am <i>All Saint's</i>	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 10:00am
1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm		<i>Court House</i>
	For anyone on their own on a Sunday.		Contact: Joan Morris (863780)
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm		<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)		
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP: 8:00pm at 22 Upper Hall Park for bible study.		
	Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)		
Tue	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am <i>All Saints' Church Hall</i>		
	Song Time or Short service as announced.		Jenny Wells (870981)
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm		<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)		
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i>		<i>Court House</i>
	Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)		
3 rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.		
	<i>Non-members always welcome.</i>		Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)
4 rd Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm		<i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i>
	Tell us if anyone needs our prayers.		Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month		at Jenny's <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 <i>St Peter's</i> (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.

October/November

October

Sun	1	3:00pm	Hospice Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
Mon	2	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	3	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Samuel the Good Listener</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	6	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	8	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	10	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council.....	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	14	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents Gaudeamus choral concert.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	17	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Elijah and the Ravens</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	21	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches	
			Prayer Breakfast	<i>The Court House / St Peter's</i>

November

Wed	1	8:00pm	All Saints' Patronal Festival Parish Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
Thu	2	8:00pm	Solemn Requiem for All Souls (Durufle Requiem, Chiltern Chamber Choir)	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	3	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	4	7:30pm	Chandos Ensemble – <i>orchestral concert</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	6	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	7	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>David & Goliath</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	8	8:00pm	All Saints' Area Committee Meeting	<i>TBA</i>
Sun	12	3:00pm	The Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance	<i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	15	8:00pm	St Peter's Area Committee Meeting	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	18	8:00pm	Association of Berkhamsted Churches	
			Prayer Breakfast	<i>Northchurch Baptist Church</i>
Sun	19	6:00pm	St Peter's Choir - St Cecilia Concert	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	21	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Jonah & the Whale</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	25	7:30pm	The Bridgewater Band – <i>orchestral concert</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (All Saints')

3 September Vonda Louise Herbert

Weddings (St Peter's)

12 August Mark Lally & Phillippa Goodwin

9 September Mark Stephen Lonsdale & Rebecca Helen Barrington Hill

Funerals

8 August	Eric Herbert Rickett	Kingshill (Graveside service)
9 August	Alan Burrige	Chilterns Crematorium
11 August	Eileen Edith Sear	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)
22 August	Cynthia Dorothea Ernestine Freeman	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)
9 September	Clifford Sidney Johnson	Chilterns Crematorium
13 September	Neil Simon Bisset	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

review factfile

YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST PETER'S AND ALL SAINTS'

St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Sally Emery (870656) or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

Crèche is available at 9:30am for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Please contact Nicola Beadle (874538)

All Saints'

The Anglican and Methodist children meet together on Sundays at 10:00 am as *Explorers*, in four age-groups: *Trekkers* 3-5 years, *Hikers* 5-8 years, *Climbers* 8-10 years and *Pathfinders* 11 years onward. Contacts: for Explorers—Carenza Wilton (875147), for Pathfinders—Penny O'Neill (843422) or Rebecca Judd (865691). Crèche is available at the same time for children under 3. Contact: Vicky Drury (384794).

Youth Groups

TEs for Year 9 up meets each Thursday at 7pm to 9pm in the Court House
Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in All Saints' Hall. Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

Holy Trinity Potten End

The place-name Potten End is thought to signify the land associated with the family of **John Potyn** who appears in documentary records in the mid sixteenth century. Holy Trinity Church was built as a daughter church of St Peter's in the nineteenth century to serve the community that grew up in this place. Lord Brownlow gave the land and **Francis Penrose**, best known as an archaeologist and astronomer, was the architect. The building is Romanesque in style with a broad nave, short transepts and an apsidal east end. **Lord Brownlow** thought it '*cheap and charming*'. There is a good sense of light and space inside thanks to plain glass in all the windows except those in the apse - the gift of **Lady Marian Alford**. The church was consecrated in 1868 and Potten End became a separate parish in 1895 sharing a Vicar with St Lawrence, Nettleden. Now after rather more than a hundred years Potten End has come into a new relationship with St Peter's as one of the churches in the new Berkhamsted Team Ministry. One of the most striking features of the church when you enter it and walk around, is the great number of handsome furnishings that have come to the church as gifts to commemorate the lives of devoted parishioners, long-serving churchwardens and well-loved incumbents - the pulpit, the choir stalls, the font, the bells, the hanging Sanctuary cross, the Easter candle stand, the chair and prayer desk forming the priest's stall, the internal doors of the south porch, the Vicars board, the bell-ropes and outside in the churchyard, the war memorial. All gifts, with dates ranging from 1911 to 2002, and reflecting a community for whom this church has, since its consecration, been a focus of community life. ❖

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: **Chris Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)
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

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'

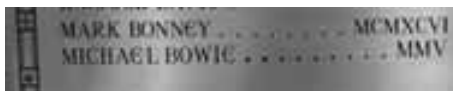
Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894) allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk
All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership.
Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis**, 32 Finch Road (866324)

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

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



This needs no further explanation!

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