

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

**Commercialising
Christmas**

**Mismanaging the
NHS**

**The Three
Rectories**

**A Rattling Good
Holiday**

**The Parable of
the Allotments**

**This Month's
Notes and
Events**



November 2006



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the November 2006 issue of the Berkhamsted review

Sometimes the articles that come together in an issue of the *review* have a common theme. This is almost always a matter of chance rather than careful planning by the Editor. This month there are several articles that touch on issues of *sharing* and its inseparability from *caring*. This is perhaps an unsurprising theme in a parish magazine. A powerful message in the Gospels is about sharing our resources and caring for those around us. Both Father Michael's leader and the MU article are about caring, but the particular emphasis in a couple of other articles this month is on sharing *ourselves*. *The Parable of the Allotments* is about the danger of cutting ourselves off from one another; and Jonathan Gordon writing about styles of worship, stresses the importance of understanding the preferences of other people. These articles seem to echo wider concerns in our society. How best should we bring together the many ethnic communities that now live in Britain? What does it say about our country that some people feel they must shut themselves off in gated communities patrolled by security guards?

Christopher Green

In this month's issue...

COMMERCIALISING CHRISTMAS

More of an opportunity than a threat.

Father Michael Bowie writes..... p3

MISMANAGING THE NHS

Ian Reay explores the bizarre world of performance targets p7

THE THREE RECTORIES

Susan Davis reviews a memoir of privileged lives p11

A RATTLING GOOD HOLIDAY

David Pearce takes to the road again p14

THE PARABLE OF THE ALLOTMENTS

Steve Croft, leader of *Fresh Expressions* writes..... p16

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

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**Commercialising
Christmas**
More of an
opportunity than a
threat. **Father
Michael Bowie**
writes

review leader

I shall resist the temptation to write further about Chile this month (having been born to ex-missionary parents I am well aware of the traps of the slide night!), but I want to put you on notice that Carolina and I will be there again for a shorter visit after Christmas,

when we hope to forge a closer link on behalf of St Peter's with the *Hogar de Cristo*.

Hogar de Cristo means *Home of Christ* and is the name of the institution founded in Santiago by Fr Alberto Hurtado (recently canonised by the Church as a saint) to address, originally, homelessness and urban poverty, and now, sixty years on, responding to a broad range of social issues and needs. So you may expect more Latin American commentary in the New Year. We hope this time also to visit the south of the country, including a project which USPG supports with the indigenous *Pehuenche* people in the southern Andes.

Meanwhile, back in Berkhamsted... October is that month in which the weather turns, the clocks go back to real time (we all know that GMT, like the King James Bible, was created by God), and Christmas begins to loom threateningly or alluringly in the middle distance, depending on your point of view. I have already been part of my first *isn't it terrible, all the Christmas stock is already in the shops* conversation of the year and will all too soon be negotiating the effusion of Christmas Carol services which anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth by weeks, if not the months which the shops allow. In church, of course, we do spend about one month looking purposefully towards Christmas – that's Advent, a kind of pre-Christmas Lent. But

we tend to steer off Christmas Carols and celebrations until Christmas Eve, while inevitably conscious of a barrage of celebration that, ironically to us, will *stop* at the same time that we start celebrating the festival of Jesus' birth as both human being and God-with-us.

This doesn't irritate me as much as it seems to irritate some others and I sometimes wonder why. Certainly the commercial anticipation of Christmas is part of a tendency in modern life to do things too quickly, to avoid waiting for things at all costs. But I see the presence of the Christmas story all around us for three months as more of an opportunity than a threat. I would be more upset if nobody noticed that Christmas happened! I think it is good for Christians to use the secular festival as an opportunity politely and gently to remind people of its religious content and why we think it is important.

I also enjoy this tension between two ways of dealing with the same set of information, one anticipatory and the other patiently, the two coinciding in time for about 48 hours around Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Christians, from the time of the New Testament onwards, have struggled with the apparent contradiction of being active members of the world and yet seeking another home, with God:

For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13.14

Before we get to Advent, or anywhere near Christmas, in this month of November, we turn our attention to that anticipated life as we give thanks to God for all who have gone before us in faith in the great feast of All Saints, the solemn commemoration of All Souls (when we

→ p9

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There is an old Mexican custom, where, during Advent, people dressed up as Mary and Joseph travel around their villages knocking at peoples' doors to see who will give them hospitality.

The Mothers' Union has adapted this custom through the idea of a Travelling Crib.

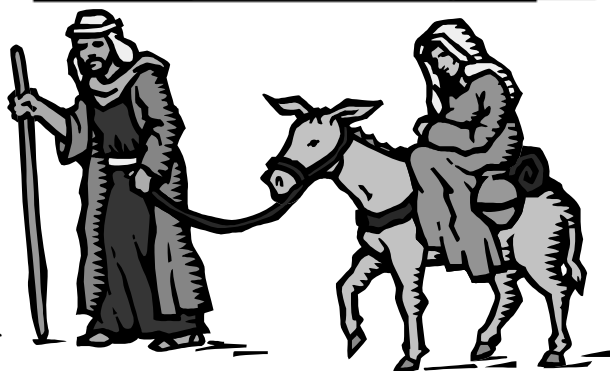
Our branch of The Mothers' Union has, for many years, provided two Travelling Cribs for the parish, one for each church. The knitted figures of Mary and Joseph are made by our members in order to provide a *child friendly* crib so that no one will have to worry that young children might damage them. Each year they are mended or replaced, as necessary. This year the St Peter's crib has a new *Joseph* to join the replacement *Mary* from last year.

The figures have a special basket to travel in and are taken on to their next resting place by the family who gave them shelter the night before. Each family they visit is asked to prepare a special place in their home for them to rest for the night. When they arrive at each home, there is a short welcoming prayer for the two families to use.

If you would like the Travelling Crib to spend a night in your home during Advent this year please sign up on the list which will be in church on Sundays 12th & 19th November and, during the week in between, at Chuckles and Little Fishes. One list will be available to sign at St Peter's and another at All Saints'. Make a note of the dates and bring your diaries! To avoid disappointment, sign up on Sunday 12th.

The cribs will be blessed and sent out from each church at the morning services, on

THE TRAVELLING CRIB



Advent Sunday, 3rd December. One will leave from All Saints' and one from St Peter's, with the first of the families on each list who have offered their homes as a resting place on their journey. Each night they will stay with a different family before returning to church, with the last family, at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

If you have any queries please contact **Jenny Wells** (870981) for the All Saints' Crib or **Tracy Robinson** (863559) for the St Peter's Crib. ❖

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Imagine that you are a consultant working for the National Health Service and you are sitting in your clinic one morning waiting for patients to come and see you. You know that there is a heavy demand for the specialism that you have been trained to provide but no one turns up for a consultation all day. What has happened?

The answer is that the hospital management is holding back patients because they haven't been waiting in the queue for long enough! This may seem to be a bizarre way to manage a service that is bursting at the seams, with demand far outstripping supply and with cash shortages which are leading to a downgrading of services and closures of hospital departments. But that is what the logic of NHS performance targets is apparently leading to. This is what is actually happening in Hemel Hempstead Hospital now, for some services.

A hospital in eastern England recently was told that it would have its budget cut because it exceeded its waiting time targets. So if a hospital is performing well, and seeing and treating patients more quickly than the bureaucrats think it ought to for the money it has been given, then the only logical course of action for the hospital management is to reduce its performance level. That means making patients wait for treatment even if the doctors, nurses and consulting rooms are all there ready and willing to receive them.

Meanwhile the West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust has published its ideas for how it wants to change hospital services in the area. It subtitles the paper *Next Steps in Investing in your Health*. On reading the paper it becomes clear that the proposals are not about *investing* at all but about cost

Ian Reay's &news &views

Mismanaging the NHS

Ian Reay explores the bizarre world of performance targets

cutting. It is explained that the Trust has a total deficit that has now risen to £41m. We are not told how much of this £41m is being paid to consultants while they sit in empty clinics waiting for patients who, in their turn, are waiting at home wondering

when their appointment is going to be. We are told though what the Trust does plan to do to save this money. It claims that services are being *duplicated* – perhaps this means that for every consultant in Hemel Hempstead, sitting in an empty consultation room, there is also a consultant in Watford who is similarly in a state of unwelcome idleness.

On the other hand it may be that the consultant in Watford is working hard but is unable to see all the patients quickly enough to keep the waiting times down to the target level which Hemel Hempstead is in danger of exceeding. If so then surely the answer is to offer some of the Watford patients the opportunity to go to Hemel Hempstead. Watford would then be in a better position to achieve its target and the performance at HH would also sink down to the required level. The hospital could then avoid having its budget cut as a result of overzealous concern for the needs of its patients.

I have, of course, written this with *tongue in cheek* and it may give an exaggerated and over simplified view of what is going on. But the fact is that what the Trust is proposing is, in effect, to save costs that have overrun because of inefficient management of resources by cuts in services rather than attempting to offer these same services more cost effectively.

This is being dressed up as Investing in Health but is actually nothing of the kind.



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Mischke Weinreb, Chair of Berkhamsted Youth Town Council, now 18, has retired to make way for new young leadership, as she is about to embark on her university education.

RETIRING AT EIGHTEEN

After six successful years in office

Though they might not know her, hundreds of young people will miss her. She has been the driving force behind so many innovations concerning leisure activity for 12 to 18 year olds in the town, including the Swan Youth Club and forthcoming activity area on Canal Field. She has been a member of the Youth Town Council for eight years – chairman for six of them. During that time, the Council led by Mischke has linked closely with the Town, Borough and County Councils to ensure that funds have been, and still are, forthcoming to build an organization which is bringing new life to the youth community.

She was taken out for dinner recently and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation **“For her long serving and valuable contributions to the work of Berkhamsted Youth Council. For her enthusiasm, energy and commitment for the benefit of all young people in Berkhamsted and the community as a whole.”**

During her time as Chair of the Youth Council, she has worked with the British Youth Council, participated in the Best Youth Minister competition winning best minister for the South of England, co-led the Youth Vision for

Dacorum Borough Council and chaired the Democracy Day for Dacorum. She also won through to the finals of the Deutsche Bank Spotlight Awards for services to the community.

Whilst doing all this she worked enthusiastically and tirelessly to enhance youth facilities, which have not been catered for in Berkhamsted. She has been a key entertainments organizer for the young people of the town, and the gigs she has organized raised money to help support the Youth Council.

In addition she has put Berkhamsted on the map nationally as the town's representative at National events such as the annual British Youth Council Conferences, and the Democracy gatherings. She will be sorely missed but leaves behind a thriving youth council full of ideas and determination to continue her good work. She will be keeping a watchful and loving eye on their progress. ❖

←P3 Commercialising Christmas


remember and pray for our dead) and the final Sunday of the Church Year, the Feast of Christ the King.

One of my favourite hymns, ‘*In our day of thanksgiving*’ gives thanks for those who have gone before us and recalls our own hope for the future. We sang it on St Peter's Day and will sing it again during November. Two of its verses connect the importance of our places of worship and the sentiment from Hebrews 13 above:

*These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,
And dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;
Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,
And still they were seeking the city of God.*

*Sing praise then, for all who here sought and here found him,
Whose journey is ended, whose perils are past:
They believed in the Light; and its glory is round them,
Where the clouds of earth's sorrow are lifted at last.*

I rejoice in that heritage, here and in all our churches, but remind myself that it only has meaning because of Christmas, because of God caring enough about us to come and join us in the grubby business of humanity. Commercial Christmas intersects with that pretty well. So I don't mind hearing about Christmas as often as anyone wishes to advertise it. ❖



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Written during the Second World War, this memoir, taken from diaries and letters, illuminates the life led in the privileged sanctuary of three related Church of England rectories in the second half of the nineteenth century, when the Rector was second only to the Squire in importance and prestige. Two of the rectories of the title,

Kennington in South London, Withington in Gloucestershire are connected in the narrative by the marriage of the **Reverend Charlton Lane** to the daughter of the **Reverend Gustavus Talbot** and the third, Little Gaddesden is where they spent their short married life. Their daughter Constance (the author) spent most of her childhood at Nettleden House where the family interacted with the Brownlows of Ashridge, so there is much to entertain those interested in local history in the last section of the book.

The first and second sections of the book are an account of the lives of the Talbot and Lane family members. There is certainly a market for this kind of social history – witness the popularity of the Kilvert diaries and the *Diary of an Edwardian Lady* though there is a more unified voice to follow in those volumes, rather than the several characters' lives we follow and the rather random collection of memories in the final section where famous and not-so-famous names from the past are thrown at the reader in quick succession. There is even a poem by the minor American author and poet John Russell Lowell commemorating a moonlit picnic which adds very little to the sum of human knowledge.

The author has an eye for nature and there

THE THREE RECTORIES

Susan Davis reviews a memoir of privileged lives

The Three Rectories : Withington – Kennington – Little Gaddesden

By **Constance Lane** (with a forward by her niece **Barbara Cassell**, a long-term resident of Little Gaddesden).

Philimore & Co. Ltd Chichester.
ISBN 1 86077 296 X £13.00

are some poetic descriptions of landscape in her evocation of a past *golden era*. **Charlton Lane**, a handsome, talented water colour artist and generally all-round *gilded youth* enjoyed a privileged time at Oxford and later travelling in Europe as tutor to a wealthy family before his marriage. The author is at pains to point out that the family were not all

rich or aristocratic, yet they were certainly on visiting terms.

The women as befitted their status as rectory wives and daughters administer soup to the *poor people*. Emma Talbot seems to have had a genuine concern for their well-being. A letter of 1871 from her indicates the state of rural poverty in the local village: ‘...I...found Eliza not quite so well. She was downstairs, but sitting up makes her so faint and sick and she had nothing but a common wooden chair, so I extracted the poor peoples’ chair from the Smiths....and I am going to send it’. It’s a kind thought and I suppose it is too much to expect for Emma to have questioned the *status quo* which necessitated it. Modern day clergy in their small red brick houses may well look back with incredulity at the life led by their nineteenth century predecessors. “My grandfather”, says the author, “never asked a parishioner into his house”. He seemed to be more at home with horses.

It is a leisurely and at times entertaining read with some insights into the society of the period. I can see the problem with finding a suitable title to draw together the strands of the story – hence the rather uninspiring final choice.. ❖

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.

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The horizons of my early boyhood were widened by that excellent publication, *The Boys' Own Paper*, which caught my imagination with tales of adventure, and provided essential information on the building of a canoe or finding one's way in a fog. A revival of this paper today would go some way towards providing purpose for any disaffected male teenager. One edition, in 1926, whets the appetite for cycling:

There is nothing quite like a cycling holiday for health, freedom and constant variety of scene....More than any other class of holiday maker is the cyclist his own man.

The tourer *a-wheel* can be assured that he will have a *rattling good holiday*. There is useful advice about sending fresh underwear ahead to post offices; on whether one should pack slippers. It expatiates on the thrill of the sudden realisation that one has to *find a roof for the night*.

With such thoughts I set off on the last leg of my odyssey from John o'Groats to Berkhamsted. There was, in the town here, much muttering about my irresponsibility, but not to venture when one can must inevitably lead only to regret, and regret is not a recipe for longevity. With this argument I tried to persuade my wife that I was actually doing her a favour.

A reader – if there be one - will find little account here of those external things beloved of travel writers. I *saw* very little. True, the sun shone for ten minutes of self-indulgence at John o'Groats, for a brief sandwich time at Drumnadrochit, and then again when a motherly Scottish lady beyond the Fall of Lora in an act of supererogation cooked for me a Scottish pie and gave it to me on a bone-china plate as I sat wearily on the pavement outside

A RATTLING GOOD HOLIDAY

David Pearce
takes to the road again

her General Stores. But, for the most part, a steady rain, low cloud, a violent headwind that would blow me to a standstill at a sudden corner, together with the necessity of avoiding

pot-holes or jetsam on the near-side edge - all meant that the *scenery* was almost exclusively of the inside of my head. I was happy enough with that, for I got to know myself well, and maintained a constant dialogue with those parts of my body unused to such maltreatment.

They all behaved admirably: I am proud of them. There was very little grumbling, or wish to capitulate. The leg muscles sighed, and stirred into action with each new day and uphill climb, and even the dourness of being wet through was made worthwhile by the delight of a hot bath - if I was lucky - at the end of the day. Old unseen friends accompanied my thoughts. King Lear especially with his: *When the mind's free the body's delicate*, and, most especially, the words of his fellow traveller, Edgar: *The worst is not so long as we can say "This is the worst"*. When one thinks that one has come to the worst, there is always one more turn of the screw, such as the absence, with night falling, of any hostelry or B&B; or the puncture in the driving wind on the dreadful A74, just south of Gretna, with lorries thundering past. Again and again, down the west coast of Scotland, the mountains would ring me round with their misty tops so that there seemed no way out save over impossible ascents. I learned that there is a way out if you hold on long enough. I learned not to be smug. That comes later - as I write this, and with discomforts fading in the memory.

I remember sounds more than views. The fluting cries of the curlew, the skirr of the redshank, and the constant calling of cuckoos that surprised me in mid June down through the central moorlands of

Sutherland, and stayed with me through nearly all of a long summer night as I slept in a shed – the only accommodation I could find. I remember the smell of the sea as I pressed on down the silvery shore of Loch Fyne, and the scents of resinous timber through Ayrshire .

I remember, most of all, amusing meetings. The four Australians looking at my ancient bike in Thurso. *'That yours?'* *'Yes.'* *'Do you ride it?'* *'Yes.'* *'Where from?'* *'Well, not very far yet; from John o' Groats.'* *'Where you going?'* *'Well... down towards London.'* *'What! On that?'* *'Yes, actually.'* *'Well, goo' luck.'* There was a late-evening dialogue at Melfort with a woman who lived next to the church, and who, I suspect, found my enquiries for a B&B a bit tedious. When I suggested that I would *just doss in the church*, she became quite animated in her attempts to find me a place further on. I discovered that she was the rector's wife!

There were the Pakistani boys who said that they would order an ambulance for

me at the top of the hill. There was the epileptic in the bunkhouse for whose company I was grateful; and I shall not forget the woman into whose arms I stumbled in the darkness and whose husband poured out for me the malt. Not all were as welcoming, and those I remember, too, and with a more generous smile than at the time.

Travelling towards home is the best way of doing things. Tea and crumpets and satisfaction seem the nearer. As I sped through Manchester I thought to myself: *'This is almost home; it seems no further away than Northchurch.'* I would respond expansively to greetings, and announce: *I have come from John o' Groats.* I felt like a king, and preened myself in respect.

So it was that I cycled 873 miles (1240 in all) on my father's old bicycle. In my inner ear I could hear him chuckling. It was all worthwhile. I had adventures, I had been *my own man* as the *BOP* had said, and discovered what had been meant by *A rattling good holiday*. ❖

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It was sparked by Bishop Cray's book *The Mission Shaped Church* and has been taken up by

Archbishop Rowan Williams as one of his main initiatives. One of the problems that these fresh expressions face is the barriers that we build between parishes. The Team Leader of this initiative is the Archbishops' Missioner **Steve Croft** and he has written a new parable called *The Allotment*.

Once upon a time between the town and the wild forest, there was a large and fertile market garden. The garden was divided very neatly into allotments. A hundred years ago, when the garden was first created, each allotment was rented out to a smallholder.

All the allotments were exactly the same size. Each was marked out with string and pegs. Every smallholder paid exactly the same in rent.

And the smallholders would till the soil, hoe and weed, plant and prune. All year round wonderful fruit and vegetables and flowers grew in the garden. Everything was sold in the market by the town gate and people came from miles around.

Every smallholder took pride in his or her allotment. But little by little the boundary markers grew bigger. The string and the pegs were replaced first with small wooden fences then hedges first of privet but then made out of briars and thorns. One day, in anger and fear, one of the smallholders tore up his hedge and replaced it with a stone wall. Within a year, everyone else did the same.

Time passed by and, over the years, a strange thing began to happen. The walls grew bigger and bigger, the shadows they

THE PARABLE OF THE ALLOTMENTS

Steve Croft, leader of *Fresh Expression*, writes

cast grew longer and longer but the garden itself became less and less fruitful. Not as many people came to visit. Some said there was coldness and bitterness in the soil. The vegetables and the flowers which for so many years were full of

life and colour were thin and straggly. The people of the town now went to the supermarket which flew in its produce from the other side of the world. They no longer came to shop and to talk in the open air market by the town gate.

Some of the stallholders gave up or moved away and were not replaced. Some tried to pass on the allotments to their children but they had jobs in the supermarket. The fence around the market garden fell into disrepair and some of the allotments began to be reclaimed by the forest.

As the allotments fell vacant, the smallholders took on three or four at a time sometimes in very different parts of the garden. When that happened, one of two things followed. Either the gardens became overgrown with weeds or the smallholders became ill through overwork and had to retire.

In the end it was clear that something had to be done. The council of the little town asked the clerk to call a meeting of the smallholders to discuss what could be done. It began badly. About half the smallholders argued with each other and blamed the town council or the supermarket for their problems. A quarter sat with their heads bowed and said nothing, ashamed that they had not been able to cultivate so many gardens. A quarter were smug and satisfied and pretended that there was no problem. Their gardens were closest to the market and still grew some fruit and vegetables which could be sold. They offered to take over more of the allotments but no-

one wanted this to happen.

The town clerk introduced a visitor from far away. The smallholders stopped their arguments and fell silent as she stood up to speak.

"Your story is much like ours", she said as the council chamber grew very quiet. "For us all, the world has changed. But in my land we learned to do things in a different way".

"To grow the fruit and flowers our people need", she said, "We had first to learn to take down the walls which divide one garden from another. It was no good to grow everything in so many separate gardens. We had to learn to concentrate our labour: flowers in one part of the garden and fruit in another. The work was too much for each to do on their own. Together we could share the most difficult tasks. As we worked side by side, we exchanged ideas on which seed grew best and new ways of pruning. When someone fell sick or had an accident, together we shared the work"

"After we took down the walls, at first, we couldn't manage the whole garden. It was too much for us. But the quality of the fruit and flowers was so much better that the people of our town began to return to the market once again. For the first time in many years, new smallholders began to join us. Our sons and daughters wanted to follow us in the allotments. Together we experimented with new crops in different parts of the garden. Some of them did not do well but others flourished and drew more people to the market.

It is only a short time since we took down the walls. We couldn't imagine what our allotments would be like without them. But already we know that the garden has a future"

The woman sat down. There was an instant, angry buzz across the room. Many of the smallholders were outraged at what had been suggested. The work of generations had gone into building those

walls. Then the youngest of them stood up to speak and asked for silence.

"How did you begin?" he asked. "What was the first step?"

The visitor was silent for a moment then she lifted her head and smiled at the questioner. *"The first step, my friend? The first step to removing the physical walls we had built was to take down the barriers in our minds".* ❖

For more information see their website
<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk>

78 The High Street

The building featured on the cover this month is 76/78 High Street, not far from the Baptist Church. Its date is built into it - 1863 - formed in the brickwork of its gable, together with a monogram JR, perhaps the initials of the original owner or builder. The area around 78 High Street was evidently being developed in the 1860s. The Baptist Church dates from 1864, and on the other side of the road, a building in contrasting half-timbered style bears the date 1865. (*review*, June). 76/78 High Street is now occupied at street level by two shops. It was probably built as a single shop. In a photo of about 1890 it formed the premises of F. KING - DRAPER OUTFITTER MILLINER ETC NOTED FOR QUALITY AND CHEAPNESS. The building reflects the mid 19th century fashion for the medieval Gothic style, with its windows set in pointed arches. As well as the date, it displays other decorative brickwork that was evidently fashionable at this time. The Town Hall of 1859 (*review*, August 2005) has the same type of brickwork, as did the *White Hart Commercial Inn* that formerly adjoined the Town Hall on its east side. There are other examples in the town and further afield, similar brickwork decorates the church at Horton-cum-Studley in Oxfordshire, built in 1867 to the design of William Butterfield, who a few years later restored St Peter's Church. It wasn't a new form of decoration. It occurs in the Tudor brickwork of the Old Hall of Berkhamsted Collegiate School, dating from the mid 16th century.

"To photograph is to hold one's breath, when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality. It's at that precise moment that mastering an image becomes a great physical and intellectual joy."

Henri Cartier-Bresson quotes (French Photographer, 1908-2004)

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review letters

Jenny Sherwood, Chairman of Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society writes:

I read with interest the report of the special welcome service for the new Year 5 children of Thomas Coram School. I think the idea is a most commendable one for the beginning of the children's careers at the school. Whilst it may seem appropriate, however, to remember the work of **Thomas Coram** since the present school has adopted that name I do hope the children will also have the opportunity to learn the history of their school and of the two benefactors who did so much for the children of Berkhamsted, **Thomas Bourne** and **Augustus Smith**, whose names the first two Middle Schools in Berkhamsted bore. It would be very sad if the names of these two educational benefactors were to sink into oblivion.

From 25th-30th June 2007, the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society will be staging an exhibition entitled '*Unwillingly to School- Education in Berkhamsted through the Ages*,' which will show together with much more the contribution of both **Thomas Bourne** and **Augustus Smith** to the education of this town. We are hoping children in Year 5 at various local schools will contribute small pieces on the history of their schools and make the most of this opportunity to learn how their schools came to be.

Ian Johnston writes:

I am grateful to **Councillor Ian Reay** (*review*, October) for reminding us how Dacorum Borough Council spends our money. Council Tax is at record levels, basic maintenance is being neglected and useful services are being cut in order to save money. Meanwhile the council pays a firm of consultants called Tibbalds to produce a wish list for improving the buildings in Berkhamsted town centre. Since these premises are owned commercially, and not by the council, it is unlikely that the consultants' expensive ideas will ever be implemented.

A consultant is generally defined as someone who uses your own watch to tell you the time, then keeps your watch. Not all consultants tell the time correctly. Donaldsons, a firm previously hired by Dacorum Borough Council, told us that a new food supermarket would attract additional retailers to Berkhamsted. Since the new Waitrose opened, nearly ten years ago, 52 local retailers - more than a third of the shops in Berkhamsted - have gone out of business. If there really is a shortage of retail units in Berkhamsted, as Tibbalds now claims, I expect this will be remedied soon when a few more local shops cease trading.

Tibbalds recommends the construction of more one and two bedroom flats in the town centre. I wonder if the consultants are aware that there is already residential property of this size which cannot be let because the town centre is too rowdy at night. The conversion of so many former shops into establishments selling food and drink, approved by Dacorum Borough Council against neighbours' wishes, has been a major contributor to this problem.

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Striving for the Right Balance

Revd Jonathan Gordon reflects on styles of worship

review Northchurch & Wigginton

In the newspaper recently there was an interesting article about **Terry Waite**. The headline was his dissatisfaction with *chirpy Vicars* who were more concerned with entertainment on a Sunday morning than reverence and worship. As a

consequence he was now attending the Quaker Meeting House. Whilst, the article possibly exaggerated the words, there were a few thoughts in it that have got me thinking about what we do on a Sunday morning. **Terry Waite** is a remarkably courageous person and anything he says is worth pondering. First of all, I can say categorically that I don't start to feel remotely *chirpy* until about 11:00am most mornings. However, the tone of the article was concerned with the character of Sunday morning worship. He felt that worship had become too *regimented* and peaceful reflection was impossible because the services "*were trying to emulate popular entertainment.*" People were being told to stand up and sit down at regular intervals and the minister "*is trying to act as a television host,*" with the intention of stopping people becoming bored. Services did not leave enough room, he believed, for silence and reflection.

When thinking about the types of service that we have in a church there are many issues to take into account. Not everyone prays, worships or thinks in the same way. Some people love the Book of Common Prayer, others prefer more informal worship with choruses and new songs, whilst others are drawn to services that are more reflective. The danger is when these preferences start to become divisive and even lead to separate worship. So a service is organised at one time for one

group and another for those who feel they would not fit in at another type of service. The result being that worship becomes a matter of choice. It can easily become very confusing. I fully recognise that people have different preferences, but would want to resist strongly any moves towards separation. Primarily, because the church is a community, in which we can all learn from each other and where all have a value and significance.

This may run the risk of trying to find the best of all worlds, but I think there is a way forward that can avoid discontent. Above all, we come to church to worship God and to learn more about following Jesus. God is much bigger than what we happen to like or dislike. There may well be styles of worship we feel more at home with, but by coming with an open and inquisitive mind, we can always be receptive to new things. The Christian life is a continual learning curve. If we ever do feel unhappy or uneasy about something, then please do speak to someone about it. Worship is often a matter of conscience and it is important that we can share and voice concerns.

One bit of wisdom that was taught to me was to be aware of your own faults and shortcomings and as a consequence be patient with your self and other people. In the context of worshipping together as a church community this might mean a number of things. A willingness to be tolerant, resisting the urge to impose values on others; a instinctive desire to encourage and build, rather than demoralise and pull down and finally a determination to work through any disagreements or differences by hard work, patience and perseverance. In a church everyone matters and everyone should feel welcomed and valued. ❖

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Until I came to live in Berkhamsted almost forty years ago I, like **John Cook** (*review September*), had never thought of pronouncing Cowper other than as the barrel-maker,

Cooper, and even now I have consciously to remember to pronounce Cowper Road as Cow-per. It does not trip easily off the tongue! Some years ago when visiting the Cowper museum in Olney with a group from the Berkhamsted & District Local History Society I noticed a letter on display discussing this very point and stating that Cowper himself called himself Cooper. I turned to a fellow member and said I had never thought of pronouncing the name in any other way. The reply was 'I have always called him Cow-per.' She had lived all her life in the area and since she is a doctor I would not consider her uneducated!

I thought that readers of the **Berkhamsted review** might be interested in seeing this extract from *Berkhamsted St. Peter's Parochial Review* for November 1947, where **Percy Birtchnell** discusses this very point. I reproduce it here in its entirety. *COWPER OR COOPER? How should we pronounce the name Cowper? Most Berkhamstedians, including most of the residents of Cowper Road, pronounce the name as it is spelt. But there is no doubt at all that William Cowper was known by contemporaries as 'William Cooper'. Some of his correspondents actually used that spelling, and the arms of the Cowper family significantly showed three hoops – an apt 'trade mark' for a cooper! Further evidence is provided by verses in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' of 1806, beginning with this somewhat ungentlemanly confession: 'A riddle by Cowper Made me swear like a trooper....'*

COWPER OR COOPER?

The Two Williams -
poetry and sheep-dip
Jenny Sherwood writes

It has been argued that by pronouncing the name as it is spelt, Berkhamstedians avoid confusing William Cowper with William Cooper, another bygone notability who achieved fame as founder of the chemical

works. On one occasion a visitor who enquired the way to 'Cooper Road' was asked if he meant Ravens Lane! However, more and more people now refer to the poet as 'Cooper', and in due course it is probable that this pronunciation will be generally adopted.'

Thank you, Percy for explaining the very point we were trying to make in 'Berkhamsted- A History and Celebration'. ❖



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review notes & notices

ASHRIDGE IN ACTION

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TUESDAY CLUB VISIT TO CLARENCE HOUSE

Members and friends were lucky to have a perfect September day for the outing to London, so warm and sunny that most of us opted to have a picnic lunch in St James's Park before our early afternoon visit to Clarence House. The home of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother from 1953 until her death in 2002, Clarence House still contains much of her famous collection of paintings and works of art. Today it is the official residence of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. A striking feature of the front of the house is a new knot garden in vibrant greens and reds designed by Prince Charles. Most of the rooms have been refurbished to his taste but one room, the Morning Room, is just as it was in Queen Elizabeth's day - green furnishings, elegant and restful. We saw the doors that were thrown open every August 4th for her to go out to receive flowers and greetings on her birthday. After the tour it was a short walk to the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace where more watercolours and drawings from the Queen Mother's collection were on view.

There was time for a cup of tea before joining our coach in Bressenden Place. Nobody got lost thanks to an excellent map issued by **Joan Gregory** who had organised the trip with meticulous efficiency to give us a most enjoyable day.

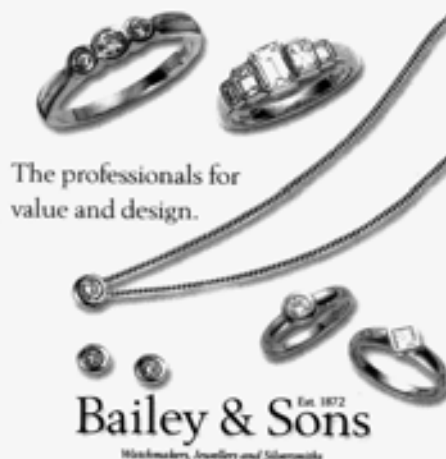
BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



On a very rainy afternoon members received a warm welcome from Vice President **Judith Lowther**. The meeting opened with two autumnal poems and we were pleased to welcome a new member to our branch.

Our speaker this month was **Jean Curl** and her subject was *Henry VIII - Victim or Villain?* We were kept spellbound listening to this account of his diverse life from childhood to his first marriage to Katherine of Aragon and their coronation. It was also interesting to learn about the lives of women during the Tudor years - a never ending day of outdoor chores as well as the indoor ones and coping with large families as well. A vote of thanks was given by **Joy Lovell**

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reviewnotes¬ices

BYGONES AT BERKHAMSTED

Donations come and go at any charity shop and are gratefully received. They are the lifeblood on which the organisation depends.

But occasionally a donation is given that really fires the imagination. Such a gift came into the Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted when a set of three beautifully worked samplers came in. The smallest and unfortunately the most seriously damaged was dated 1770 and had been exquisitely embroidered by **Ann Stubbs** *in the sixth year of her age*. The other two, which are in better condition, are from a few years later, again by Ann and possibly a friend, S Smith, aged fourteen. These eighteenth century works have been valued by the fine art auctioneers Christies at £100 for the set and they will be offered for sale in early November as part of a special display of linen and lace whitework. Beautiful table linen will be available in time for the Christmas season. The products of a more leisured age are always sought after by collectors and there will be an excellent choice at Oxfam.

How incredible that the labours of a little girl in the 18th century should reach across the years to improve life for deprived children of her own age in the 21st century.

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Sunday 26th November 12 noon - 4pm

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BERKHAMSTED FLOWER CLUB

The Club's Annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 23rd November in the Civic Centre. Doors open at 6:45pm for 7:30pm. The demonstrator is the well-known Floral Designer - **David Thompson**. Tickets: £8.50 to include our delicious mulled wine and shortbread.

THE HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

The Hospice's Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held in the Civic Centre on Saturday 25th November between 9:30am and 2:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy Christmas gifts, decorations and cards while supporting the work of the Hospice.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

The traditional Charity Christmas Card Sale will be held in the Court House from 9:15am to 4:00pm on Saturdays 11th and 25th November.

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.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Winter Exhibition of over 400 paintings to enjoy or buy. At the Civic Centre from Monday 27th November to Saturday 2nd December - 10am-7pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday. Entry free

November

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 5th</i>	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led
	12 th	10:00am Eucharist – Anglican led
	19 th	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	26 th	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led

All services at *St Peter's* 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 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.

November/December

November

Wed	1	8:00pm	All Saints' Patronal Festival Parish Eucharist	<i>All Saints'</i>
Thu	2	8:00pm	Solemn Requiem for <i>All Souls</i> (Duruflé <i>Requiem</i> , 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>14 Oxfield Close</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	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>Northchurch Baptist Church</i>
Sun	19	6:00pm	St Peter's Choir - <i>St Cecilia concert</i>	<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>

December

Fri	1	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	3	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	4	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	5	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service Daniel and the Lions	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	10	7:30pm	Berkhamsted Choral Society concert of Seasonal music and readings	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	12	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service Christmas Story.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	12	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council meeting.....	<i>The Court House</i>
Wed	13	7:30pm	Berkhamsted Rotary Carol Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	15	9:15am	Thomas Bourne Eucharist.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	16	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>St Michael's, Sunnyside</i>
Sat	16	7:30pm	Berkhamsted Music Society Exaudi concert of medieval songs, etc.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	17	6:30pm	Christmas Carol Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
Mon	18	7:15pm	Thomas Coram School Carol Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	23	7:30pm	Chiltern Chamber Choir The Messiah with Mozart orchestration	<i>St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

17 September Grace Jennifer Powell

24 September Oliver Toroa Carolin, William Tristan Fearn, Claudia Robin Masters, Brione Garner Thomson

Baptisms (All Saints')

24 September Henry Thomas Brush Tubbs

Weddings (All Saints')

16 September Mark Coleman & Bouchra Fadilli

review factfile

CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc see opposite). 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	Fr Michael Bowie (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Church maintenance	Christopher Green (863241)	Chris Lumb (863885)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (878227)	Kate Spall (873470)
Flower arrangements	Sarah Dawson (871614)	Madeleine Brownell (862578)
Sunday morning coffee	Joan Morris (863780)	Sylvia Banks (871195)
Service recordings	Alan Conway (865798)	Janet Conradi (833402)
Intercessions	Fr Michael Bowie (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981) and John Wignall (827639)
Epistle Readers	Ron Fisher (865846)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Electoral Roll	Judith Limbert (873626)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	Penny O'Neill (843422) and Rebecca Judd (865691)
Sidesmen	Chris Hunt (822607)	John Wignall (827639)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Chris Dipper (873006) and Gill Lumb (863885)
Hospice contact	Rachael Anderson (871997)	Muriel Johnston (866447)
Christian Aid	Angela Morris (866992)	Jimmy Young (876736)
Youth worker	Jimmy Young (876736)	Carenza Wilton (875147)
Sunday School/Explorers	Sally Emery (870656)	

review notes & notices

TUESDAY CLUB OCTOBER MEETING

On 3rd October we were entertained by hilarious quick-fire anecdotes told by **Jonathan Fryer** illustrating his varied theatrical career. His experience of a one-off Sunday School engagement when he spoke of the Garden of Eden caused particular amusement. The children were asked to draw an item from the story and one little boy drew a car. He insisted a car was there because *God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden*. If laughter lengthens life, our members gained several more years during this delightful evening.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Recital on Saturday 18th November at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Kathryn Stott** piano, playing Haydn, Schubert and Rachmaninov. Tickets £10 and U18 £5 from 871598 or at the door

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Thursday 9th November at 8:00pm in Berkhamsted Town Hall - An illustrated talk on *Walter Rothschild and the Zoological Museum in Tring*. Tickets £2

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 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)

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

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



A window near the high altar
in the vestry



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