

Berkhamsted *review*

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January 2007



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the January 2007 issue of the Berkhamsted review

A very Happy New Year to all our readers. As you might expect in January, the leading article is on *New Beginnings* where **Father Michael Bowie** argues that our love of New Year Resolutions reflects to some extent our desire for spiritual renewal, which we can find through our Christian faith. **Cathy Salmon** also writes about new beginnings in her article on the new building planned at Victoria C-of-E School. This ambitious project, highlights the success of our Church schools and deserves all the support we can raise, individually and as a parish. But though we look to the future at this time of year, in classical times Janus, who gives his name to January, was always represented with two faces because he looked not only forward but also back - and so we also look back. **Ian Reay** draws our attention to a fascinating record of Berkhamsted's war-time history and **John Cook** points out strange features of St Peter's Church that record some of the many changes that have been made to that ancient building during its long history. If you read your December **review**, you will know that change is in the air again.

Christopher Green

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Cover photo: Little Gaddesden church (p19)
Photo: Rowena Pike

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New Beginnings
Father Michael
Bowie reflects on
New Year
resolutions

review leader

See, I am making all things new (Revelation 21.5)

We all crave new beginnings, the clean slate, the fresh start: the resolutions of the New Year are one way in which we acknowledge, if only to ourselves, that we get

things wrong, that we would be happier with ourselves if we could change some things. The trouble is, of course, that 'fresh starts' can actually be destructive – if the resolutions are over-ambitious, fanciful or impractical. If, in other words, they are delusions.

Yet we do, so many of us, still crave the fresh start, the clean slate, the return to innocence and safety, which may be an idealized version of our early experience of family life. Our desire for it expresses something about us which is at the heart of our humanity, our *human* being. That something is hope. Hope and faith are very closely allied, and those who genuinely lack hope rarely stay alive for long. Our belief, whether strictly rational or irrational, that we can achieve things, offer and receive love, effect change in ourselves and our environment, drives so much human life – including so many people who serve in public life, many in voluntary capacities, especially at a local level. And that is faith. The trick is to understand how it leads us to God, which requires more thought and information.

Faith and hope are part of a traditional trio of qualities in Christian thinking, coined by St Paul: *...faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.* 1 Corinthians 13.13 And elsewhere in the New Testament we read: *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.* 1 John 4.7

For Christians, that is the route to God: faith, hope and love can be recognised in the humanity which we all share whether or not we ascribe them to God, but we *believe* that all these qualities proceed ultimately from God, whose nature we glimpse in

all of them, and especially in love. St John says, quite simply, that if we love, we already know God in some way.

And new beginnings start from the same place. We want to change our environment and ourselves because we love, because we have faith and hope (otherwise why bother to change?); we try to reshape things in a loving way, which involves caring for ourselves and looking outward (this is what Jesus meant by the so-called *two great commandments* – see Matthew 22.36-40).

Love, because it is at the heart of God, at the heart of creation, we would say, is the guide and principle by which we measure and conceive change. It is also grounded in reality, in what we are truly capable of doing, rather than a fantasy notion of how we would like our life to be. Love is not sentiment or *caring*: it deals honestly with the truth about us and the need constantly to correct and channel ourselves along constructive paths, while guaranteeing that we are safe with the one who loves us, who is faithful, who has hope in us (this is true in human relationships, which I would say mirror what God does). This underpins Christian concepts of confession or reconciliation, which we use in most public worship and also privately.

See, I am making all things new says Jesus in St John's Revelation (21.5) and St Paul adds, *If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation* (2 Corinthians 5.17). Renewal and change are at the heart of Christian faith: New Year's resolutions can be very much in harmony with that. ❖

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A BRANCH WITH A BIRTHDAY

Birthdays are times to celebrate, and a cake was cut and glasses raised to mark the 20th anniversary of the re-opening of the MU branch in this parish.

It was at Evensong on Sunday 23rd of November, 1986 that sixteen new members were enrolled; persuaded, cajoled or inspired to do so by **Ruth Pyke**, wife of Richard who was Priest-in-Charge

of All Saints' at the time. So it was appropriate twenty years on to invite Ruth and Richard to our party, and also **Joy Dunn**, the first Branch Leader, to join eleven of our members, including five who were admitted that night in 1986.

The birthday party on 21st November, was framed by prayer, for MU locally and worldwide. We remembered the branch members who had journeyed with us along the way, and at the end we gave thanks for God's love and all we have gained from MU as we look to the future. In between there was much chatter, catching up on news and sharing stories. We looked back on our twenty year history and further to the 1950s when the branch had well over 100 members (it closed in 1973). Some things had changed, while other concerns seemed to have always been with us. Ruth, who is now Priest-in-Charge of Caddington and Children's Adviser for the Bedford Archdeaconry, (Richard is Team Rector of Hatfield!) spoke of how MU had influenced her and contributed to her ministry now as a priest. Yes, we had a cake and **Joy Dunn** blew out the twenty candles. We toasted the MU, the branch and our future, and as we stood in a circle at the end, held hands and

Twenty Candles on the MU cake

Margaret Burbidge writes



said The Grace together, we knew that this small branch was part of a vibrant organisation committed to Christian family life throughout the world.

There is no crystal ball to discern our future or indeed that of the MU, except to say there will be change. January sees the beginning of a

new three year session, and many new officers have been elected.

Rosemary Kempsall from Southwark diocese takes over the reins of World Wide President from **Trish**

Heywood, and there will be new Trustees, both nationally and in our diocese. Here in St Albans, **Eileen Smith**

was re-elected for her second and final three years as Diocesan President. Mindful of costs and efficiency, the number of Trustees has been reduced, but among the new ones as a Vice President, is **Revd Janet Ridgway** from Aldbury. I hang up my Trustees cloak and hand the baton on to others, for MU is about people and giving opportunities to serve God through our MU communities. In the words of **Trish Heywood** as she prepares to hang up her World Wide President's cloak, "*The MU plants people and works through love*", and long may it continue to do so! ❖

The website for those who would like to know more is: www.themothersunion.org

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Thomas Coram held its inaugural annual school Prize-giving evening on Tuesday 28th November in the school hall.

Ed Delasalle Headteacher commented: *"With over 370 pupils attending the school, selecting just 80 is a challenging task. However, each of the award recipients has shown whole-hearted commitment to their studies, in some cases overcoming considerable obstacles.*

The awards are not given simply for academic achievement, such as exam success or high grades, although many of this year's award winners have achieved

THOMAS CORAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Annette Fettes,
School Governor, writes

excellent results. We are celebrating young people who are prepared to put in the something extra that is the key to success."

The evening also celebrated the dedicated work of the teaching and support staff at Thomas Coram, which was praised by Ofsted in the school's

inspection last summer.

Richard Dalziel, Headteacher of Ashlyns Language College, presented the prizes. Entertainment was provided by Jessica Purdy, a current Year 8 pupil who performed on the guitar and sang. ❖



Headteacher Ed Delasalle with some of the prizewinners

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During the second world war American troops were stationed on the Ashridge Estate. On a beech tree in Ashridge there remains to this day a memento of their stay, cut into the trunk. A group of young American soldiers recorded their stay at Ashridge by carving into the tree the names of the states from which they came: Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, New York, Illinois and South Dakota. The carving is topped by a victory 'V' sign and three dots and a dash, which is the Morse Code for V. They also inscribed the date on the tree: 4th May 1944 – one month before D-day. If you are interested in finding this tree its map reference is SP 982122.

The Ashridge Estate has a large number of surviving beech and oak trees – including 114 beech pollards and some ancient specimens. Beech woods in the Chiltern Hills were once a source of timber for a

Ian Reay's &news &views

Global Warming?


Ian Reay wonders how the Chiltern Beech Woods will cope

large furniture industry in the area. Unfortunately, beech trees are likely to be rather more susceptible to climate change in South East England than many other species of trees native to the area, especially if they are on south facing slopes.

Mature beech trees are more likely to suffer from the effects of drought and storm damage, both of which will become more common in the extreme weather that is expected to accompany a warmer climate. They are also more vulnerable to the effects of strong Summer sunshine. Oak and ash trees, on the other hand, can better resist higher temperatures and more variable rainfall conditions. If beech trees grow with their roots directly into chalk they will be in a better position because they will be able to draw moisture from the chalk in dry weather. But if they are on clay soil, which becomes waterlogged in winter and bakes rock hard in a dry → p11



Photo: Paul Jerem, Special Trees and Woods project volunteer



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The Bridgewater Band concert at St Peter's on November 25th 2006

Photo: Tony Firshman

←P9 Ian Reay

Summer, beech tree growth will be impeded. Beech trees will not die out in the Chilterns but they will grow more slowly. On the other hand dry conditions may force them to produce more seed so that there will be more younger trees. We are not going to see the eradication of beech trees, because of climate change, in the way that the population of mature elms was entirely lost in the 1970s due to Dutch Elm Disease. On balance we are likely to see not fewer beech trees in the coming decades but smaller, younger ones.

Ancient beech trees will find it more difficult to survive. According to some tree experts we have a large number of ancient trees in the UK in comparison with the rest of northern Europe. The Woodland Trust is surveying and mapping ancient

trees across Britain so that we will know exactly how much of this heritage still survives. Ancient trees often have folklore and local legends associated with them, which can be helpful in dating the age of a tree. For example, in Chenies there is an ancient oak which is known as the Queen Elizabeth Oak. There is a legend that Queen Elizabeth I lost some jewellery whilst sitting beneath it. There is evidence at the Bedfordshire County Records office that Queen Elizabeth I did indeed visit Chenies in 1570 and her wardrobe book does record the loss of some jewellery on the occasion (tiny gold fastenings called *aglets*). But alas there is no record to prove that they were lost beneath the oak tree. ❖

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We know you're busy and life is full of commitments but please help us in our plans to encourage the young people of our parish and to include and inform those who are outside the Church at the moment

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Father Michael Bowie	864194	Jimmy Young	384929
Stephen Lally	863526	Helen Nicholls	873162
Penny O'Neill	843422	Gill Malcolm	874993
Chris Clegg	875818	Carole Dell	864706

STRANGE WINDOWS, SPIRAL STAIRCASES AND DISAPPEARIN

John Cook investigates

One of the apparent mysteries of St Peter's Church is there are more windows outside than in. The explanation for this is that when the church was restored in the 19th century some windows became redundant, and it is to the credit of the Victorians that they chose not to remove them when they set about restoring and altering the church, but left them in place, to preserve the historic fabric and to puzzle future generations. But they only did this on the outside.

High up on the side of the church facing the High Street, just along from the war memorial, is a window (A) with a pair of blocked up openings. Apart from the great west window this was at one time the only source of natural light for the western end of the church. It let in daylight to the space where the town fire engine used to be kept. After the Victorians had added two extra windows in the west wall and the fire engine had been moved out, this window was no longer needed.

A bit further along, tucked into the corner behind the rose bushes is a turret, and in that turret are two small, glazed windows, like arrow-slots (B). If you go into the church and look for the windows there you will draw a blank. The turret was blocked up in the restoration of the 1870s, although inside you can still see where the doorway for it once was. From a ladder outside it

is possible to shine a torch in through the lower of these windows and see that the turret has a spiral staircase in it, quite wide, which used to be the way up to the large room over the old south porch, and onto the roof. The porch and the room over it disappeared in the 19th century re-shaping of this part of the church. Wouldn't it be fun to open the turret up and see whether those who sealed it up 130 or more

years ago left anything interesting there? (I did suggest this some time ago, but people seemed to think there were more important things to do).

Incidentally, the other ancient disused spiral staircase in the church - a smaller one - nowadays has the flue in it. Recently it has been opened up and at the time of writing you can see into it. It is to be found behind the memorial book at the end of the north aisle. The third spiral staircase is in the tower and is of course in regular use - by the bellringers and by the person who puts the clock right and the flag up.

Returning to the outside, further along the south side by the yew tree there are two



separate, small, blocked-up gothic windows in the wall of the church, only just above ground level (C). They are pretty features, but what possible purpose could they have ever served, so low down? There does not seem to be a straightforward answer to this question. Such objects as these, which come in all shapes and sizes, are what church archaeologists came to call *low side windows*, usually to be found in the chancel of a church, but in our case they are in a chapel. They are by no means rare, but it is unusual to find two of them.

Recently there was an article about low side windows in that most racy of publications, the journal of the Ecclesiological Society. The author had researched all he could find that had been written on the subject, which turned out to be quite a lot; in fact he found that writers on historic architecture have been greatly drawn into speculating into the possible reasons for the existence of these strange objects. He collected altogether 22 different possible explanations that had been postulated for low side windows, some of them quite bizarre. For example, it has been suggested that they were places where lights were placed to scare demons away from the churchyard, or a means to allow lepers, penitents, outlaws, or others excluded from the body of the church to hear mass or receive communion. The conclusion that the writer comes to in the

end is disappointingly mundane : he thinks that that they were probably there just for ventilation, in which case they would not have had glass in them but louvres, or a hinged flap.

But the Victorians, although they were careful to preserve the redundant windows, do not seem to have had any scruples about removing historic doorways when they *restored* St Peter's. No vestiges of old doorways are to be found now on the outside of the church, except for the main west doors. The big old south door (which was the entrance usually used by the congregation) has completely disappeared, so has the little door in the east end which was once used by the bellringers. The present south door onto the High Street was inserted as part of the changes made in the 19th century, and a right architectural pig's ear it is.

On the north side, facing the churchyard, the doorway which was used by generations of boys from Berkhamsted School to go to their daily service in church has disappeared too, although if you look carefully you can just make out the slight dip in the grass where the path which led from the school to the door once was. Inside the church, the sealed-up doorway can still be found.

Finally, there is one other mysterious feature the restorers left in place when they refaced the church with flints. There are

the remains of a strange arch, or part of an arch, in the wall of the north transept (D). It faces you as you walk along the footpath through the churchyard towards Castle Street. Nobody seems certain what it was for, but it has been suggested that this goes right back to the time when the church was built, and was the arch over a temporary entrance used by builders, perhaps over 750 years ago. ❖



One of our two church schools in Berkhamsted is trying to raise vital funds for a new building which will underpin the foundations of its future. **Victoria C of E First School and Nursery** urgently needs to raise £20,000 to ensure that the half a million pound building project goes ahead.

The school was recently ranked *outstanding* in an OFSTED report, and more recently won the highest praise possible from the Anglican schools inspectorate for its *outstanding* effectiveness and distinctiveness as a Church of England school.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful school, where the town's children are nurtured in a caring, spiritual environment, where Christian values are fundamental, said **Father Michael Bowie**, Rector of St Peter's. *As a parish, we have a responsibility and duty of care to do everything we can to ensure it continues to thrive into the future. I hope that people will see it as a worthy cause.*

The 220-pupil school has already been allocated significant Government funds for a new multi-purpose educational block to replace the existing outdated nursery hut at its listed site in Prince Edward Street. But the Government grant only covers 90% of the project's estimated costs. Under Government funding rules, the school has to find the extra 10% itself.

With its Voluntary-Aided church status, it has been promised £10,000 from both the Diocese of St Albans and the Parochial Church Council, and through careful management of its own resources, the school's

VICTORIA COFE SCHOOL

Building on Outstanding Achievement

Cathy Salmon, Parent
Governor, writes

Governing Body has also reserved £10,000 for the new building fund. But these amounts leave the school with £20,000 still to be raised.

It's a fantastic opportunity to enhance the school's facilities, said Headteacher **Janet Robinson**. *At a time of falling rolls across the county as a result of national demographic trends, the new building is crucial if we are to attract new families to the school and secure our place in the future.* she said. *But to do that, the support of the wider community is vital. If you can contribute, please do.*

The School's Governing body launched its first fund-raising initiative, a Parental Giving Scheme, last month, urging parents of existing pupils to donate to the new building fund on a voluntary, confidential, one-off or regular basis. The school is also hoping that parents of former pupils, former pupils themselves and parents of children due to join the school may also contribute - based on what they feel the school has given them in the past or will give them in the future. Even existing pupils are to collect their spare pennies in new building-shaped



money boxes provided by the school's fund-raising body, the VSA (Victoria School Association).

Every donation, however large or small, will make a difference to the education the school provides, said Rowena Pike, Chair of Governors.

The plans will see a glass-fronted, modern but sympathetically designed L-shaped building, facing the main school and directly linked to it by an attractive decking area and distinctive pathway. The scheme, which received planning approval last month, also includes an external play area and *sail shade* sun canopy for pupils to enjoy outdoor activities all year round. It is hoped that the new multi-purpose educational block, which will be a whole-school resource, will be ready for use by next September, in time for the start of the 2007/08 school year.

It's a very exciting and challenging time for us all, said Mrs Robinson.

In July this year, the school's *outstanding* OFSTED accolade put it in the top 9% of schools nationally – an achievement which was matched in October, when an inspection by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education gave it a second *outstanding* rating and straight grade 1's for all aspects of its Christian character. The Inspection of Anglican Schools Report stated: *The Christian ethos of the school is very strong, and is apparent in all areas of school life from*

documentation and displays to learning and teaching, and relationships. It described Victoria as *an outstanding school based on and motivated by the values of its Christian foundation,* adding: *The commitment to meeting the needs of all learners, passionately driven by the headteacher, creates an environment of mutual respect in which all children can flourish.*

To make a donation, please send a cheque made payable to **Victoria School Governors** to Victoria School, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3HA, or contact the school on 865781. Payments can be made using the **Gift Aid** scheme or the **Payroll Giving Scheme**. The Governors' Treasurer, **Rachel Below**, can advise you on both these schemes. For more details about the project, visit the school website at www.victoria.herts.sch.uk ❖



The current nursery

May poles, well dressing, and holidays all celebrate the coming of spring. Can the Berkhamsted walk, now in its 39th year, lay claim to becoming such a celebration and a local tradition?

The Walk takes place this year on Sunday 13th May. Please make a note in your diary.

The Walk can be started from the Courthouse or at the Ashridge Management College, with routes to suit the athletic to the arthritic, morning, afternoon, or all day. The choice is yours.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The 39th Berkhamsted Walk A new Rite of Spring?

Details of the Walk and the opportunity for advance registration will soon be on the website,

www.berkhamstedwalk.org.uk

The Children's Society stands by vulnerable children by campaigning on behalf of disabled children, children in trouble with the law, children at risk on the streets, and young refugees. Please support the Children's Society by celebrating spring and taking part, as helper or walker, in our sponsored Berkhamsted Walk. ❖

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In October last, with a photograph showing the interior of Holy Trinity, Potten End, the *review* began an occasional series of articles on the church buildings in the parishes that have joined St Peter's and All Saints' in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry. This month is the turn of St Peter & St

ST PETER & ST PAUL, LITTLE GADDESSEN

Christopher Green writes

Paul, Little Gaddesden. This is a church that stands curiously remote from the community it serves. The village lies neatly along the lane on the edge of the hill above the Golden Valley. The Golden Valley is tributary to the River Gade, from which the Gaddesdens take their name. The church is nearly half a mile from the village, on the very summit of the downs, and rather nearer to the valley of the Gade than is the village. The tower, the nave and the north aisle of the church were built in the fifteenth century but the church was substantially rebuilt and extended in the nineteenth century, in part by **Jeffry Wyatt** (later **Sir Jeffry Wyatville**) at a time when he was busy in this part of Hertfordshire, engaged in the rebuilding of Ashridge and also undertaking the restoration of St Peter's, Berkhamsted. The church that we now see at Little Gaddesden was not the first on this site. A church is recorded there in 1209 and there is a continuous record of incumbents from 1239, but nothing remains of a building of this age.

While the church is architecturally unremarkable, the funerary monuments that it contains are not only very fine, they record the lives of a family that had its roots in Little Gaddesden, in the great Ashridge estate, for more than three hundred years, from the opening years of the seventeenth century until 1927. **Thomas Egerton**, Lord Chancellor of England, acquired the Ashridge estate in 1604. His son John, the First Earl of Bridgewater was also a statesman and High Steward of Oxford University. He rests in Little Gaddesden church until, as his epitaph declares *The Last Trump Awaken*

His Dust. His wife was a daughter of the **Earl of Derby** and his epitaph continues *A wife Worthy of such a husband, By whom he was Blessed with a numerous Offspring, four Sonnes and eleven Daughters. He was a Profound Scholar, an able Statesman, a Good*

Christian, and in the troubled years of the Civil War *A Loyal subject to his sovereign in Those Worst of Times when it was Accounted Treason not to be a Traitor.*

The Egerton's were evidently fortunate in their choice of wives. Scroope, the fourth Earl and first Duke of Bridgewater married a daughter of the Duke of Marlborough. Sadly she was only 26 when she died in 1713, but her epitaph could hardly be more fulsome:

She was a lady of exquisite finess bothe of body and mind, agreeably tall, of a delicate shape, a beautiful meen, and of a most obliging winning carriage; sweetness, modesty and affability were met together. Whatsoever is virtuous, decent and praiseworthy, she made the rule of all her actions; her discourse was cheerful lively and ingenious, pleasing without ever saying too much or too little; so that in her, virtues appeared with the greatest advantage and lustre.

The Third Duke of Bridgewater, of canal fame, who died in 1803, is also buried at Little Gaddesden and the rich store of monuments continues into the nineteenth century with a fine examples of the work of the distinguished monumental sculptor, **Sir Richard Westmacott**, commemorating **John William Egerton**, the seventh Earl of Bridgewater who was responsible for engaging the Wyatts to rebuild Ashridge.



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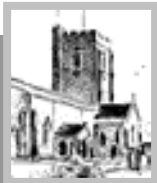
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**Saddam
Hussein and
Capital
Punishment**
**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon reviews
the ethics**

review Northchurch & Wigginton

In November **Saddam Hussein** was sentenced to death by an Iraqi court and while an appeal has been lodged, it is likely that in the next few weeks or months events will move towards their conclusion. The death penalty for murder in the United Kingdom was

abolished 40 years ago by the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965, and replaced with a mandatory life sentence. The passing of the Act followed a great deal of debate both inside and outside Parliament over the death penalty. The death penalty was retained for the capital offences of treason and piracy with violence; however it was abolished in 1998 under the Crime and Disorder Act. In 1999 the Home Secretary signed the sixth protocol of the European Convention of Human Rights which formally abolished the death penalty in the UK and ensured it could not be brought back. It is still a sensitive subject and surveys suggest that for some crimes a majority of people would favour the reintroduction of the death penalty and some politicians periodically offer their support. Human rights campaigners *Amnesty* count 112 countries which have, in law or practice, abolished the death penalty and 81 countries which retain it.

I watched a fascinating film recently about the life of **Albert Pierrepoint** who from 1932-54 worked as one of the Home Office executioners. In his career he hanged over 500 men and women. The film describes how he became a national hero after the war when he was sent to Germany to carry out the sentences on a number of Nazi war criminals. The

adulation was short lived, as in the 1950s the public mood was changing. The film ends with Pierrepoint's resignation over the issue of unpaid fees, but ends with a quote from his autobiography written in 1974. He suggested that the death penalty did not work as a deterrent and served no other purpose than revenge.

I hope that Saddam's appeal will be successful and his sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment. This would represent a suitable punishment for the appalling acts of murder and cruelty within his regime, and allow scope for future investigations into human right abuses. There are two reasons I am against the death penalty. The advocacy group *Human Rights Watch* (HRW) has unveiled a damning indictment of the trial of **Saddam Hussein**, saying it was so flawed the verdict was unsound. The group conclude: *The result is a trial that did not meet key fair trial standards. Under such circumstances, the soundness of the verdict is questionable. In addition, the imposition of the death penalty - an inherently cruel and inhumane punishment - in the wake of an unfair trial is indefensible.* (see www.hrw.org)

Not everyone will agree with the conclusions of the report, but it has at the very least, raised → p27 important questions.

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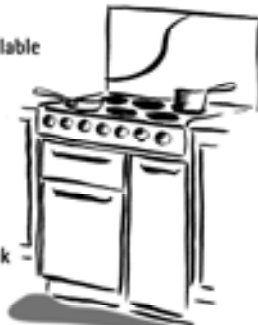
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review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our December meeting, President **Joy Lovell** welcomed members and was pleased to see three new ladies who wished to join our institute. Together with Secretary, **Janet Mitchell**, they took us through the business matters and wished us well at our Craft Stall to be held at the Town Hall.

Our speaker this month was **Rosemary Wakemen** and the title of her talk was *No Phones on Saturday*. Now we wondered about this, but we were soon entranced as she took us into her life as a nanny to a Jewish family with four children residing in Golders Green.

We had a day-to-day account of her various duties which of course included extra ones for her to do on a Saturday - the day of the Jewish Sabbath. Her audience listened enthralled by her reminiscences of her time spent with this Jewish family for eight years.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Sheila Briggs and during tea-time the raffle was drawn and the produce stall was well supported.

We meet in the New Year on **Friday 5th January** at the Court House at 2:00pm. Why not come along and find a new interest for the New Year?

PANTOMIME

Saturday 20th & 27th January

2:00pm and 5:00pm

Thursday 25th & Friday 26th January

7:30pm

The Park Players present *Red Riding Hood* at the Civic. Tickets £10 and £7.50 from 873491 or at the door.

MEN AT OXFAM

Charity shops are usually portrayed as the haunts of women seeking bargains or acting as volunteers, but the Oxfam shop in the High St. has a much wider clientele. Not only are young volunteers valued members of the team but men also make a significant contribution as both volunteers and customers. Books are favourite purchases and the varied selection of fiction and non-fiction (chosen by a man, of course) finds ready buyers. But the excellent range of good-quality menswear is also proving popular. Early January will see a special focus on this area. One thing is lacking though – enough male volunteers. Help is urgently needed both to man the till and keep the rails full of up-to-date male clothing to match the excellent range of womens-wear. (Of course volunteers of either gender are equally welcome!) Is this for you? Call at the shop for an application form.

TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 17th March 7:30pm Bringing the parishes of the tema together. Put the date in your diary. Venue to be arranged.

COWPER SOCIETY

Monday 22nd January 8:00pm in the Court House. The Cowper Society presents an illustrated talk by **Christopher Green** on the Building Stones of the Churches of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. There will be refreshments

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHESES

Tuesdays 27th February & 27th March Lent Lunches will be on offer in the Court House. Donations to Christian Aid. Put the dates in your diary now.

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reviewnotes¬ices

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

13th, 14th, 19th & 20th January

The Chesham Bois Catholic Players are having a bucket collection in aid of the Hospice of St Francis and Macmillan Cancer Support at all performances of their Pantomime *Jack and Jill and the Magic Well*, at the Elgiva Theatre, Chesham. Details and tickets from 01494 582900 (box office)

IAN RENNIE HOSPICE AT HOME

Saturday 13th January

The Hertfordshire Chamber Orchestra will be performing in aid of IRHH at St Peter & St Paul Church, Tring at 7:30pm. Tickets £10 and £7.50 from 890222. Under 16s free.

FINE CHINA AT ST PETER'S

Bone china mugs decorated with a drawing of St Peter's Church by the late **Harry Sheldon** are on sale in the Church or from **Marjorie Bowden** (871283)

WALSINGHAM PARISH PILGRIMAGE

27/29th April 2007 weekend

Father Michael Bowie will be leading the Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. If you would enjoy a weekend in a beautiful Norfolk village, good food and comfortable rooms, devotional and healing services in the Shrine Church, walks by the sea and conviviality in the local pub, then look for booking forms at St Peter's or All Saints' in the New Year.

FARMERS' MARKET

Sunday 21st January in Berkhamsted High Street from 10:00am - 2:00pm

BERKHAMSTED CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

Monday 1st January

Traditional New Year's Day Ramble. A circular walk with a stop for lunch. Leader: **Bill Willett**. Meet in front of Berkhamsted Railway Station at 10:30am.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Tuesday 16th January 8:00pm in the Civic Centre - *Seascapes in Acrylics* with Terry Harrison. Visitors £2.00 at the door.

DACORUM LIVE

Friday 26th January - The Guildhall Strings (Director: **Robert Salter**) at 7:45pm in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Kings Road. Tickets £15.00 and £13.00 from 228091, or the Civic Centre or at the door.

←P21 Northchurch

The second reason is that I do not see how the death penalty can be reconciled with the Christian faith. In the church we struggle and strive to be followers of Jesus Christ who refused to meet hate with hate or violence with violence. Whilst, Saddam has not been put on trial in a Christian country, there is a universal commonality among the different faiths that would accept that God does not mete out hurt for hurt, or torture for torture or death for death. It is hard to accept that God could invest any human system with the power to put people to death. It is a power that has been assumed and the results over history have cast a dark shadow over society and, at times, the church. ❖

<http://www.stmarysnorthchurch.com>

January

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong	
	<i>All Saints' 7th</i>	10:00am Covenant Service Holy Communion – Methodist led	
	14 th	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led	
	21 st	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led	
	28 th	10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led	
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer			
MON	MP 8:45am (8pm 22/29)	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 9:15am (discontinued from 22 nd)
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 services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

January / February

January

Fri	5	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	7	9:30am	The Eucharist of the Feast of the Epiphany	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	8	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	9	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service: <i>Jairus' little girl</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	14	6:00pm	Choral Evensong, followed by	<i>St Peter's</i>
		7:30pm	Recital	<i>The Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i>
Thu	18		Christian Unity Week begins	
Sun	21	9:30am	Sung Eucharist - Preacher: The Revd Bill Hewis (Leprosy Mission)	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	20	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>tba</i>
Mon	22	8.00pm	Cowper Society Talk <i>Churches of Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire: The Building Stones</i> Christopher Green	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	23	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service: <i>The friends who broke the roof</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>

February

Fri	2	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	2	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Candlemas	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	5	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	6	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service: <i>Come and see</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	13	8:00pm	The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John: <i>How to read the Bible</i>	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>tba</i>
Tue	20	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council	<i>The Court House</i>
Wed	21	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

26 Nov Patrick James Below, Oliver James Arthur Murray

Weddings (St Peter's)

2 Dec Andrew Peter Turpin & Angela Jane Maragna

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)

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then coffee
to recover



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reviewcontacts

General

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie, Team Rector, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)
(day off Thursday)
The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)
The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)
Joan Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street (866278)
John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993)
Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)
Parish Administration: **Jean Green**, The Parish Office, The Court House (878227)
Stewardship Recorder: **Miles Nicholas**, 46 Fieldway (871598)
Churchwardens: **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)
All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership.
Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis** (866324)

allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

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



The controller for the St Peter's state of the art sound system. The left image is the power-on screen.
All sound control is via a radio link.

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