

Berkhamsted *review*

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February 2007



for Town and Parish

30p



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

**Welcome to the February 2007 issue of
the Berkhamsted *review***

At this time of year, thoughts of travel have every opportunity to flourish. Travel brochures drop through our letterboxes, no newspaper is complete without a travel supplement and television programmes explore remote and exotic destinations. Why do we do it? In the *review* this month we have two travellers' tales. **David Pearce** goes in search of adventure - for him the travelling itself is what matters. **Patrick Lepper** travels to distant Burma to a place that has a special significance for him - what matters to him is the destination. The history of travel is very long. Journeys of exploration, or trading expeditions, often the same thing, have been going on since prehistoric times and pilgrimage to holy places is a tradition in many lands. Recreational travel however is a luxury of affluent societies. The *Grand Tour* made by rich young men in the eighteenth century is perhaps the prototype for our present-day urge to be elsewhere. The *gap year* is the *Grand Tour* of the 21st century, but young or old, we are all travellers now. Why not write about your adventures? The *review* always has a place for travellers' tales.

Christopher Green

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Cover photo: 69 High Street (p13)

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**A Clearer Sense
of Identity**
**Father Michael
Bowie looks
forward to a new
future at All
Saints'**

review leader

I had threatened to be writing more about Chile in this *review* but *events*, as **Harold Macmillan** may or may not have said, intervened.

Carolina did manage a brief visit to Santiago and was able to hand over the parish's gift to the *Hogar de Cristo*, the admirable church charity there which

is doing so much in response to the yawning social services gap (it is a gap rather than a net for most people in Chile). There will be an article in the next *review* about the work of the *Hogar*, but, just to remind you, *Hogar de Cristo* means *Home of Christ*, reflecting the vision of the founder, **Padre Hurtado**, to respond to Christ in the needs of the poor and suffering.

So, instead of a long journey and a hot summer break in January, I enjoyed another Christmastide in England. Someone asked me the other day whether I preferred living in England or Australia and, to their surprise I answered without hesitation 'England'. This season is one of my reasons. Christmas in the middle of six months humid and lethargic Sydney summer no longer appeals to me: I enjoy the change of climate and the dark winter days which gradually open out into spring again. Growth and change seem to be built in to the start of the year.

And the new year holds some interesting challenges for the parish – not least because we are engaged in conversations about the future of All Saints' church within the parish and the Berkhamsted Team. All Saints' has been working as an ecumenical partnership with Berkhamsted Methodist Church for about 30 years. For most of that time the arrangement was effectively one of two congregations sharing the building, but in the last couple of years a move has been made to shared worship. This has meant a different form of service each week, sometimes a Eucharist (whether Methodist or Anglican) and sometimes not, often

with considerable variation in style. Reductions in staffing are continuing – the loss of the Anglican assistant priest will be followed, when **Paul Timmis** (the Methodist minister) moves, by a reduction in the Methodist Circuit from three to two. I considered that we needed to meet this (and other possible future changes) with some degree of strategic planning. A series of meetings and discussions has begun, within the All Saints' community and also with the Anglican and Methodist hierarchies, about the best way to move forward.

Without going into the tedious legalities, it seems that we can, within the present sharing agreement, reorganise things at All Saints' so that it has a clearer sense of identity and style of worship and witness and that is the intention of the change which is contemplated this year. This will involve the congregation taking responsibility for that identity and the church being more independent of St Peter's. But the future of All Saints' as a church community in the building on Shrublands Road, will not be compromised so long as the All Saints' community wishes that situation to continue. There will be particular challenges in this change, not least financial challenges. It is my hope that sharing this thinking and listening to people's responses to the change will allow the process to build a healthy future on what has been achieved at All Saints' so far. The ultimate goal is for it to become a full member of the Berkhamsted Team Ministry rather than a *daughter church* of St Peter's, or an *ecumenical experiment*. I hope that this will be a change which issues in growth. ❖

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*F*aith in Action is the Mothers' Union theme for 2007 and it is this theme which the 3.5 million members in 77 countries across the world will be supporting and living out in their daily lives by their prayers and actions, their branch activities and their support for MU project work in this country and overseas.

Here in Berkhamsted our MU branch is small in number and this, together with the average age of our membership, precludes action in the literal sense of the word, but there is still a lot we can do through our prayers and everyday life to support this theme and the objectives of the Mothers Union.

Looking beyond our locality to translate faith into actual action those readers who heard **Reg Bailey**, the Mothers' Union Chief Executive, speak at St Peter's in December will have an idea of the work the Mothers' Union is supporting through its workers in less advantaged areas of the world. However a new departure for members in this country is the appointment of four development workers in the UK to help members to be even more effective in reaching out to communities to offer a range of support to families.

Workers have been appointed in Oxford, Worcester and Chester dioceses with a fourth worker appointed to work across five dioceses in Ireland. Funding has been provided by the Central Mothers' Union for these posts with the local diocesan MU and other agencies providing the balance. Each pilot is unique, but in each case the Worker is tasked with enabling the local MU members to reach out to those around them rather than taking over or managing projects on their behalf.

In Oxford (the first diocese to appoint a Worker) the brief is to identify areas of need which the MU could realistically respond to, and help them as they then set up an appropriate project. In Worcester the

FAITH IN ACTION

Kathy Lally commends
a new MU initiative



Worker has been appointed to help the MU as they develop the MU support work in four prisons in the diocese.

In Chester, whose Worker is the only full-time appointee, the task is to enable the MU and people

throughout the diocese to develop support for families, while the Worker in Ireland is supporting and developing the work undertaken by the MU parenting group facilitators.

Although each of these appointments is initially for three years already the benefits are becoming apparent. In addition to the new projects set up in the individual dioceses those involved will be able to share with MU members in other dioceses the strategies that they find best help develop the outreach work of the MU so that others can learn from their experiences when setting up their own projects. Unlike the ordinary MU member busy with a young family or a job, these Workers have specific skills which allow them to network and take advantage of local sources of expertise as well as undertake valuable research prior to setting up a new project. An additional benefit to emerge is that greater activity has led to a growing awareness of the Mothers' Union. Oxford MU has begun to attract more members – many of them younger – who liked the sound of the projects and gave them their support, while the regard with which the MU is held has increased enormously in these dioceses.

In the future it is hoped to appoint more workers in other dioceses, at which point the range of ideas and strategies already identified in this pilot initiative and the experiences gained from the new projects set up will be of enormous benefit to the MU's support for family life in this country. ❖

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After being totally dry for most of 2006 the river Bulbourne filled up in November and has been flowing steadily through Berkhamsted ever since. One might think that this sudden improvement in flow was because of the very wet weather that we had been having, particularly in November and December (although August, September and October were also wetter than average), and indeed the water table at Dudswell did rise by 2.7 metres between mid-November and mid-December. But it appears that the sudden return of water flow may be as much a result of the water abstraction practices at Northchurch and Cowroast by British Waterways as of recent levels of rainfall. Abstractions by British Waterways at Cowroast and Northchurch in the year up to last September were their highest ever, mainly due to the need to limit other abstractions from the Tring reservoirs which had become contaminated by blue-green algae. British Waterways used bales of barley straw to control the algae. These bales give off hydrogen peroxide as they break down, killing the algae. Throughout the summer abstraction at Cowroast was kept up at a rate that was unsustainable, but once the algae problem receded British Waterways reduced it. Since October pumping from Cowroast has ceased altogether and abstraction from Northchurch has been substantially reduced. It is very likely that it is this shutting down at Cowroast that has led to the flow improvement of the Bulbourne at Berkhamsted.

Thames Water Utilities continues to pump from New Ground although it was recommended for closure as long ago as 1997. This source was originally scheduled to shut down by April 2005, but because of distribution problems it had to continue at a reduced extraction rate. These problems were supposed to be resolved by September 2006. This deadline was later extended and

Ian Reay's &news &views

Rainfall, Rivers and Reservoirs

Ian Reay comments on our
water supply

pumping was still taking place at the end of December. Thames Water believe that low rainfall this winter would be likely to see restrictions required again next year but they do not expect serious supply problems unless the winter rainfall is exceptionally low: 60%-70% of average or less. The water sources that Thames Water use in the Chilterns are very robust and because they can move water up the catchment from the Thames they claim to be able to maintain supplies even with very low groundwater levels. For Three Valleys Water the position is less secure. Three Valleys is almost completely dependent upon groundwater and so is likely to keep its hosepipe ban in force until it believes that groundwater is fully recovered. The present *drought* looks set to be with us for some time yet. (ED: The ban was lifted from 20 January)

An interesting question is the long term effect that climate change will have on the flow of water in local chalk streams such as the Bulbourne. In a warmer climate increased evaporation will lead to more water vapour in the atmosphere and greater rainfall. On the other hand greater levels of evaporation will also mean a reduced flow-through of rainfall into groundwater. So what will be the net effect of this on groundwater resources? Climatologists forecast that in England we will have hotter, drier summers combined with warmer, wetter winters. Recent studies by the Met Office seem to show that the net effect of that climate change in this part of the country would be to reduce groundwater reserves on balance. That is not good news for Three Valleys Water. It also means that we can expect that even if rainfall levels on average remain much as they are today, or even increase, we can expect to see dry river beds more often in the Chilterns chalk streams in the future than we have done in the past.



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For their Christmas concert at St Peter's, Berkhamsted, on December 23rd 2006 the Chiltern Chamber Choir with orchestra under **Adrian Davis** performed Handel's *Messiah*, but, so as to finish in style the year celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Mozart's birth, *Messiah* was given in the version orchestrated by Mozart.

Before the performance commenced **Adrian Davis** gave the audience a very amusing potted history of performances of *Messiah*, mentioning the huge number of different ways in which people – including Handel himself – have tinkered with the great work. It is difficult to be sure precisely what the very first audience in Dublin in April 1742 actually heard, though modern scholars never cease trying to discover. Before the *authentic brigade* got to work in the 1960s and '70s on the question of how Baroque and Classical music really should be performed, most performances of *Messiah* were tailored to local conditions. The local condition in

MESSIAH

With tinkerings by Mozart

Richard Grylls writes

Vienna in 1789, when the Viennese première of the work was organised by **Baron Gottfried van Swieten**, was that there was no organ in the hall of the Imperial Library where the work was to be


performed. Mozart was commissioned to re-orchestrate the work – he subsequently did the same to Handel's *Alexander's Feast* and *Ode to St. Cecilia* – and, in so doing, he radically changed the sound-world of the piece, by adding flutes, clarinets, horns and trombones to the orchestra that had originally been specified by Handel.

From the very first bars of the Berkhamsted performance the solemn majestic sound of trombones underpinning the orchestration was apparent – Mozart had recently used trombones to great effect in *Don Giovanni*. These instruments and French horns were employed later in Mozart's orchestration of *Messiah* to add weight to the middle and lower lines of choruses, the players in the



→ p11

Photo: Rowena Pike



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←p9 Messiah

orchestra managing their often very athletic parts splendidly. But the Chiltern Chamber Choir, singing with its usual excellence, didn't need that extra weight. In fact they were compelled to sing at a higher volume level than usual for much of the performance in order to be heard clearly above Mozart's enriched orchestration, so some sensitivity in their singing was perhaps lost. Fortunately, Mozart tinkered less with some of the choruses. *His yoke is easy*, which ended the first part, was splendidly and very crisply sung, and the three choruses in quick succession near the start of Part Two were sung magnificently, bringing out vividly their contrasting moods. Though *the sheep went astray*, the chorus certainly didn't, even at a really fast pace.

It was in the solo arias that Mozart's marvellously inventive writing for woodwind instruments was most apparent. The ear was often tickled by a delightful woodwind phrase, or an extra trill. Occasionally these were a distraction from the melody and text on which we should have been focussing, Mozart sometimes adding extra contrapuntal lines or long held notes which had the effect of muddying the texture. **Kathryn Jenkin**, with her beautiful pure voice, rode over these extras and sang all the soprano solos most expressively, especially *He shall feed his flock*. It seemed sad that Mozart deprived the soprano soloist of *Rejoice greatly*, giving the aria to the tenor instead. **Jeanette Ager**, the alto soloist, sang her second aria *He was despised* most movingly, aided by some beautiful clarinet playing. In his endeavour to bring out the meaning of each word in the text **Kevin Mclean-Mair**, the tenor soloist, severely compromised the smoothness of Handel's melodic lines. He sang much more pleasingly in the duet with the alto, *O death, where is thy sting*. **Christopher Foster**, the bass soloist, has a light voice, a fact made more apparent by the richer and denser accompaniment provided by Mozart for the bass soloist's dramatic second and third arias. He was best in his first aria, *The*

people that walked in darkness. The recitative before this displayed the director of the evening's performance tinkering with Mozart-tinkering-with-Handel! Using a little electronic magic, the harpsichord continuo as probably heard in the Imperial Library in Vienna in 1789 was turned into an organ continuo in St Peter's, Berkhamsted, in 2006 and it sounded absolutely right.

It is fascinating to discover that Mozart did not trust the Viennese trumpet players to play the exhilarating high trumpet parts that Handel had provided in the *Hallelujah* chorus, *The trumpet shall sound* and the *Amen*. The horn and oboe players in the orchestra who played the parts that Mozart substituted did so very well indeed. But how those original glorious high trumpet sounds were missed, by this listener anyway!

The *Messiah* is a great work, almost tinker-proof. **Adrian Davis**, held the whole performance together splendidly, helped admirably by his loyal collection of excellent performers. The candles added to the atmosphere, and the whole piece proceeded – without intervening applause – with drama, reflection, brilliance, solemnity and majesty towards the marvellous final *Amen*, one of the most sublime passages in all music. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to hear what Mozart did to a work he obviously loved, but many people in audience, and performers alike, no doubt look forward to hearing, singing and playing a rather less tinkered-with and rather more Handelian version next time. ❖

The choir was shocked to hear of the death of Rick Williams, one of the tenors, in a sledging accident in Italy recently. He was there as a member of a hot air balloon racing team.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

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On the cover this month we feature another dated building.

This is *Coleshill House*, the substantial Victorian villa at 69 High Street with the date, 1882, in a cartouche on the gable. The building is presently occupied by a chiropractic clinic which has been in practice there since 1931. In Kelly's Directory for 1897 *Coleshill House* was the residence and surgery of **William Wilson** FRCVS, veterinary surgeon, one of two veterinary practices in the town at the time. *Coleshill House* stands between *The Poplars*, a rather earlier Victorian villa, at 71 High Street, and on the other side, towards Highfield Road a row of older 19th century cottages. *The Poplars* was at various times the home of **John Lane** of Lane's Nurseries and **William Cooper** of sheep-dip fame, and in 1911 was the

COLESHILL

Christopher Green writes

birthplace of the actor **Sir Michael Hordern**. These

famous residents

have earned *The Poplars* a place at No 9 on the Berkhamsted Heritage Trail.

Its blue plaque is however surely wrong to describe the

building as *late 18th century*. This part of the town had begun to attract development in the 1860s. Victoria Road, one of the first *new* roads on the north side of the High Street was created at this time and Highfield Road followed not long after. The Baptist Church on the other side of the High Street was built in 1864 and Sibdon Place (66-74 High Street) in 1869. Two other dated buildings of similar age in this area, at 78 High Street (1863) and 85 High Street (1865) were featured in the *review* in June and November of last year.



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In October, I spent two weeks in Burma (now re-named Myanmar). The main objective was a cruise up the River Irrawaddy, from Bagan, the ancient capital, to Mandalay and on to Bhamo near the Chinese border.

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US

Patrick Lepper attends an Anglican memorial service in Burma

Of all that, more anon, on February 27th in the Court House. This article is about my other objective, which was to find the grave of my godfather Tom Hankey, and while at the spot to commemorate him with a short memorial service. He was one of my father's greatest friends at New College, Oxford, and through him my parents met. He was a wartime captain in the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry, in the 6th Battalion which formed part of the 25th Indian Division in India and Burma. He was killed in September 1944 in the Arakan, on the west coast of Burma, while leading B Company in the capture of a hill held by Japanese troops. As far as I knew, none of his friends and family had ever seen his grave.

I located the grave precisely, very easily and before leaving home, thanks to the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It lies close to the entrance of Htaukkyan War Cemetery, north of Rangoon, where almost all the known graves of British and Commonwealth servicemen who died in Burma are now concentrated. The Commission has no chaplains, but I was

told that if I wished to arrange something it would be all right.

The British Embassy put me in touch with the **Revd Simon Htu**, the Vicar of Holy Cross Yangon (as Rangoon is now

called). Holy Cross is in the northern suburbs, on the west side of the Inya Lake, in the University quarter. It is both a parish church and the chapel of the theological college of the Church of Myanmar, of which Mr Htu is the Principal. Buddhists make up over 80% of Burma's population, Christians 7%. The largest denominations are Baptist, Anglican and Roman Catholic, and the Anglican Church of Myanmar has six dioceses. I telephoned Mr Htu from home, and he kindly agreed to conduct a service for me at Htaukkyan, as long as we could take him there, and by email we agreed a form of service.

On the day, my tour company had arranged a bus to take me and two fellow-travellers, together with Zaw our Burmese guide, and from our lakeside hotel we drove round the lake to pick up Mr Htu. We went the long way round, because the shortest route would have taken us along University Road, where **Aung San Suu Kyi** lives under house arrest, and the road has been barricaded by the police both east and west of her house. She of course is the leader of the National League for Democracy, which



The church of Holy Cross, Yangon



Patrick (far right) at his godfather's grave

dismayed the military regime by convincingly winning the election which it permitted in 1990 but has refused to acknowledge ever since.

We arrived early, and as Mr Htu was still celebrating Holy Communion, I strolled round the compound. The modern, brick-built church was on the left, the college buildings along the front and to the right, and the Principal's house further back towards the lake. It seemed a busy place, with a lot of young Burmese about. The Principal and Vicar himself soon appeared, a brisk, friendly man in a white cassock, with a satchel over his shoulder.

We had much animated conversation on the bus journey to Htaukkyan. He told us cheerfully that he was worried about running short of teaching staff, because several of the six bishops in Myanmar were due to retire, and new bishops always seemed to be selected from the Holy Cross Faculty. It seemed that the Faculty was involved not only in teaching students but also in pioneering work on a new liturgy. Their starting-point was that everyone in Myanmar, including Christians, grew up in a strongly Buddhist culture, which had an enormous influence on their home life, their education, and their habits of thought. Thus it was important, in conducting Christian worship in Myanmar, to avoid as far as possible expressions which were discordant with traditional assumptions, and if possible to find helpful parallels between Christian and Buddhist concepts. He gave as an

example faith, hope and love, which found echoes in a Buddhist triad (I think it may have been the Three Jewels).

In talking about this approach he praised the founder and first principal of the college, the **Revd George Appleton**, later Bishop of Perth (Australia) and Bishop in Jerusalem, and his very influential book called *On the Eightfold Path: Christian Presence Amid Buddhism*. This was a delightful revelation, because I well remember his fatherly presence at St Giles Oxford in the 1980s, taking the occasional service for us, in his episcopal lawn sleeves.

At the War Cemetery, the manager was ready with the wreaths that I had ordered, and took us to Tom Hankey's grave. **Simon Htu** led us in prayer, and I then read a short account of the action in which Tom was killed, followed by the passage from Romans *Who shall separate us from the love of God?* I have long thought that St Paul did not mean us to dismiss too easily his list of terrors that might so separate us. Persecution: just a walk in the park? No indeed; think of Darfur. And beside that grave especially, thinking of a schoolmaster's death at the hand of a desperate enemy, the fierce challenges of *peril* and *sword* carried their full weight. Then, having laid wreaths from Tom's nephew, from his regiment and from me, we duly kept silence, and finally **Simon Htu** gave a short address and concluded the service with prayers for Britain and for Myanmar, and not least for Japan.

I am very grateful to **Simon Htu** for his help in commemorating my godfather. At the time, I gave him two of the lightweight books which I had taken with me as presents, one on English Cathedrals, and a text of Shakespeare's sonnets. I have also sent, at his request, a copy of the Common Worship lectionary for 2007. I have asked whether, as a parish, we might establish a mutually helpful link with the parish and college of Holy Cross, Yangon. I am grateful to the PCC for welcoming this idea, and agreeing to develop it further. ❖



Patrick (3rd from left) relaxes at Htaukkyan

Muncaster was the cause of it all.

I had been through it all in 2005, and decided that enough was enough. Then, it had appealed with all the excitement of the unknown. A sailing ship at sea; mid-winter; crewing before the mast. I following in my grandfather's sea boots as he butted down the Channel square-hauled for Australia in the 1880s. For years I had encouraged boys in my boarding house to take up the challenge. *"It'll make a man of you. You will find out about yourself"* I cajoled. *"Now"*, I thought, *"is the time to put the venture and myself to the test"*. And, so that my boys could not accuse me of ducking out, I would go in December. Suffice to say that I learned the truth quickly. The high yard-arm was a white-knuckle experience and I am conscious of not acquitting myself with distinction. When the girl beside me fell off and dangled in her safety harness I knew that it was the time for Pearce chivalry but am ashamed to say that I had neither the mental or physical strength to do more than hiss encouragement through gritted teeth. She was unperturbed; she had crossed the Pacific: but I knew that I had failed. Then I sprained my ankle badly in the scuppers, and the captain confined me to the decks. I can say only on the credit side that I, unlike the Borstal boys

ALL AT SEA

David Pearce describes two voyages on a tall ship

aboard, had volunteered when it came to setting sails, and there was one shipmate who, after an evening ashore, told me that he *f***ing admired me* – not because I had

been admirable but because he could not conceive of someone thus old actually choosing to be there. In the circumstances I could have hugged him, but I was uncertain whether such an unseamanlike gesture would have been understood.

What was it then that could induce me to go again just a few weeks ago? Well, it was Muncaster. I met him - or rather his marine paintings - in the house of an old friend in Dartmouth. My wife and I slept in his spare room with nine original Claude Muncasters on the walls. Nine Muncasters! One of the favourite artists of George VI and the Queen Mother! He was the man who in 1931 sailed from Australia in the *Olivebank* and recorded his adventures in *Rolling Round the Horn*. He subsequently recorded the change from sail to steam in an outpouring of evocative paintings. The romance of it all - of Marryatt, Newby, Dana – stirred in my veins and I resolved on the spur of the moment to sign on again. In that wild moment I forgot all about the discomfort of bunk, the embarrassment of fear, the impossibility of getting a decent wash, of trying to keep warm. I thought only that I would



take my sketchbook.

So it was that I stowed my gear in the *Prince William* at Tilbury and took stock of my new watch mates. Only five of us in a Watch for sixteen. We were undermanned. More to do, but a closer companionship. There were two splendid fellows from the South London GPO, one of them Indonesian. For five days we would rely on each other, encourage, and be sick together. Crews are advised to padlock their lockers, but there came a defining moment when we all realised that none of us was doing that, for the not-trusting was an embarrassment in our close living. The weather was fine as we slipped down the Thames and we accustomed ourselves to ropes, knots, and the terminology of the sea that was at the same time both strange and familiar. That was true too of the seascapes of the North Kent coast. I have known them all my life, and grew up like a young Raleigh looking out at the waters on which I was now sailing.

There was all the forecast of gales and as we rounded the Kentish forelands we pitched into a swell that sent the nearly full moon leap-frogging over the royal yardarm, and then diving from view below the rearing bowsprit. The *Prince William* is a brig, and therefore square-rigged and needing a following wind. The gale was roaring up the Channel and so we were under engines, and the motion of the ship was abrupt and ungainly.

It was being at the helm that did for me;



focusing closely on the compass card and trying to keep the course. *Watch the helm, helmsman.* Couldn't the Captain see that I was? That was the beginning of twenty-four hours of nausea – not actually being sick but not believing that the awfulness could end. One loses all sense of dignity and proper restraint. I cut supper, and it was thought I had thrown myself overboard for there was a message for me over the tannoy. I do not remember much of the watch from midnight till 4.00 a.m. but there is a memory through the day of time-honoured diversions such as *cleaning the heads*, practising setting and stowing of sails, bracing yards, coiling the massive mooring ropes, keeping watch for sea traffic in the *separation zones* as we plugged westwards, and then across to Cherbourg. I thought of the D-Day invasion fleet that had experienced not dissimilar conditions, and was grateful that a friendly France awaited me.

In Cherbourg we moored at a quayside especially constructed in 1912 for the *Titanic*. I wandered the town, deserted

→ p19



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Christmas Eve crib service at St Peter's (see p23)

photo: Rowena Pike

←p17 All at Sea

and echoing in the late evening and rather seedy in mid-winter. The next morning was blue-bright and the wind strong and from the right quarter. Breakfast was a possibility, though I eyed with suspicion the thick, coarse-grained bacon. Volunteers for going aloft! Apprehension and fear. This was the moment. But when all was done, and the sails shaken out, what exultation! I could call myself a yardman at last, and in the evening, off the Isle of Wight, stowing the sails tight along the yards and tying knots with one hand, I felt that I could look my grandfather's shade in the face.

In Southampton, late that night, a few of my Watch joined me in a search for cut-price beer at the Seamen's Mission. We looked a raggedy lot, and perhaps I was foolish to explain that we were illegal immigrants just off ship. The man on the door scrutinised us. *"I can do you plastic phone cards,"* he said. *"No,"* said I, *"we want succour and hospitality, and... cheap beer"*. *"Too late for serving"*, came the guarded reply. *"Nonsense, we can hear the sound of merriment within, and you are a Mission – a Charity. You can't turn us away"*. Then came the crunch question to us, *"Have you got English money?"* My little Indonesian doubled up with laughter, and the question became our roistering slogan, as we rolled off to a more welcoming pub round the corner.

And was the voyage the inspiration for immortal sketches in my book? Well... no. The thing on board ship is to look as if you are doing something important. Hold a bucket, or the end of a rope. A sketch book does not count, and brings out the worst in the officer crew. But I did, before the end, climb to the royal yardarm at the top of the mast, and, altogether, I had a marvellous time. *"Anyone who says he has never been sick has never sailed enough"*. So I was told. I have done that too, and now even that is part of the fun .



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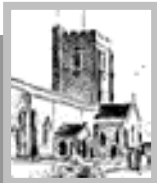
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It's Different in America

The Revd Jonathan Gordon writes about church finances

review Northchurch & Wigginton

A few years ago I worked on placement with a church in Atlanta, Georgia for a few months over the summer. In the first few weeks I spent a bit of time with some of the church officials and on one occasion with the church treasurer. On the

Monday after the main Sunday services her task was to go through the envelopes in the collection and make a list of what people had given. Some of the members of the church had not put an envelope on the tray. When she saw what had happened she phoned them up and asked them very politely if there was a reason they had not put the envelope in and could they please put in double the following week. The church has costs and expenditures she reminded people and regular giving was very important. I observed this slightly dumbfounded as the subject of giving in my home church was very private and no-one really spoke about money. Yet, one lesson that I learnt from my time in Atlanta, was that American churches do not find the subject embarrassing.

There are many demands on the churches finances. We are not supported by any external income and the cost of maintaining a historic building, paying the running costs, developing schemes of pastoral outreach and contributing towards the funds of the diocese falls on the members of the congregation. In some ways paying the bills is always going to be a burden, but the church is not situated in the middle of the community to be a drain on people's resources. The church at St

Mary's for nearly 1000 years has been a place where people have come for prayer and worship. It is a place where people find a sense of belonging, peace and acceptance. It is also a place that has a vision of sharing God's love and peace with the community of which it is apart. Finances are going to be an aspect of this that will come under review, and everyone will be asked to think about their level of giving.

Unlike the church in Atlanta, no one will be phoned up and asked what they have given and what they should give! However, a few guidelines from the story of Jesus might be helpful as we move into the season of Lent. Jesus observed people coming into the temple and giving money. He then saw a poor widow who gave a small coin, but her generosity was not unnoticed. She had given nearly everything she owned. Her gift was excessive, sacrificial and even extravagant. Her gift points toward the extravagant self giving of Jesus on the cross. Jesus gives to us everything that he has and the open ended question from the story is what do we give in return? ❖

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THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

What a joy it was to have the church full to standing-only capacity for the Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Peter's. With carols, procession and blessing of the crib, this annual service and the plate collection for the Children's Society belongs to the true spirit of Christmas.

A poster display at the west door gave a gentle reminder of the contrasts at Christmas between children in loving relationships and homes, and vulnerable children on the streets, perhaps dispossessed by their dysfunctional families.

Father Michael Bowie introduced the service by outlining the work of the Society. For 125 years it has pioneered work with children. Today it helps around 50,000 children a year in trouble with the law, disabled, at risk on the streets, and young refugees. Campaigning and lobbying, for example the *Safe and Sound* and *Stand by Me* campaigns, touch the lives of thousands of runaways and disabled children respectively.

Enthusiastic singing of carols, Christmas readings, and a performance by the Sunday School were a prelude to the wonder and joys of Christmas day.

The plate collections at the crib at St Peter's and All Saints' generously raised over £1,000 for the work of the Society. For more information go to www.thechildrenssociety.co.uk

ST PETER'S LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Friday 9th February - Petrus de Beer
violin and Adrian Davis *piano*

Friday 16th February - Leon Bosch
double bass and Adrian Davis *piano*

THE BERKHAMSTED WALK

Sunday 13th May 2007

Planning of The Children's Society sponsored walk is well underway. Routes have been decided and the proprietors of the **Complete Outdoors** have affirmed their support for the walk with three generous prizes for the most sponsorship. The updated web-site, www.berkhamstedwalk.co.uk, is on-line and sponsor forms will be sent out and will be at various locations in March, or earlier.

There are three routes. Two routes start from the Court House which is alongside St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted High Street. Registration can be in advance via the website or at the Court House between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. The third route, the shortest at six miles, starts at Ashridge Management College with registration between 11:00-2:00pm. The two routes starting from the Court House are of 18 miles and 11 miles.

Spring, in all its freshness, is a wonderful time to be out walking. Please take part for your pleasure, and particularly to support The Children's Society in its work with disadvantaged children.

RED NOSES AT OXFAM

Friday 16th March *The Big One* is coming or so says Lenny Henry as Comic Relief prepares for the 2007 Red Nose Day in March.

Details remain a closely guarded secret until the launch date later in February but we can reveal that Oxfam will be a local stockist once again.

Now is the time to prepare your fund-raising plans for this popular event, scheduled for **Friday 16th March** - and make sure you visit Oxfam in good time. Demand has been known to exceed supply.

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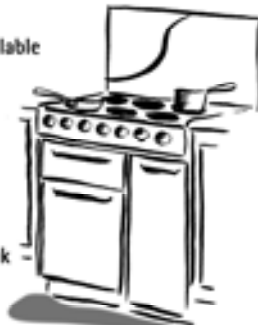
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FAIR-TRADE FORTNIGHT

26th Feb. – 11th March Here we go again; campaigning celebrities will soon loom large on our television screens with details of Fairtrade Fortnight, and our more enlightened newspapers will have reasonably accurate articles about third world poverty and iniquitous trading rules. Fairtrade Fortnight is co-ordinated by the Fairtrade Foundation and is supported by many organisations including CAFOD, Christian Aid, The Church of England, Methodist Relief and Development Fund, NFWI, Oxfam, Tearfund, MU, Traidcraft Exchange and The United Reformed Church. More information at www.fairtrade.org.uk

During Fairtrade Fortnight, we will be urged to:

Munch it! Wear it! Brew it! Choose it!

Choose to buy, eat, drink and wear products displaying the Fairtrade Mark. The Mark indicates the items are independently certified to internationally agreed Fairtrade standards and guarantees producer organisations have received a fair and stable price for their goods and a social premium that they can invest for the future.

A Steering Group has been formed and moves are afoot in Berkhamsted to raise public awareness and support for Fairtrade; the goal is **Fairtrade Berkhamsted**. To offer help or support or for more information, contact **Angela Morris** (866992) or **Jane Hocking**, Manager Oxfam shop.

MARKET DATE

Sunday 18th February Farmers Market.

COWPER SOCIETY

Tuesday 27th February 8:00pm in the Court House.

On the Road to Mandalay: a visit to Burma. **Patrick Lepper** will give an illustrated talk on his recent visit to Burma (see p.13). Admission free.

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday 14th February 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Stevie Fletcher** will give a talk on *Watercress growing in Hertfordshire*. Visitors £2.50 at the door.

BERKHAMSTED CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thursday 8th February 8:00pm in the Town Hall. **Margaret Edinburgh**, Chairman, Berkhamsted Branch of the RNLI will give a talk on *The Spirit of Berkhamsted*. Visitors £2 at the door.

DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST

Tuesday 6th March 2:00pm

The Trust is a Registered Museum with collections covering the whole of Dacorum. Come along to the Museum Store in Berkhamsted and see how we record and interpret the heritage of Dacorum.

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TUESDAY CLUB

A pleasingly large number of members gathered on the second evening of the New Year to hear **Jean Beedie's** interesting and lively talk entitled *Was their journey really necessary*. Illustrated by fascinating black and white photographs, the story she related was about the two years she spent, fifty years ago, at the RSPCA Animal Hostel at Heathrow Airport.

Every day was a surprise as she cared for and soothed the fears of a wide variety of animals and birds arriving at the airport in transit from many parts of the world, from Africa and India to America.

The types of animals she handled ranged from adorable baby gorillas to cows, sheep, lions, leopards and an elephant who trod on his water bucket and flattened it. Birds included day-old chicks, flamingos and the occasional vulture.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday 17th February 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. *The Quince String Quartet* playing Haydn, Schumann and Beethoven. Admission £10. Under 18s £5 from 871598 and at the door.

Berkhamsted review — MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Both **Christopher Green** (and **David Woodward** before him) and **Tony Firshman** have enjoyed building on the excellent style of the *review* as established by **Chris Smalley**. **David Woodward** continues to encourage a very good advertising content, which keeps it financially viable. Most months we have enough copy. The new local printing facilities we have available have improved the quality and reliability, especially the photos.

Unfortunately we have had no time to attend to actually publicising and selling the end product. We are, of course, very grateful for the sterling work done in distributing the *review* by so many people.

However, we do need someone who can take on the vital job of ensuring that our circulation grows, and that we are using our commercial outlets effectively and economically.

Is there anyone who could take on this essential job that has been unfilled for so long?

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

26 November Patrick James Beloe

Baptisms (All Saints')

17 December Isabelle Mary Vorster

Weddings (St Peter's)

6 January Pieter Swort & Genevieve Parkinson

Funerals

11 December William Albert Buckland

20 December Alison Frances Brading

27 December Thomas Garment

St Peter's Church (Chilterns)

St Peter's Church (Chilterns)

Chilterns Crematorium

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist
	February	9:30am Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 4th</i>	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
	11 th	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	18 st	10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led
	25 th	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
		10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led

All services at *St Peter's* unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer

MON	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	
TUE	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 8:00am
THU		EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 11:00am (<i>Fr Michael's day off</i>)
FRI	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i>	Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 9:30am <i>St Peter's</i>	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 10:00am
	MP 8:45am <i>All Saint's</i>		

1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm	<i>Court House</i>
	For anyone on their own on a Sunday.	Contact: Joan Morris (863780)
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm	<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP: 8:00pm at 22 Upper Hall Park for bible study.	Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)
Tue	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am	<i>All Saints' Church Hall</i>
	Song Time or Short service as announced.	Jenny Wells (870981)
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm	<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</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>
3 rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved.	
	Contact Thelma Harris (865785)	
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays.	Contact Linda Bisset (862115)
Thu	TE'S (Youth club for yr 9+) 7-9pm Jimmy Young (384929)	<i>Court House</i>
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804)	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am	<i>Court House</i>
	Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (10am)	
	Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094)	
Fri	ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm.	<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
3 rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers.	<i>Various local churches</i>

reviewdiary

Please see opposite for services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

February / March

February

Fri	2	10:00am	Little Fishes Service - <i>Candlemas</i>	St Peter's
Fri	2	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Candlemas	St Peter's
Sun	4	6:00pm	<i>Service with a Difference</i>	St Peter's
Mon	5	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Tue	6	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service - <i>Come and see</i>	All Saints'
Fri	9	1:00pm	Lunchtime Recital – Petrus de Beer violin, Adrian Davis piano.....	St Peter's
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	St Peter's
Tue	13	7.30pm	Eucharist before The Talk	St Peter's
Tue	13	8:00pm	The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John - <i>How to read the Bible</i>	St Peter's
Fri	16	1:00pm	Lunchtime Recital – Leon Bosch double bass, Adrian Davis piano.....	St Peter's
Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast..	All Saints'
Tue	20	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council	The Court House
Wed	21	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	St Peter's
Sat	24	7.30pm	The Cowper Society presents <i>The Bridgewater Band</i>	St Peter's
Sun	25		First Sunday in Lent	
Tue	27	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service - <i>Jesus calms the storm</i>	All Saints'
Tue	27	8:00pm	Cowper Society Talk Patrick Lepper “On the Road to Mandalay: a visit to Burma” ...	The Court House
Wed	28	7:30pm	Eucharist.....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
		8:00pm	LENT ADDRESS <i>The Eucharist</i> <i>makes the Church (1) - Fr Michael</i>	Lady Chapel, St Peter's

March

Fri	2	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	St Peter's
Mon	5	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Wed	7	7:30pm	Eucharist.....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
		8:00pm	LENT ADDRESS <i>The Eucharist</i> <i>makes the Church (2) – Fr Michael</i>	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
Sat	10	3-8pm	District Bellringing	St Peter's
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	St Peter's
Tue	13	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service - <i>A very big picnic</i>	All Saints'
Wed	14	7:30pm	Eucharist.....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
		8:00pm	LENT ADDRESS <i>The Eucharist</i> <i>makes the Church (3) – Fr Michael</i>	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
Thu	15	12:30pm	<i>Society of Catholic Priests</i> Eucharist.....	St Peter's
Fri	16	11:00am	<i>Victoria School C. of E. First School</i> Mothering Service	St Peter's
Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	The Way Inn
Sun	18	9:30am / 10:00am	Mothering Sunday Services.....	St Peter's / All Saints'
Wed	21	7:30pm	Eucharist.....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
		8:00pm	LENT ADDRESS <i>The Eucharist</i> <i>makes the Church (4) – Fr Michael</i>	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
Sun	25	11:15am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting.....	The Court House
Tue	27	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service – <i>The story of Easter</i>	All Saints'
Tue	27	8:00pm	Cowper Society Talk Kate Perera “The Art of Translation”	The Court House
Wed	28	8:00pm	No Lent Address	St Peter's

Registers are on page 27

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
Chalice rota
Church maintenance
Church cleaning
Flower arrangements
Sunday morning coffee
Service recordings
Intercessions

Alan Conway (865798)
Fr Michael Bowie (864194)
Christopher Green (863241)
Jean Green (878227)
Sarah Dawson (871614)
Joan Morris (863780)
Alan Conway (865798)
Fr Michael Bowie (864194)

Epistle Readers
Electoral Roll
Pathfinders

Ron Fisher (865846)
Judith Limbert (873626)
Stephen Lally (863526)

Sidesmen
Catering

Chris Hunt (822607)
Val Atkinson (866792)

Hospice contact
Christian Aid
Youth worker
Sunday School/Explorers

Rachael Anderson (871997)
Angela Morris (866992)
Jimmy Young (876736)
Sally Emery (870656)

Felicity White (866223)
Jenny Wells (870981)
Chris Lumb (863885)
Kate Spall (873470)
Madeleine Brownell (862578)
Sylvia Banks (871195)
Janet Conradi (833402)
Jenny Wells (870981) and
John Wignall (827639)
Jenny Wells (870981)
Pat Hearne (871270)
Penny O'Neill (843422) and
Rebecca Judd (865691)
John Wignall (827639)
Chris Dipper (873006) and
Gill Lumb (863885)

Muriel Johnston (866447)
Jimmy Young (876736)
Carenza Wilton (875147)

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reviewcontacts

General

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

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month
(A vital word is deleted)

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



The amplifier and recording units for the St Peter's sound system. They are in the vestry.

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