

Berkhamsted *review*

August 2007

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for Town and Parish

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

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

People prefer to live where they feel a sense of community. What does this mean? Is there a sense of community in Berkhamsted? Geography plays a part. We have a well-defined physical focus in Berkhamsted - the High Street. The parish church is there, the market, most of the shops, the banks, the Town Hall, the Civic Centre and the pubs and places where we eat. We all go there. We see one another there. However, social anthropologists tell us that once there are more than about 150 individuals in a social group, the sense of belonging is harder to achieve. There are some 18,000 of us in Berkhamsted. Can there possibly be any sense of community? But we don't live in a social group of 18,000 people. We live in smaller social groups that overlap and support one another. Such groups are numerous in Berkhamsted. They focus on sport, music, church, chapel, business and the interests of countless clubs and societies. As individuals we form friendships in two or three such groups, but an awareness that the others are there and active is significant for a sense of community. Do you feel a sense of community in Berkhamsted? Write and tell the *review*.

Christopher Green

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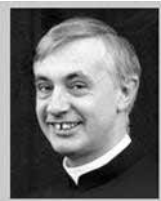
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Next copy dates (all Fridays) 4 August 31 August 5 October



Divine Judgement

**Father Michael
Bowie** takes issue
with the Bishop of
Carlisle

review leader

When I was six years old my father took a job in the far north of New South Wales, as Dean of the Cathedral in Grafton, a place which we were pleased to call a city, though its population would have been (and probably still is) rather smaller than that of Berkhamsted. It's a sprawling, flat and very hot town in the middle of cattle country, on the edge of the River Clarence, a really big river, probably twice as broad as the Thames at its widest point. Since we lived there, a wall has been built to keep the town dry, but in the 1960s it still flooded regularly and many of the newer houses were built on stilts to avoid flood damage (and to encourage the flow of cool air inside). In our second year there, 1967, the river broke its banks and almost the whole city was flooded, with the exception of the Cathedral, the Deanery and Bishops Court, which were all, nevertheless, very close to the riverbank.

I've been reading with horror and embarrassment the reported reaction of the Bishop of Carlisle to the recent terrible flooding in South Yorkshire and elsewhere. Bishop Graham Dow is reported to have linked these events with divine judgement on a raft of predictable so-called *moral* issues - for which read sex and anything to do with it. His reported comments would be equally bonkers but slightly less offensive if the issues were things like greed and exploitation, injustice and war-mongering - these would at least be things about which Jesus held strong views! In my opinion these issues also have more claim to moral urgency. But I would still wish to distinguish freak weather and flooding from God's relationship with the world.

Just last Sunday - 1st July, we heard about Jesus rebuking two of his friends for seeking to call down fire from heaven on a Samaritan town that didn't welcome him. We can safely conclude that reading the floods as divine judgement does not sit comfortably with thoughtful Christianity. As someone else pointed out, we would also have to conclude, in following the Bishop of

Carlisle, that the Almighty is more fed up with northern England than London and the South East, whereas those of us who have lived there ("*I were five years in Sheffield, me*") know that Yorkshire is actually God's own county and that most wickedness flourishes best in the metropolis!

I wondered whether this cheerful prelate would also logically have concluded that the little island of safety on which Grafton Cathedral and the houses of its clergy sat in those floods of 1967 was a sign of God's blessing. We knew why we were dry: the pioneering Bishop of Newcastle, **William Tyrrell**, now venerated as a local saint, who chose the sites of many of the country cathedrals in eastern Australia, was exceptionally gifted at surveying land and understanding how it interacted with the climate. The result is that all the sites he chose are free from flooding, though nearly all next to rivers.

Recent disasters in the UK have at least as much to do with building on floodplains and digging shallow drains as they have to do with the extreme weather conditions that have triggered them. They follow from human activity and choice, rather than so-called *acts of God*.

I wondered also whether the Bishop might reflect that it really isn't a long distance from this sort of flip manipulation of divine judgement to extreme Islamist justifications of terrorist activity against the *decadent* west - again, human activities, in response to human disagreements, dressed up and justified in pseudo-religious language.

As you can see this has made me cross, so I'll stop. I would like to apologise on behalf of the Church for this nonsense and record that most Christians don't believe or wish to propagate it. Good Christians, dare I say good Bishops! - like **William Tyrrell**, know that we have to learn, with a certain humility, about the world and other people, as well as scripture and God, and seek to understand who and where we are in the world and in our time so that we can give a credible account of the hope that is in us - the hope of a world transformed and renewed by perfect love, by God.

Oh and by the way, morality doesn't just mean sex! ❖

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Last year Dublin, this year Liverpool. The city of the Mersey, the Beatles and two great cathedrals was the venue for the MU General Meeting from 20-21st June. The meeting, as well as the service, took place in the massive, gothic-style Anglican cathedral, built in the last century, and looking out over the Mersey to Birkenhead and beyond. Over 2,000 people filled the cathedral on the Wednesday evening for the opening service. There were chairs in every available space and closed circuit television brought the action close to everyone. The Provincial banners were carried in procession to the altar and with the bishops and MU dignitaries was the Bishop of Bedford who is the MU Central Chaplain. The hymns, readings and prayers echoed round this great cathedral, but the high spot was the sermon by the Bishop of Liverpool, **James Jones**. He reminded us of the city's connection with the slave trade and its abolition 200 years ago. He spoke of two women of that time, both black and slaves themselves, who were among the campaigners. He said they were prophets of their time and urged The Mothers' Union to be prophets of our time, crying out for justice for all and stirring the conscience of the nation about family life and children. As the procession of banners left the cathedral, coming from the magnificent organ were the sounds of Widor's well-known Toccata. It was spine-tingling indeed! As we walked outside, the light of a midsummer evening heightened the Liverpool skyline and gave warmth to the surrounding buildings, beckoning us to return the next morning for the meeting.

Just over twelve hours later we were back in our seats, awaiting the start of proceedings and giving the Trustees, **Reg Bailey**, the MU Chief Executive and **Rosemary Kempself**, the new World Wide President, a warm welcome. The day was framed with worship - opening prayers, mid-day prayers and a short service to end the afternoon. In the

INSPIRED AND RENEWED

The MU gathers in Liverpool
Margaret Burbidge writes



morning the work of MU in this country and overseas was presented in a colourful and interesting way by the World Wide President and four Unit Co-ordinators. The theme for the meeting was *thinking outside the box* - something that is a good exercise for

all of us, but especially for an organisation like MU, looking to be effective and true to the Christian mission of justice and to its concerns for family life worldwide.

Lunch time brought the opportunity to explore more of the cathedral and as we wandered, met friends, visited the gift shop or just sat and ate our sandwiches, with Beatles songs in the background, the whole building buzzed and came to life. But we could not doze in the after lunch slot as the guest speaker was **Jonathan Aitken**. He spoke about his time in prison, in Belmarsh, a high security unit. His vivid and humorous account of this life-changing time included his reception and induction as a prisoner and his relationship with his fellow inmates. One was amazed when Jonathan wrote a letter for him - not about its contents but at the quality of his joined-up handwriting! He urged MU to continue all its work in prisons in this country. Currently there are over 70 where MU is active. This provides much-needed support for prisoners and their families in the darkest times of their lives.

After this were short interviews with MU members working with marginalised people in Bradford, Suffolk and Uganda. All are examples of grass-roots projects for families and young people regardless of race or religion. Then to the closing worship and with the hymn *Lord for the years your love has kept and guided* in our ears, we left the cathedral behind, inspired and renewed in our commitment to MU. That just left the walk to the station, an early supper and the 18:15 train from Liverpool Lime Street. ❖

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The restoration work to revive the Bulbourne in Berkhamsted is nearly complete. It was interrupted this Spring, however, by the high water levels. Part of the project has been the narrowing of the channel at St John's Well to speed up the flow

of water, but planting on the newly raised bank had to be delayed because the river level was so high that the bank was flooded. The other part of the scheme, which involved coppicing the willows near Waitrose, has already been successful. Although some people have regretted the loss of the willows, the purpose of this cutting back of the trees was to allow more light onto the river banks. This in turn would allow growth of vegetation along the river's edge, which would also have the effect of narrowing the stream and speeding up the flow. Higher speeds of water flow are essential in chalk streams such as the Bulbourne because fast flowing water washes away silt and cleans up the river bed, exposing the gravel. A gravelly river bed is one of the characteristics which make chalk streams distinctive and enables their characteristic fauna and flora to thrive - birds such as moorhens, reed buntings, kingfishers and grey wagtails, insects such as the mayfly and damselfly and fish such as the brown trout.

The silting up of gravel in chalk streams has become a very common problem. Fishermen in particular find it bad news and a fly-fishing club on the River Gade is seeking to clear hundreds of tonnes of silt from the Upper Gade so that the river is a better home for trout. Fish such as trout spawn in gravel and so the exposure of the gravel beds helps them breed in the rivers. Because chalk streams have deteriorated so much they now have to be stocked with trout for fishermen to catch.

Clearing the silt by dredging or the use of

Ian Reay's &news &views

Reshaping the Bulbourne

**Ian Reay explains the
problems**

high pressure hoses only provides a temporary solution though and the silt will normally return in due course unless a more fundamental cure is found. Silting is caused by more and more urbanisation along the river banks and more intensive farming. Low

flows also lead to slower currents, allowing sediment to build up. Because chalk streams get their water from aquifers (groundwater) they would normally have a comparatively steady flow and in normal years the regular winter rainfall provides enough recharge for the rivers to flow throughout the year. Because we have had such unusually variable rainfall in recent years these steady flows have not been maintained. As a result we have seen more rivers behaving like *winterbournes*, whose upper reaches only flow during the winter, as their name suggests. The Misbourne, for example, whose source is at Mobwell just north of Great Missenden, has always been a winterbourne for much of its length. One way of providing a more sustainable cure for low and slow flows and the consequent silting up is to narrow the channels - hence the project at Berkhamsted.

Few chalk streams have remained untouched by human intervention in the last two thousand years and between the 17th and the 19th centuries in particular, channels were modified to form water meadows for sheep and cattle grazing. At this time sedimentation was low and there were extensive gravel beds in the channels. The water meadows were largely abandoned at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries and since the Second World War, because of drainage for agriculture and flood defences, together with water abstraction and more urbanisation, the water tables have become lower. This has led to the silting problems that we now experience. ♦

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On the cover this month we have another building in Berkhamsted with a date visible on the outside. In fact we have a bonus this month - a building with two dates on it, 1883 and 1933. The cover photograph shows part of the substantial brick building put up in the High Street in 1933 by the Berkhamsted Cooperative Society. It

replaced a number of small shops and the premises formerly occupied by the coachbuilders Alfred Pocock & Co. Although the Co-op no longer has an outlet there, the monogram BCS on the façade of the building confirms its origins. The earlier date on the building - 1883 - records the establishment of the Berkhamsted Cooperative Society. Its first home, in the 1880s, was in one of the small shops on the site where the NatWest Bank now stands. However by the end of the nineteenth century, according to Kelly's 1899 Directory for Hertfordshire, the *Berkhamsted Cooperative Stores Lim.* (Albert Pearce, Manager) were in Cowper Road, at numbers 32 and 33. The building in Cowper Road was still there in the 1970s. It had long ceased to be a shop and was soon to be demolished to make way for Nightingale Lodge.

The Cooperative Movement has a long and distinguished history. It sprang out of harsh economic and social conditions in the early years of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th and early 19th century. The first recorded cooperative store was established in Scotland in 1769 by the Weavers' Society at Fenwick in Ayrshire. The underlying idea of 'co-operation' was that artisans and other workers would run shops that sold local produce and that each member of the co-operative would have a share in the shop and its profits. This retailing activity was soon linked to the co-operative production of goods, providing employment for co-operative members.

Although the formation of co-operative enterprises began in the 18th century, the prototype of the modern co-operative movement is generally taken to be the

THE CO-OP

On High Streets Everywhere Christopher Green writes



Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society


founded in 1844. The Rochdale Pioneers, many of them involved in the textile trade, are particularly remembered for

bringing together a set of principles to govern their society that subsequently came to be accepted by the co-operative movement

worldwide as the basis for co-operative activity. These principles dealt not only with the practicalities of running a co-operative business, but extended into the social sphere with such policies as: selling only pure, unadulterated goods; providing for the education of members in co-operative principles; and maintaining political and religious neutrality.

Throughout the rest of the nineteenth century many independent local co-operative societies were formed, including, in 1883, the Berkhamsted Co-operative Society. During the same period the common interests of these societies came to be served by bodies such as the Co-operative Union which governed co-operative practice; and the Co-operative Wholesale Society which co-ordinated the buying and manufacture of goods. By 1900 there were 439 registered co-operative societies and the co-operative movement was active in banking, insurance, publication and printing.

In the twentieth century a policy of amalgamation developed, so that by the year 2000 the number of separate co-operative societies had fallen to 45. Nevertheless, co-operative retailing continued to flourish, peaking with 13 million members in 1955 and 30,000 shops. During the same period, the local community-based origins of the co-operative movement became less significant and the management of assets and activities became increasingly centralised. What began as a single shop at 31 Toad Lane, Rochdale, selling basic foodstuffs, has grown into an international network of retailers, producers and service providers and become a fascinating chapter of social and economic history. ❖



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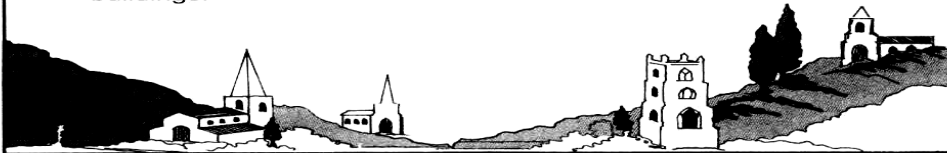
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As you read this, the writer and her fellow Fairtrade Town Steering Group members, Katy

Brookes-Duncan, Joan Hannan, Jane Hockings and Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby wait to hear if

their application to the Fairtrade Foundation for Fairtrade Town status for Berkhamsted has been successful. Keep your fingers crossed for us please!

Berkhamsted is already part of a Fairtrade Diocese. Bishop Christopher was presented with a certificate from the Fairtrade Foundation during Vision for Action at St Albans Abbey in February. At that time 235 Anglican parishes, (70% of the total), supported Fairtrade. That number continues to grow. Bishop Christopher wrote to all parishes thanking them for their support of the Diocesan campaign, which followed Synod's motion in 2005, and urged us all to look out for future action on international poverty.

International poverty - what can you and I do about that? Well here is a simple, positive step all can take, those of any religious persuasions or none. *Support the Fairtrade Berkhamsted campaign.* The purpose of the campaign is to raise the profile and sales of Fairtrade products so that more producers in developing countries can benefit from a fairer system of trade, enabling them to support their families and invest in a better future. The Fairtrade movement is growing rapidly, with customers increasingly demanding Fairtrade products in shops and employees expecting a greater degree of social and environmental responsibility.

How to support the campaign?

In local shops add an extra Fairtrade item to your shopping bag each week,

A FAIRTRADE TOWN

We can all help

Angela Morris explains



Waitrose have a good variety of excellent Fairtrade wines in their stores, but at present I do not believe one can buy Fairtrade clothing in Berkhamsted other than through Traidcraft volunteers at church stalls or the Community Market. Oxfam has a wide range of goods, and information on the Fairtrade

Town campaign is readily available, please call in.

In your office if Fairtrade tea and coffee is not used, take in a packet or jar, and why not treat your colleagues to a FT cookie or cake? Keen supporter Elizabeth Pope *baked* a Fairtrade cake to encourage her employer and colleagues. Girls, when offered a cup of coffee in your hairdressing salon, ask if it is Fairtrade. Many of our coffee shops and restaurants are supportive, and more will join if there is sufficient demand, so please ask.

Make sure your company is in the Fairtrade Directory that the Steering Group is presently compiling for Berkhamsted and Northchurch. I have delivered a short questionnaire to all retail and catering establishments and every office in the town, (at least all I could get into, Fort Knox could take lessons from some offices). When published the Fairtrade Directory will provide a useful guide for visitors and townsfolk alike. If you are reading this and have not returned your questionnaire to the Oxfam shop it *may not be too late*.

Offer help to Jane at the Oxfam shop or Angela on 01442 866992, either will be delighted to hear from you. ❖

and check out the increasing range of such goods, more than 2000 items at present.

Male readers should know that Waitrose sell lovely Fairtrade roses; personally recommended.

Threshers and

VICTORIA C OF E SCHOOL

Building for the Future

Cathy Salmon
reports on the work

Just over five months into the construction phase of Victoria School's £550,000 new building project, the work is progressing well and running to schedule. The foundations are laid, the timber frame is in position, the roof is on – all despite the wettest June on record. By mid-August, Victoria C of E First School and Nursery will have access to the new multi-purpose educational block to ensure its readiness for the start of the 2007/08 school year. An added bonus of the building work has been the discovery of fascinating clues to Berkhamsted's medieval past (see p19)

It's been very exciting watching it all take shape, said head teacher **Janet Robinson**. *After a long journey to get to this point, it's great to be so close to realizing what will be a huge asset for the whole school community.* Yet while the new building is nearing completion,

on current estimates and given some additional costs, £11,000 still has to be raised by December to pay for it. *Every donation, however large or small, will make a difference to the education the school provides,* said **Rowena Pike**, Chair of Governors.

The 220-pupil school has received significant Government funds to replace its outdated 1930s nursery hut. However, Victoria's voluntary-aided Church status means it has to find 10% of the project cost. So far, the school has raised £46,000 from the Diocese of St Albans, the Parochial Church Council, Governors' reserves, donations from parents and friends, fund-raising events and the pupils themselves. Once complete, the new building will face the main school and be directly linked to it by a distinctive pathway.

Work began on site in February of this year. The old nursery was demolished, trees cut back and the site cleared before work began on digging the foundations. -



nearly three times deeper than originally planned and filled with three times as much concrete - due to the soft nature of the flint and clay soil. By the end of March, around 220 tons of rubble in 22 lorry-loads had been carried from the site. Sun-drenched April saw the foundations completed and the retaining wall being reinforced. By mid-May the retaining wall was finished in time for the arrival of the timber frame at the beginning of June. Once the roof was on two weeks later, the new building suddenly took on an air of reality. *We all watched in amazement as the roof was lifted piece by piece into position*, recalls teacher **Norah Burgess**, who has kept a meticulous record in pictures and videos of the work in progress. *It was a real work of art.*

The extreme June rain slowed further progress to the roof, making it too slippery to work on, and also delayed work on the footings for the pathway, which kept filling up with water. As the *review* went to press, roof slates were being laid, brickies were working on the main building and the pathway, while plumbers, electricians and carpenters were busy with the interior fittings.

It's so exciting to think that in eight weeks time it'll be open for business, said **Janet Robinson**. *It's an expensive addition to the school which we must continue to find the funds to pay for but I know that it's going to be worth every penny.*

To make a donation to the New Building Fund, please send a cheque made payable to **Victoria School Governors** to Victoria School, Prince Edward St., Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3HA, or contact the school on 865781 for more information. Gift Aid forms are available from the school. ❖



Photos: Norah Burgess and Cathy Salmon

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Where a building development is taking place, the local authority can require the developer to arrange an archaeological investigation of the site. In the case of the new building at Victoria School, Dacorum

Borough Council didn't ask Hertfordshire County Council to take this step. Instead, at the end of February, local archaeologist **Alex Thompson**, formerly a pupil at Victoria School, knowing that some years ago 6th to 8th century Saxon pottery sherds had been unearthed next door in Chesham Road, asked contractors RPL for access on a voluntary basis. Luckily, RPL's owner **Robin Lilley** was more than happy to oblige. Over the following days and weeks, a wealth of archaeological material was recovered. *It came as a real surprise to find so much* said Alex. *It made it really worthwhile.*

The archaeological investigation revealed, beneath the Victoria School playground, the remains of a long-established path, probably linking the High Street to Butts Meadow and ancestral to the path that still runs from Prince Edward Street around the side of Victoria School. Until Victoria School was built, Prince Edward Street itself (formerly Snobs Alley) continued directly to Butts Meadow.

The make-up of the path appeared to overlie medieval occupation surfaces, in other words the ground surface of medieval times on which objects of medieval age were preserved. Most of the objects recovered can perhaps be best described as domestic rubbish. There were quantities of broken, glazed and unglazed pottery - some of it recognisable as typical of the 13th century and large numbers of animal bones. These included the skull of a dog, but were mainly cow bones, some of them bearing the marks of butchery. Such finds are not in themselves particularly important, but they help to confirm the extent of the town in the Middle Ages. They probably represent

BEREKHAMSTEDE 1300

New clues uncovered
at Victoria School
Christopher Green writes

rubbish dumped on the outskirts of the built-up area, at the back of properties that fronted onto the High Street. We know that in the 13th century the town already extended along the High Street towards Northchurch

beyond the site of Victoria School and Prince Edward Street. In 2003, building work at 173 High Street, formerly Figgs, now Claire Lloyd, uncovered part of the timber framing of a medieval shop. The timber was dated using dendrochronology - the analysis of tree-rings - to between 1277 and 1297, during the reign of Edward I (1280-1307). At the time of the discovery *The Times* reported that **Adrian Gibson**, lecturer on historic buildings at Cambridge University had suggested that the shop *was likely to have been occupied by a craftsman, such as a jeweller.*

As well as broken pots and animal bones, the excavation at Victoria School recovered a few rather more precious objects. These included a silver *long-cross* penny of the reign of Edward I and a gilt ring-brooch probably of 13th or 14th century date and a type that would have been used by a lady to hold a cloak or hood in place. We can imagine that these objects might have been accidentally included in rubbish discarded on the site or perhaps accidentally dropped by people walking up the lane from the High Street. The continuing use of the lane is indicated by other objects that were probably dropped by people making their way along it - a bronze token of the 14th or 15th century, a cartwheel penny of the reign of George III, a halfpenny of 1927 and other coins from the 1940s.

The medieval finds at Victoria School add another chapter to the story of Berkhamsted and give us a glimpse of life here in about 1300 when St Peter's Church was still quite new, the Castle was a royal residence, and local craftsmen were probably seizing the opportunity to serve the affluent royal household. ❖

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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Following Jesus

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon**
examines the
challenge

When we look for the words to describe the worship we share in church, certain terms seem important: accessible, inclusive, something for everyone. We recognise that everyone has preferences - Book of Common Prayer or

Common Worship, Ancient and Modern or Mission Praise. We seek a pattern of services that offers something to which everyone can relate.

However, there is a danger in getting focused on consumer-orientated church planning and mission strategy. Jesus said *If you want to be a follower of mine, take up your cross and follow me.* This suggests that being a follower of Jesus is not easy. Inconvenience and hardship might come before comfort and needs.

In the lectionary recently we have been exploring passages from St Luke's Gospel which describe how Jesus *set his face towards Jerusalem*. He shows a resolute determination to head towards the place where he will be betrayed, arrested and put to death. He sends out his followers ahead of him to tell people about the kingdom of God. Some will make them welcome, but they are warned that other places will not be interested or be potentially hostile.

They do not water down the message: Jesus tells them to shake the dust off their shoes and warns that on that day it will be *more tolerable for Sodom than that town*.

What is striking about this passage is that Jesus was aware that he and his followers would experience rejection, was quite

content to be misunderstood and recognised that there was something about him that turned away more people than he won. He was willing to be rejected, because the point that he wanted to make was not dependent on other people agreeing with it.

It is no wonder that some of the towns that the disciples were sent to did not want to hear the message of the kingdom. It was concerned with justice and the needs of the poor; it was telling people to reorder their priorities and focus on the needs of others rather than themselves. It was telling people that they might have to change. The fundamental question we should always ask is not what I want out of this worship, but what does God require of me and the community of which I am a part.

St Luke does not depict being a follower of Jesus in a way that is unreal or sentimental. Following Jesus is not easy and we may have to make tough choices. The spiritual journey of Jesus in St Luke is one of tears and struggle. The tears in Gethsemane are real. The emphasis is on *bearing the cross*. Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem: he did not want to go, but he went.

He knew that the cross would come before any crown or glory. He had to take the cross with all its agonising pain, which was both physical and mental.

To walk with Jesus also requires a spiritual ruggedness. It is easy to make promises: *I will follow you wherever you go*, but it is even easier to make excuses- *let me bury one of my family or finish ploughing my field*. Jesus is walking the narrow way, but as soon becomes clear in the Gospel he walks this way on our behalf. ❖

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FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE EVENTS

Sunday 19th August 2:30pm

Brian and Siân Barton will lead an informal walk observing the wildlife of the Ashridge Estate: Meet by the Visitor Centre on Monument Green Map ref. SP 971 131 Stout waterproof footwear recommended. All welcome, no booking required, £1.50 per person on the day. More information: 01442 823 727

Friday 24th August 7:30 pm

An open-air theatre production by

Chapterhouse Theatre Company at Ashridge Monument (near the visitor centre). This year, Chapterhouse are performing Shakespeare's light-hearted comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Bring a picnic (from 6pm) and chairs – plus appropriate weather protection! Tickets are £12 per adult, £8 students and children, £35 for a family of four. There is a 10% discount for groups of 10 or more.

Get more information and book via See Tickets (<http://www.seetickets.com> or 0871 2200 260)

OXFAM's 25th CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

The 25th Children's Wear Event will take place on **Friday 7th September** at the Civic Centre between 9:00am and 11:30 am. How quickly the Event and the change of seasons come round!

Encouraged by the near record takings of the 24th Event, the Oxfam volunteers are already enthusiastically preparing the stock for the next one. Such is the generosity of the donors of children's clothes, toys, and equipment that it can be confidently predicted that the autumn and winter stock will be unequalled in quality and in abundant quantities.

The scope of what is available in the shop, and hence at the Event, continues to widen. Just call in and ask for what you are looking for, whether mundane or unusual. It's surprising how often something that is requested can be supplied.

Do come to the Event to take advantage of the bargains. Shopping for your needs locally saves you time, money AND the planet! Clothes for all eventualities will be available; sports wear, school uniform, social and party dress, period costume for plays and dressing up, and Christmas sparkle. The clothes will, as usual, be in pristine condition. As always, the Event will also be selling nursery equipment, children's books and irresistible toys. The target is to raise £5,000. Please come to the Event, and help us achieve it.

You may come to the Event just to buy items, outgrown or unwanted, generously donated by other families. As you donate or buy you are helping Oxfam to help those so much less fortunate than ourselves. It is, after all, what it's all about!! The Event contributes to the funds that Oxfam needs for water supply and sanitation projects in drought stricken and war-torn areas, and in refugee camps. Please help to improve the lives of the innocent victims of situations that are not of their making.

Voluntary help during the build-up to the Event, on the day, and in the shop at all times, is always welcome. If you would like to be part of a successful team, 'phone manager Jane in the shop on 864225 or *children's wear Nicky* on 872502. If you can't make the day of the Event the shop is always well stocked, or leave a message with your request. As a volunteer, donor, or purchaser, you are changing lives and sharing in Oxfam's seemingly never ending but vital work. ❖

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BERKHAMSTED TEAM MINISTRY

Sunday 12th August 4:00 pm

Following the successful Team event at Berkhamsted in June, we are planning a similar event in Little Gaddesden with Church Tour, Tea Party and Evensong at St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden.

TUESDAY CLUB

Tuesday 3rd July We had a welcome return visit from **Hugh Granger**, who spoke about how our language has evolved from ancient times to the present, when it continues to expand. New words are coming into English at a rate of one every two hours.

It was interesting to learn that 5,000 years ago everyone in Europe spoke the same language and at the time of the Norman conquest English nouns had genders, for example - *man* was masculine, *woman* was feminine and *wife* was neuter! Today English has the easiest grammar but the most difficult spelling because it has borrowed from 300 other languages and also because lexicographers' mistakes have not been helpful. As ever Hugh gave us a wealth of information and his talk was a treat for history lovers and an entertaining introduction to philology.

1066 CLUB

First Monday - every month 2:30-4:30

At the Court House - If you know anyone who is visually impaired, why not tell them about our club? Tea, coffee, speakers, entertainment, outings and a friendly welcome. For details call Doris on 01442 863793

BOOK FAIR

Saturday 4th August - At the Court House. For details contact **Richard Frost** on 01442 862 011

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our July meeting we were welcomed by Joint President **Joy Lovell** who handed out a birthday card for a July birthday. She read us two poems and afterwards with **Janet Mitchell**,

Secretary, they took us through the business matters of the Institute. We were pleased to have with us **Gill Blumson** who reported on the AGM which this year was held at the Royal Albert Hall. It proved to be a delightful day and not to be missed another year if one has the chance to attend.

Our speaker this month was **Gill Cordingley** who gave us an illustrated talk on **Lady Gertrude Denman** who at an early age became involved with the votes for women movement which followed on the commencement of the WI which she supported all her life. Denman College is a wonderful memorial to her and is there for all WI members to partake in the many available courses throughout the year. A vote of thanks was given by **Judith Lowther**.

Friday 3rd August, weather permitting, we will attend a garden party at our Secretary's home. We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Court House at 2:00 pm. New members and visitors are most welcome.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED?

Thursday 6th September 6:30 pm
Talk by writer and former publisher **Alison Baverstock** who grew up in Berkhamsted. Find out whether you have the talent, time and tenacity to make it into print. At Waterstones Bookshop in the High Street. Tickets are essential - from Waterstones. £3.00 including a free glass of wine.

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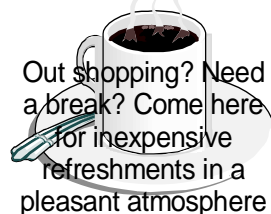
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ASHLYNS LANGUAGE COURSES

Ashlyns Language College is now heading into its fourth year of delivering adult day and evening classes. These are growing in the diversity of languages offered and the number of people attending. Last year there were over 200 people attending the evening language classes from total beginners to proficient conversation classes. Languages on offer starting in September are French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, English as a Foreign Language and British Sign Language. All classes are subject to a minimum of ten people per class and cost £75 per 10-week session during term time only. The classes continue throughout the school year. Enrolment evening is **Thursday September 13th 2007** at Ashlyns School from 7-8:00pm. For more details please phone 01442 863605 or e-mail sjenkins@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

UPHOLSTERY CLASSES

Need to give your dining room chairs a face lift, or revive that old chair in the loft past it's sit by date? Look no further, and come and join an upholstery group to be run in The Court House in **September**, dates to be arranged.

This group is led by **Chris Chambers** and I have been going to his evening classes for two years, in Beaconsfield, and he would like to try for some classes here in Berkhamsted. He did run a class earlier this year, but there was little support.

The classes are fun and we laugh a lot, and, we are all beginners. The best object to start on is a drop-in seat chair or a stool. Chris has tools which may be borrowed on the evening and all materials, such as tacks, webbing etc would be supplied.

To make a group, six persons an ideal number, please ring **Chris Chambers** on 01442 872302 or 0788 4437347.

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS EVENTS

Sunday 19 August **Jan Davies**, a volunteer at the Hospice is organising a bike ride-out - Berkhamsted to Brighton in memory of Toby Russell Winter. There may be some bikers out there who might be interested in a day out and raising some money for the Hospice in memory of **Toby Russell-Winter**.

Interested riders please contact **Jan and Paul Davies** (01442-842172). See <http://www.stfrancis.org.uk> for information on last year's ride that Toby took part in.

The last Friday of every month

10:30am -12:00 noon.

A coffee morning for the community. If you would like to find out more about us and the services we provide, or want to find out how to become involved, or just fancy a chat, then come for coffee at the Hospice on the last Friday of the month

TOYS AT OXFAM

The long summer holidays are with us and Granny's toybox is popular. But it needs refurbishment as the grandchildren grow. What to do?

Oxfam always has a good selection of toys, games and books at bargain prices.

But they do not appear on the shelves by magic. Every item needs careful checking and pricing and help is needed to prepare the generous donations received for sale.

Why not join a small friendly team and help children here and desperately needy children overseas who benefit from Oxfam's work? Training will be given as safety is paramount.

Give Berkhamsted Oxfam Shop manager **Jane Hockings** a ring on 01442 864225 or call at the shop. You will be very welcome.

August

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 5th</i>	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist Led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led
	<i>12th</i>	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	<i>19th</i>	10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led
	<i>26th</i>	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer		
MON	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 6:00pm
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> 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 (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)	
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker Court House</i> Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)	
3 rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)	
4 rd Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm <i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i> Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)	
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Rd</i> <i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i> or at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Rd</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929) <i>All Saints' Hall</i>	
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)	
Alt. 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 (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)	
3 rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. <i>Various local churches</i>	

review diary

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

August/September

AUGUST

- Sun 12 4:00pm Team Event: Meet for Church Tour followed by tea;
end with
6:30pm Sung Evensong *St Peter & St Paul, Little Gaddesden*
Sat 18 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
Prayer Breakfast *Sunnyside Church*
Sun 26 6:30pm Annual Choral Evensong *Ashridge College Chapel*

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 1 7:30pm The Cowper Society presents
– The Bridgewater Band (Sinfonia) *St Peter's*
Mon 3 8:15pm Eucharist with Prayers for Healing *St Peter's*
Fri 7 10:00am Little Fishes Service *St Peter's*
Sat 8 10:00am Start of Beds & Herts Historic Churches
Sponsored Bike Ride (ends 6pm) *most churches*
Sun 9 6:00pm Choral Evensong *St Peter's*
Tue 11 10:15am Chuckles Toddlers' service *Noah & his Ark* *All Saints'*
Sat 15 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
Prayer Breakfast *Northchurch Baptist Church*
7:30pm The Cowper Society presents
– Berkhamsted Choral Society *St Peter's*
Sat 22 8:00pm The Cowper Society presents
– Berkhamsted Music Society *St Peter's*
Sun 23 10:00am Harvest Festival service *All Saints'*

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

- 24 June Aaron James Samuel Clarke, Charles Louisa Rawles, Madeline Lucy
Woollett & Joseph Theo Woollett

Weddings (St Peter's)

- 30 June Seamus Pdraig Cummins & Katherine Jane Freestone
1 July Christopher John Charles Wade & Elizabeth Charland

Funerals

- 15 June Victor Till Chilterns Crematorium
27 June Robina (known as Ruby) Woodstock St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

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 Tue/Wed, 9:30-12noon Thu/Fri (answering machine other times)

St Peter's

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

Epistle Readers
Electoral Roll
Pathfinders

Sidesmen
Catering

Hospice contact
Christian Aid
Youth worker
Sunday School/Explorers

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)

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

Chris Hunt (822607)
Val Atkinson (866792)

Rachael Anderson (871997)
Angela Morris (866992)
Jimmy Young (876736)
Sally Emery (870656) (Aug)
Carolina Bowie (864194) (from Sep)

All Saints'

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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Post Office?

Next stop
the Bookshop
then coffee
to recover



WAY INN

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review contacts

General

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie, Team Rector, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)
(day off Thursday)
The Revd John Pritchard (Curate), 6 Severns Close (870016) (day off Tuesday)
The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)
The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
Canon Anthony Lathe (Hon Asst Priest), 15a Kingsdale Road (863115)
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)
Philippa Seldon, 1 Fieldway (871534)
 Deputy Churchwardens: **Peter Bryant**, 36 North Road (871680)
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** (875674) <http://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) <http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local
 Ecumenical Partnership.
 Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis** (866324)

What & Where in Berkhamsted?



Answer next month

July's What & Where



173 High Street - sometime Figg's the Chemist, and now occupied by Claire Lloyd Properties, a sponsor of the Petertide Fair. It is reputed to be the oldest urban timber framed shop in the country dating back to the 13th century.

Published by Great Berkhamsted Parochial Church Council.
 Layout and printing by TF Services, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, Herts, HP23 4DG (828254)

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