

Berkhamsted *review*

January 2008

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

**Welcome to the January 2008 issue of
the Berkhamsted review**

What is the fascination of anniversaries? At the beginning of the year, newspapers and magazines often draw our attention to those that will fall in the coming year. The births and deaths of famous and infamous figures from the past, the inauguration and demise of influential institutions, great disasters, momentous events, turning points in history and the bizarre trivia of past centuries. We can't remember them all every year, so we select the intervals we regard as particularly significant - fifty years, one hundred years, two hundred years and so on. Anniversaries provide an excuse for celebration or an opportunity for solemn reflection. They give us a sense of history, of achievement and of continuity. So what can we look for in 2008? We have the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, but will probably ignore the loss of Calais to the French in the same year. The death of Cromwell in 1658. The first emergency parachute jump in 1808! The first Girl Guides in 1908. The establishment of the European Economic Community, forerunner of the EU, in 1958. Not a vintage year for anniversaries, but several of events which, if we care to reflect, have shaped our history and our lives today.

Christopher Green

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Cover photograph: Wall in Mill Street (p11)

Photo: Tony Firshman

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4 January 1 February 29 February



Pilgrimage

**Father Basil
Jones**

recommends the
challenge

review leader

How many of you plan to go on a Pilgrimage this year? Perhaps Jerusalem, Compostella or Assisi or for some, Walsingham. If you are a Muslim, of course Mecca. Or maybe nothing quite so adventurous but simply enjoying re-reading Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* or just reflecting that throughout our lives we are on a pilgrimage enriched by the lives of those around us who are also travelling along the road. Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* shows us clearly the same thing. Christian discovers that pilgrims like him are actually able to help one another, indeed (though never taking their eyes off their own personal salvation) they absolutely need one another. Christ uses our friends and partners to help to show us our real identity. That is why it is so important to choose them with care. The short procession on a Sunday morning led by the Cross and Choir symbolises our individual pilgrimages when we rest awhile and are restored and recreated by His Body and Blood for our onward journey.

Christ's life on Earth, like our own, was also a pilgrimage and we are given tantalising glimpses of it at different stages. His behaviour when he went with his parents to Jerusalem for the census underlines the way he was seen by later writers of the Gospels but it also

shows us something about the movement throughout our lives. His final journey to Jerusalem was to outface the cruel powers of the age not by military might nor by mob rule but by revealing the truth in apparent weakness. We remember His pilgrimage throughout the Church's year starting with His Nativity that we have just celebrated with our fellow pilgrims.

In this Diocese we make much of our youth pilgrimage on Easter Monday to the shrine of St Alban at the Abbey and Cathedral Church. To catch the real flavour of these events you need to exhaust yourself physically as much as is sensible for you. For the young teenager it could mean walking from Berkhamsted and even back again. I have done it but I now beg to be excused! However, we must expect our pilgrimage at times to be demanding in unexpected ways and not all physical. Often that is the easy part.

I hope that every child - and adult - still has the opportunity of reading *Pilgrim's Progress*. It may seem quaint at times but it contains much common sense that we will need on our journey. The characters of Pliable, Obstinate and Worldly Wise and many others still have much to teach us. It ends of course in the Celestial City with Mr Standfast. The Easter Monday Pilgrimage is just a taster.

A very old nun I know, looking forward to her death said to me recently "*Isn't it exciting.*" Pilgrimage is.

A Happy New Year



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MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY

In January with Christmas and New Year celebrations fresh in our minds, it is not easy to turn our thoughts to Lent and Easter. This year we must, for Easter Sunday falls on 23rd March, almost its earliest possible date. This means that Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent, is on 2nd March.

Last year The Mothers' Union launched its *Make a Mother's Day* campaign. Almost 5,000 people bought gifts for their mother, or in memory of her, and grandmothers and godmothers were included too. These were gifts with a difference; not the usual flowers and chocolates, but emergency aid kits sent to families made homeless by a cyclone in Mozambique, tools and seeds and training to help families grow crops to support themselves and generate income, and gifts that helped the parenting programme in this country. £120,000 was raised for MU work with mothers all around the world. Another mum, living in tough circumstances, was helped by each gift. Those who bought gifts received an attractive card of appreciation, telling how the gift will help to make a mother's day. The card can be sent on to the recipient of the gift or kept as a reminder of the mother, grandmother or godmother in whose memory the gift had been bought and who had given us much. Among the words of appreciation received at Mary Sumner House, The Mothers' Union headquarters, were these: *"I lost my mother many years ago, but thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this day with her still."* Many who supported the campaign were not MU members and this was so in this parish. The Mothers' Union thanks everyone for

Margaret Burbidge explains how



their support of a project that really is life-changing for those in need.

Such was the unexpected response to the campaign that it will be repeated this

year. A brand new gift catalogue is available with eight items ranging from £6 – £150. £6 will buy an orange or a mango tree to help a mother in the developing world improve the diet of her family, and £10 will buy toys and equipment for family visiting centres in prisons or child contact centres. At the other end of the scale, £150 gives a mother *Entrepreneur Training*. This is a new collaboration between MU and UNESCO and provides skills to run an effective business and so help a mother feed her family and educate her children, and well as meeting the needs of the local, community. The catalogue will be distributed in St Peter's and All Saints' later this month. All you have to do is choose a gift, fill in the form in the catalogue and send it, with your cheque to the Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House, and it can be Gift-Aided. Alternatively you can order by phone, 020 7222 5533 or via the Mothers' Union web-site. Details are on the form and orders should be received by 18th February for cards to be with you in time for Mothering Sunday.

What an easy way to mark Mothering Sunday and show how much we value the mothering we have received, albeit perhaps many years ago, and also to know that by doing so we will be helping to make another mother's day.



<http://themothersunion.org>

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Visitors to Berkhamsted often say to me how struck they are by the attractiveness of the High Street, particularly during the Winter months when the dusky afternoons and gloomy evenings are

brightened up by the Christmas lights. The town has a Conservation Area which contains the central High Street and many of the roads in the immediate surroundings. Any application to change any buildings here, whatever their current quality, has to be assessed against its conservation status, and any alterations should actually improve the area where possible. Given its local importance then it was not surprising that the recent attempt to qualify the way in which any future development of the town centre should take place was controversial.

The Borough published a set of proposals for the area lying between Tesco and WH Smith along the High Street and the public car park to the rear. A lot of comment was made and there was clearly nervousness about any changes to this area. Despite this site being at the heart of the Conservation Area these buildings are not in themselves attractive and little or no comment was made about the buildings themselves, as might have been guessed. A lot of objection was made to the very idea of having a supermarket on this site that was bigger than the existing Tesco - but this was a principle that had been established through the planning process several years ago. It was not the purpose of the recent consultation to reopen this debate but to see how, within this principle, the area could best be maintained and improved.

The scheme suggests preventing traffic from entering the Water Lane car park from the High Street - in effect pedestrianising Water Lane. This lane could then be opened up for the use of small shops. To enable this to happen Greene Field Road would then have to

Ian Reay's & news & views

Reshaping the High Street

Ian Reay sums up

become the main entry and exit point to the car park. The consequence of which would be that this road would have to be widened to make it two-way. Also, since it would have to accommodate very large

goods delivery lorries going to and from the supermarket, the junction with Lower Kings Road would not be able to cope and would have to be significantly widened. This could mean needing to use land currently owned by the shop on the corner.

The scheme would slightly increase the number of parking spaces available (from 162 to 173) but because it also suggests putting some flats above the shops in the High Street many felt that car parking would be a major problem. Unfortunately central government guidelines on car parking make it very difficult to require developers to be generous on the provision of car parking spaces for homes in town centre sites and increasingly living in the centre of a town is becoming incompatible with owning a car. A second underground car park is envisioned in this scheme and this would need to be managed to allow the best uses for all: people who work here, people who shop here and people who live here. A multi-storey car park, as several have suggested, would be too small to pay for itself unless the operators charged very high prices which many would not wish to pay.

If any group wished to develop this site they will have very significant difficulties - not least the fact that the land is split between a number of different landowners, and tenants with leases over a variable number of years. The borough is not proposing to lead on this and will not use compulsory purchase powers and it could be several years before any changes are visible. ❖

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Saying Goodbye by **Ruth Bourne**


In November we published an appeal on behalf of charities that support service personnel and their families. Alongside the appeal we recorded the death of **Major Alexis Roberts** in action against the Taleban in Afghanistan and mentioned his commanding officer **Lt Col Jonny Bourne** whose father-in-law **Alex Evans** is an active member of the St Peter's congregation. Lt Col Bourne, was posted to Afghanistan in September. The poem we publish here was written, unprompted, by his eleven year old daughter, Ruth. It is a powerful insight into a young person's feelings. We can only pray that her confidence in holding her father's hand again is realised. He is now in the front-line of missions against the Taleban.

Standing, Looking down on the valley,
Searching for what could be my home,
The rain drizzling and pattering my face,
I huddle to my father,
And he wraps his arm around
me,
We stand in silence,
Watching smoke drifting from
cottage chimneys,
I feel my father's arm tighten,
And his kiss on my hair,
A tear brims in my eye
And then falls onto the muddy
ground
Where my welly boots are
planted,
I look up at my father's
understanding eyes,

And see that he is close to crying,
He hugs me, we become closer than ever,
He tells me to be brave but it is hard
As my tears cascade freely down my
cheeks,
He shall be gone in the morning,
And I shall be wishing that I had gone
with him,
I hug him, breathing in his familiar smell,
burying my nose in his coat,
Sniffing, then wiping my nose,
embarrassed,
He takes my chin and I stare into his eyes
looking at my reflection,
And then I hug him once more
And I know that this is goodbye,
But he shall come home again.
As we trudge home, I grip his hand,
Never wanting to let go, but I have to,
But I know that I shall hold it again,
someday. ❖



Lt Col Jonny Bourne in Afghanistan



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We have another date on our cover this month - ANNO DOMINI MCMXXVII - or, transcribed from this Roman form, 1927. Carved in stone and set in brickwork this is the date of the wall on which it appears, but it commemorate another building -

MILL STREET

Christopher Green writes

IN HAC RIPAE MOLAE STET ERUNT
MILLE PER ANNOS ALIMENTUMQUE
PRAEBERUNT DONEC UTILITATIBUS
SCHOLAE AEQUE ALTERICIS CESSERUNT
ANNO DOMINI MCMXXVII

the years immediately after the First World War (see December's *review*). Very loosely translated the Latin inscription tells us

*On this riverbank
for a thousand
years mills
furnished bread.
Now a school
feeds minds
instead.*

The Upper Mill that gave its name to Mill Street. This was a corn mill, still in use in the 1920s but pulled down in 1926. The music department, of what is now the Collegiate School, was built in 1926 where the mill stood. The Latin inscription is set in a semi-circular wall on the opposite side of Mill Street. The wall seems to be a very faint nod towards the ambitious plans for Mill Street and the Moor being promoted in

The waters of the Bulbourne drove the mill and as the inscription claims had done so for a thousand years - In the Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, two mills are recorded in Berkhamsted, valued at twenty shillings, and these were probably mills on the sites eventually occupied by the Upper Mill in Mill Street and the Lower Mill in Bank Mill Lane near where the Old Mill restaurant now stands.



review letters

Wilfrid Langdon writes from Canada

As a former Berkhamsted area resident and long time overseas subscriber to the **Berkhamsted review**, now living in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, **John McCrae's** poem, *In Flanders Fields* in the November edition needs a little more background, which I hope will be of interest to your readers.

McCrae, a Colonel in the Canadian army, was born in Guelph in 1872, he died in January 1918 and is buried in Wimereux France a short distance from Flanders fields. His home a Stone Cottage still stands in Guelph and it has now been converted into a Museum with other McCrae memorabilia and it is open to visitors. There are many UK addresses in the guest book. *In Flanders Fields* was inspired by the death of his friend **Alexis**

Helmer during a battle in the Spring of 1915 and lines were also used to advertise Victory Bonds.

The poem has a major link to the UK, it was first published in the now defunct *Punch* magazine.

Guelph is about an hour's drive west of Toronto, it is also home to a famous University and can easily be combined with a visit to Niagara Falls. Our family home can be found at 192 Farley Drive, Guelph, N1L 1L6 Canada Tel from UK 001 519 823 7825 email wj.langdon@gmail.com and big pots of Marmite are welcome! The stores only sell mini pots. Finally on a November 11th note, Canadian TV gave extensive coverage to the major remembrance service in Ottawa and all over Canada the day is also marked at 11am local time. ❖

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I was chatting to a new resident the other day and wondered what had brought him to the area as a Canadian. He told me that his

property was built in the year dot, destroyed a few hundred years later during our religious problems, rebuilt and now refurbished and that he loved the area and our quaint little town and quirks.

He cannot understand how part of his house is in Dacorum and the other side of the room in Aylesbury Vale who collect his rubbish, but he remains in Hertfordshire. Anyway, we moved on to the lovely shops, canalside and restaurants and then the questions started. Why doesn't the by-pass have Berkhamsted signed? Why isn't there an underpass in the centre of town either for traffic or pedestrians or perhaps a bridge? Why does the footpath slope, making it difficult to walk along? Why don't they have *proper crossings* for pedestrians as no one knows whether to mow walkers down as they wander aimlessly across the road into traffic stopped by those *crazy traffic lights* in the centre of town. Apparently, our traffic lights are well known by all his friends as the slowest in the county. Oh, and why aren't the roundabouts painted white so you can see them?

I had to explain that Berkhamsted is the town they experiment with, as we seem to accept anything without a murmur. The town isn't signed from the bypass as they wanted traffic to come in from either end rather than down directly to the centre. The traffic lights have been adjusted (wonderment on face!) as they were even worse. I did mention that when I was a kid, I used to enjoy jumping on the air tubes that altered the lights, and before the *improvements* they had just two phases - up/down and left/right.

Pedestrians had to have a *time slot* to

How OTHERS SEE US

Norman Cutting finds out

cross the road as after the bypass was built, all the traffic would disappear, so the road was narrowed and *traffic calming* measures were introduced, such as the wide humps,

dot humps (aka mini roundabouts) and the speed limit of 20 mph. Those vehicles that managed to get into town would be charged in 12 minute pieces to *rest* in marked spaces not actually large enough for most vehicles, as the road had been narrowed. I explained that because the town had a sewage and water system that was installed about 100 years ago, the main junction had vehicles and pedestrians on top with pipes and cables underneath so an underpass wasn't really an option. I mentioned that overhead bridges don't really go with a Conservation Area which prompted yet another question - *Is the whole town a Conservation Area and can't be changed?* (I wish, I muttered under my breath!) and replied that it wasn't.

After filling him in on the Borough Council's plans to build a nice large supermarket by Water Lane, I outlined the town square ideas of the 1920s (pointing him the direction of the December *review*) and the more recent Town Council ideas.

At this point, he was still trying to get his head round how the Government can be responsible for the highway improvements connected with the building of the bypass, the County Council responsible for roads, the Borough Council able to rip the town apart under the guise of improvements and the Town Council able to make a noise, but not actually able to stop anything. He felt that it would be a great idea to develop the area primarily for leisure rather than more bricks, mortar and tarmac. I wonder if he has any money? ❖

This winter walk is an opportunity to create an appetite, or to relieve the torpor of the excesses of the festive season. The walk is a modest

four miles and can be readily completed in two hours or less. Wear warm clothing and walking boots for your comfort and safety. Walking in winter can be muddy, and chilly! Compensations are new vistas through leafless trees, and the miracle of glittering hoar frost. The golden orb of a winter sun setting in the evening mist is a sight not to be missed.

The walk starts at Grid reference SP 995 083, the bottom of Castle Hill, HP4 1HE. To get there from Berkhamsted station, go under the railway bridge into Brownlow Road and walk straight ahead with the Castle on the right. At the bend in the road, continue ahead into Castle Hill with two driveways into the sports grounds ahead, the start of the walk.

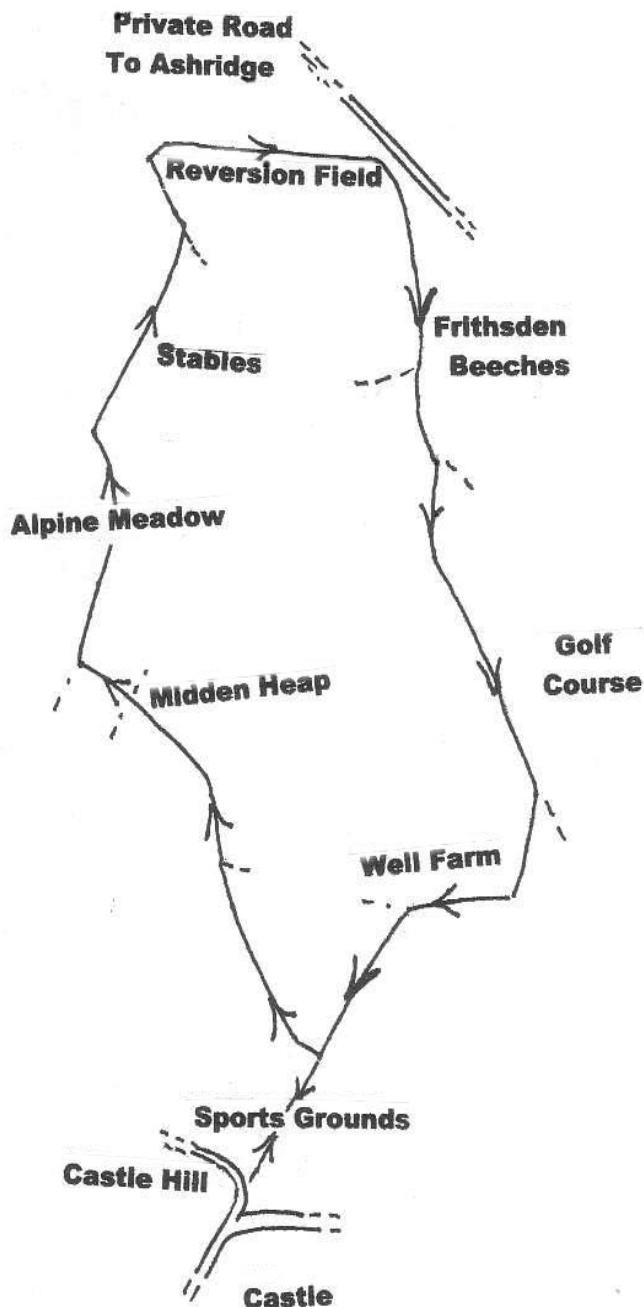
Cross the stile onto the right hand driveway, signposted Berkhamsted Common, through the car park and continue ahead to reach a grassy track. The track reaches a galvanised swing-gate and then another at the far corner of the sports ground. Turn left through the gate to follow the direction of a way-mark post with a yellow footpath waymark disc on it. Walk uphill with trees alongside on the left. The path levels out to join a farm track. Continue ahead to pass a heap of stable manure on the right. Continue in the same direction with a hedge still on the left to reach a line of trees and a wire fence at the far side of the field. Turn right to walk gently down hill to a swing-gate, then steeply downhill. Look out for a way-mark post on the

BERKHAMSTED'S BEST WALKS

2. Winter Wonderland

Townsmen writes

left in the trees well down the slope pointing to a swing-gate leading into an alpine meadow. Through the gate, the path goes downhill to reach a wooden swing-gate, then uphill through another galvanised gate, with an information board about the Alpine Meadow alongside, and into a horses' field. Keeping the field hedge on the left, cross over a stile, through a wooden barrier and across a third field to reach a stile with the imposing skeleton of a dead tree and stables to the right. Cross the stile and follow the direction of the way-mark post with a blue bridleway sign, half left. The bridleway widens to reach another at a way-mark post. Turn left to follow the bridleway through the trees with the field boundary on the right. At the corner of the field, by a clump of oak trees, bear right towards silver birch trees ahead then follow the path to the right along the bottom of the field with silver birch and oak trees on the left. The path reaches a metal signpost pointing into the woods and a roadside car park. Ignore this and bear right uphill with a hedge on the left, to reach a bridleway way-mark post at an access road with a brown notice board on the left warning of the danger of branches falling from the old beeches of Frithsden Copse. Follow the bridleway as it wends its way through the beeches on a stony track with the access road running parallel on the right. When the bridleway reaches another brown warning notice board bear left onto the bridleway which soon goes steeply downhill to the bottom of a shallow valley and continues up the opposite slope. The bridleway emerges from the trees by gorse bushes to reach cross tracks.



Continue in the same direction passing a wooden four-fingered signpost. In less than 100 yards from the post, bear left onto a track, now a footpath, between gorse bushes. The path follows the side of a slope with an open field, the Broadwalk, on the right. Beyond where the field ends, after crossing a narrow path, a fork is reached with a golfing green visible on the left. Take the right fork downhill to the bottom of a steep slope at a way-mark post. Turn right to reach a tarmac access road, turn right to follow this road downhill passing Well Farm, barns and silos to a wooden signpost on the left. At the signpost, walk on the permissive path on the opposite side of the hedge, with the hedge on the left, to reach the corner of the sports field. Turn left through the swing-gate, then right, to retrace your outward steps to Castle Hill.

Townsman hopes you enjoyed this Winter Walk and are looking forward to the Bluebell Walk in the May *review*.



Victoria School celebrated a new chapter in its 120-year history when the Bishop of St Albans officially opened the new Thomas Bourne

Building. Pupils, staff, Governors and 40 specially invited guests assembled to hear **The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert** lead a short service of dedication, assisted by the Rector of St Peter's, **the Revd Dr Michael Bowie**. In his prayer of blessing, the Bishop said

We dedicate this building to the care and education of children and the use of the Berkhamsted community. May it become a centre where children and teachers, imbued with the words of truth, will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life.

To cut the ribbon, the Bishop asked for the help of the school's eldest pupil - nine-year-old **Sophie Beard**, before sprinkling the building and those present with holy water. The children then gave a moving rendition of their School Song *Victoria*. Speaking afterwards, the Bishop said *This wonderful new building gives so much more space to the children to develop and learn – it's an extra Christmas present that will outlast many of their toys – although they may not see it that way!* Head teacher **Anna Brown**

added. It was a fantastic day. The children loved seeing the Bishop in his robes and for everyone who's worked so hard to make the new building a reality, it was great to be able to share it with so many associates, supporters and friends.

After the opening ceremony, the Bishop toured the classrooms, chatting to pupils and answering eagerly posed questions about his work and attire. The children and Bishop Christopher enjoyed each other's company immensely. *I hope we see him again in Victoria*

OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

Bishop Christopher opens The Thomas Bourne Building

soon said Fr Michael Bowie. He was really nice said one six-year-old. He said he gets very hot in his robes.

The building's name was chosen as a way of

linking the present with the past. **Thomas Bourne** was a London merchant who bequeathed £8,000 in his will to build and endow The Bourne School, a charity school, which opened in 1737 on the site of 222 Berkhamsted High Street - now the Britannia Building Society. *We chose to dedicate our building to him in recognition of the educational opportunities his fund has been providing for children for nearly 300 years* explained Mrs Brown.

Meanwhile, funding for the new building is still going on. Ninety per cent of the original £550,000 estimated cost came from central Government, with the remaining 10% the responsibility of the Governors, who have just reached their original £55,000 target thanks to grants, donations and several fund-raising events. However we now know the project has cost £72,000 more than anticipated. The Governors must find 10% of this, while the remaining 90% must come from the school's annual capital budget. Further fund-raising options are currently being considered.



We want to say a huge thank you to the Church, town and school communities for their generosity said Mrs Brown. But our commitment to this project - which is and will be a wonderful asset for generations of children now and in the future - means that other capital maintenance and improvement projects will inevitably be delayed until we've paid for it.

If you would like to make a donation to the new building fund, please send a cheque made payable to *Victoria School Governors* to Victoria School, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3HA or contact the school office on 865781. Gift Aid forms are available. ❖

The school song

There are many schools in Berkhamsted,
And most are hard to beat,
But the fairest school in Berkhamsted,
Lies down Prince Edward Street.

***Sing out then for Victoria,
Our dear and lovely school;
Sing omnes Domino gloria.
This is our golden rule.***

There are none with more tradition,
There's a magic in its name;
It has worked with love and vision,
For endless years the same. **chorus**

One day we'll have to say goodbye,
And leave it all behind;
But this great school will never die,
Within our heart and mind. **Chorus**

photos: Tony Firshman



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The school had an extremely varied and eventful autumn term! Here's a round up of just some of the highlights.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to welcome the Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, to our Charter Day Service in Ashlyns Chapel on October 9th. The service was led by The Reverend Dr Michael Bowie of St

Peter's Church, and through song, music, drama and the surprise visit of Superman (alias church youth worker, Jammy Faragher!) the foundation both of our school and of the Coram Foundation was celebrated. Both the Order of Service and an audio recording are downloadable from our school website:

<http://thomascoram.herts.sch.uk>

On November 13th, we held our annual Prize-Giving Evening, celebrating the achievements of pupils who were in years 5-7 last year. Over 80 children received a book of their choice, and these were presented by our special guest Dr C Homden, Chief Executive of Coram. Dr Homden spoke to us about the difference that the Coram Foundation is able to make to the lives of many young people.

On Friday November 16th, as a focus of our support for *Children in Need*, Thomas Coram organized an all-school red balloon

OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

News from
Thomas Coram Middle School



release! The visual impact and sense of unity this occasion brought to pupils and staff, made it a fun and exciting way for the children to make a difference, and to show their support and care for those so much less fortunate than themselves. Nearly 300 balloons were released on a perfect sunny day and £130 was raised by this event

alone. In total, Thomas Coram raised a record £1,676.

Finally, we celebrated our Carol Service on Monday 17th December at 7:15pm in St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. This is always an uplifting and joyous occasion to mark the festive season, as we head towards the end of term and the Christmas holidays.

Thomas Coram pupils are now sharing a prayer at the end of each day, this has been introduced initially with Years 5 and 6, with a view to it embracing the whole school.

Heavenly Father, at the end of this school day, we thank you for all the blessings we have received. Forgive us where we have failed others, ourselves and you. Guide and protect us during the rest of this day and inspire us to make good choices when we return; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





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ST PETER'S CHURCH HEATING

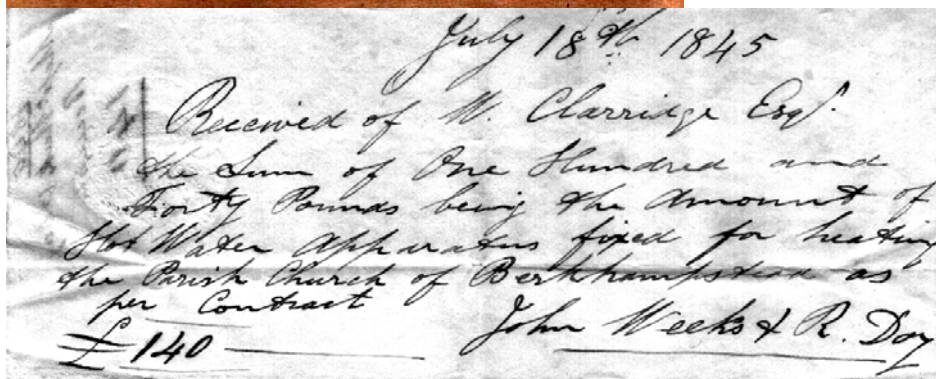
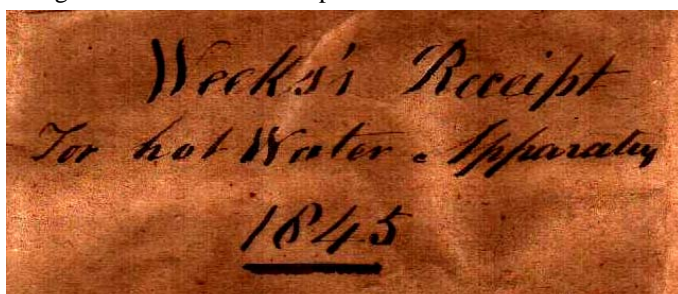
Christopher Green writes

The new heating system at St Peter's was in action for the first time early in December - and what a difference. The lusty roaring of the fans is now a scarcely audible murmur - and there's more to come. As I write, the new warm air outlets at the west end and in the north transept have still to be connected to the warm air supply and will improve the overall distribution of heat in the building. Then the flow of warm air to all the outlets has to be balanced and the various sensors that control the system will need final adjustment. Putting the new system in place has been a complicated job and the thanks of all who use the church, whether for worship or to attend concerts and recitals, are due to **Christopher Morris** who has liaised regularly with the numerous sub-contractors and been tireless in his concern for the progress of the work and the difficulties involved. The plant room in the basement has very restricted access. The new plant has been brought in as small components and

assembled in a very restricted working space, reminiscent of the engine room of a submarine. A new stainless steel flue had

to be put in place in the stair turret on the north side of the church - another difficult working space, and the installation of new ducting involved the temporary removal of pews and extensive lifting of floorboards - several times, to work around the regular use of the church. This is not the first time the church has experienced the upheaval of installing a new heating system. The heating plant being replaced now was introduced in the 1980s and the hot air distribution system that it serves was probably put in place during the Butterfield restoration of the church in the 1870s and 1880s, when the floor throughout the church was raised by some two feet to its present level. Before that, heating appears to have been by a wet system supplying hot water to radiators. Such a system was installed in 1845. And before that, who knows? What we do know is the cost of the 1845

installation. We illustrate the contractor's receipt - for £140, which makes an interesting comparison with the total cost of the present work, which, when all is finally complete, is likely to be close to £120,000 ❖



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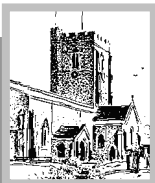
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Resolutions
A Chance to
Make a
Difference

The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes

review Northchurch & Wigginton

The month of January is usually the time to think very hard about getting fitter and possibly losing a few pounds gained over the Christmas festivities. However, rather than concentrating on the external appearance, it can be worthwhile focusing on mental

alertness. Last autumn I decided that as a balding middle-aged priest there is only so much you can do about externals, but it is possible to become mentally sharper and fitter. So I made three early resolutions.

The first was inspired by a visit to one of the restaurants in Berkhamsted and discovering for the first time green tea. The Chinese have known for a long time the health benefits of the drink, so the first resolution has been to cut down on coffee and drink more green tea. The result has been sleeping better and feeling more alert. The second resolution was to resist the urge to watch mindless television after the news before going to bed and to read instead. The third and the most important was to be to no longer a sleeping member of **Amnesty International**, but to make the time on a weekly basis to write letters of support on behalf of those who have been arrested for campaigning for freedom or who are facing possible execution in certain countries around the world. A concern to do something worthwhile has at some point got to move beyond warm intentions to action. The Amnesty website:

<http://amnestyinternational.org>

provides guidance on sending respectful letters and emails.

This year churches across the country will be working together under the heading of **Hope 2008**. This will be concerned with helping churches from different denominations to work together in the shared task of mission and evangelism. An important part of this new initiative will be the encouragement of the churches to pray together. (This has reminded me of a fourth resolution: attend more Prayer Breakfasts in 2008.) When you write a letter for **Amnesty International** you know that you are not acting in isolation, but are a small part of a wider mosaic. The encouraging thing is that it does make a difference and that people's lives have been saved, and those who might have been forgotten have been placed before the world's conscience. As part of the Church in this local area, the focus on **Hope 2008** is a reminder that we do not act or pray alone, but are part of a wider family. We are all encouraged to pray and get involved. Resolutions require a degree of effort, even gritty determination, but the repercussions can be huge. ❖

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review notes¬ices

OXFAM HAS IT SEWN UP

Where can you buy knitting needles in Berkhamsted? bemoaned a local resident. The answer is to be found in the Oxfam shop. A good selection of haberdashery, fabrics and buttons will be featured in a special display in the High St in January.

As long dark winter evenings turn thoughts to creative pursuits, a variety of useful materials including ribbons and trims will stir the imagination.

Space is always at a premium so please ask if you do not see what you want in the sales area. Volunteers will be happy to help.

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Tuesday 1st January 10:30am in front of Berkhamsted Railway Station for the Traditional New Year's Day Ramble - A circular walk to Aldbury and back with stop for lunch. Leader: **Bill Willett**

PETERTIDE FAIR 2008

At its meeting on **11th December 2007**, the Parochial Church Council agreed the causes to be supported by the Petertide Fair in 2008. As usual support will be offered to one home cause and one overseas. The home cause is *The Coram Family* - a charity with historic associations in Berkhamsted and working with disadvantaged people in London. The overseas cause is a school at *Turengi* in the Gambia in West Africa which has had links with Berkhamsted maintained for over ten years through the hard work of **Libby Grundy** - an active member of the St Peter's congregation.

ORGAN APPEAL

Thanks to the generosity of many local supporters and to grants from Berkhamsted Town Council and the Mary Webb Trust, just over half the money needed for the work on the organ has already been raised. But if you haven't made a donation, now is your chance to help to raise the other half. Income from events has also contributed to the fund and it was very disappointing to have to cancel the planned organ recital by **Andrew Arthur**, performing works by Buxtehude. Unfortunately although Andrew spent several hours wrestling with the organ, the problems he encountered were so serious that a solo recital was out of the question. He had seven cyphers during the course of his practice, the pedals were underwinded, the pedal coupling had become faulty so that notes were missed and the tuning on the fluework had fallen - all problems that the planned work will address. During church services our organists are not trying to perform solo organ works and usually (but not always) can disguise the numerous shortcomings of the organ. **Andrew Arthur's** unfortunate experience shows just how important the Organ Appeal is for the musical life of Town and Parish.

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday 16th January 8:00pm at the Civic Centre *The Wendover Arm - Past & Present* A talk by **Roger Leishman**. Visitors £2.50 at the door

NORTHCHURCH SOCIETY

Monday 28th January 8:00pm in the Parish rooms, Rectory Lane, Northchurch *Hedgehog looks at the years gone by*. A talk by **Ben Hosier**, local historian and author. Visitors £2

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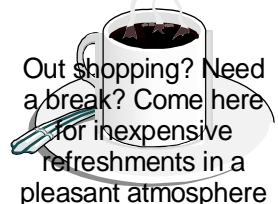
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THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST

Museum Tours at 2 are back - and will run on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm. This is great opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes of a museum and discover more about the history of Dacorum

The Dacorum Heritage Trust cares for a wide selection of objects relating to the history and heritage of the borough of Dacorum. On the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm, we open our doors to allow people to see the treasures of Dacorum.

Tours are themed, ensuring there is always something new to see and learn. Tours need to be booked in advance - please call the Dacorum Heritage Trust on 01442 879525 or email assistantcurator@dacorumheritage.org.uk to reserve your place. Tours cost £3 per person. The store has limited accessibility, please call for more details.

WEA COURSES STARTING JAN 2008

Mondays 3:00-4:30pm at the Friends Meeting House - *Dominant Dames - Shakespeare's forceful women* Ten weeks from **7th January** £48 Contact 866223

Tuesdays 10:00-11:30pm at the Friends Meeting House *Current Affairs, Political Ideas and Movements* Ten weeks from **8th January** £48 Contact 870041

Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, Ravens Lane *Earth/Life - The Processes and Events linking Geology and Biology* Ten weeks from **9th January** £56 Contact 255583.

Friday 1st February 12:45-3:30pm at the Friends Meeting House (bring your own lunch) *From Blackbeard to Johnny Depp - The Changing Face of Piracy* **Dr David Hilling** £10.00

Saturday 9th February 10:00am-4:00pm at the Friends Meeting House *From Hawksmoor to Robert Adam* **Andy Gunn** £25

Friday 7th March 12.45-3.30pm (bring your own lunch) at the Friends Meeting House *Thomas Telford - his life and works* **Michael Bailey** £10

Saturday 8th March 10:00am-4:00pm at the Friends Meeting House *The Films of Korean and Japanese Film Directors* **Nick Potamitis** £25 Contact 875899

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our December meeting it was a pleasure to welcome guests from the other Institutes in the Group and we hope they enjoyed their visit. During the business parts of the meeting we were advised of the various Activities and Resolutions for 2008 which we duly voted for and no doubt we will hear further about in the New Year. Our speaker this month was **Betty Page** - her subject *Talking Hats*. We did not know what to expect with this title but with different hats and with varying accessories we were so amused with her hilarious monologues. It was a delight to have **Betty Page** to entertain us and an appreciation was given by **Joy Lovell** on our behalf. During tea-time the raffle was drawn and a special blanket raffle made by **Ali Saunders** was also drawn. Our first meeting of the New Year is on **4th January 2008** - New Year celebrations at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. Why not pay us a visit? You will be most welcome

review MARKETING

The *review* very much needs someone to look after all aspects of marketing the magazine. Any volunteers?

January

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 6th</i>	10:00am Covenant Service - Methodist led
	13 th	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led
	20 th	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	27 th	10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist 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 Saints'</i>	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 10:00am

3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm	<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Angela Morris (866992) 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 57 Meadow Rd
	<i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i>	or at Ruth's 1 Montague Rd
	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 Sylvia Banks (871195)	
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 1 st 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.

January / February

JANUARY

Sun	6	9:30am	Sung Eucharist for the Epiphany	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	11	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	13	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	15	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>The boy Jesus at the Temple</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	19	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>tba</i>
Sat	26	11:50am	Bellringing visitors (12:30pm).....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	28	7:30pm	Cowper Society Talk -David Hilling <i>Barging all over Britain.....</i>	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	29	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>The enormous catch of fish</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>

FEBRUARY

Fri	1	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	3	9:30am	Sung Eucharist for the Feast of Candlemas	<i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	6	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes...	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	9	7:30am	<i>Save The Children</i> Anna Le Hair & Adrian Johnson Piano Duets	<i>Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i>
Mon	11	7:30pm	Cowper Society Talk - John Screen <i>A British prince in Northern Europe, 1802-03 ..</i>	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	12	12noon	Lent Lunch.....	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	19	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Jesus and the children.....</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	19	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	23	7:30pm	The Gaudeamus Singers concert.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	25	7:30pm	Cowper Society Talk - Alison Baverstock <i>Does the Book have a Future....</i>	<i>The Court House</i>

review registers

Funerals

2 November Garry Carl Bull
13 November Diana Allen

Burial in Kingshill (funeral in Ireland)
All Saints' Church (West Herts Crematorium)

review factfile

ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell	877001
	Mrs H Blundell	875021
St Mary's Northchurch	Revd Jonathan Gordon	871547
All Saints' Anglican	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mr John Malcolm	874993
All Saints' Methodist	Revd Paul Timmis	866324
	Mrs Ida Rance	865829
Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr John Bolam	863845
	Mr Frank Furlong	862768
Society of Friends (Quakers)	The Clerk's Team	288 High Street
Kings Road Church	Pastor Billy Milton	864393
	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels, Sunnyside	Revd David Abbott	865100
	Mrs S Bright	875025
St John the Evangelist, Bourne End	Revd David Abbott	865100
	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

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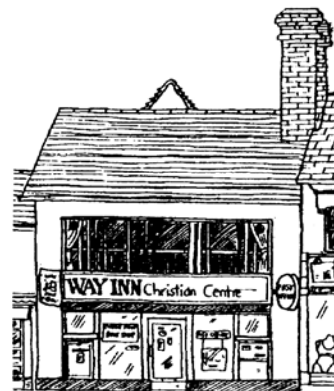


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review contacts

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 Emeritus), 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)

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:
(874894)

Peter McMunn

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local
Ecumenical Partnership.

Methodist minister:

The Revd Paul Timmis (866324)

<http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>

What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

December's What & Where

Touch me for
Information



The hi-tech information system
on the town's main bus stop

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